



CITY OF EASTHAMPTON

Office of Mayor Nicole LaChapelle

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL - STATE - PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP DEMONSTRATES HIGHEST USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS TO LEVERAGE 45 MILLION DOLLARS IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT

The City of Easthampton recently completed the close out of the Ferry Street Mill Improvement Project, a \$ 3,901,000 MassWorks grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (DHCD). The grant was awarded to the City in May 2019, with additional funds awarded in June 2020, leveraging 45 million in private investment.

Mayor LaChapelle shared, "When awarded a grant, there is deserved fanfare. Closing out a grant is less sparkly but as important. The close-out report compares public dollars budgeted and expended by the City. Easthampton and DHCD collaborated to produce a once-in-a-generation project with a high level of fiscal efficiency."

MassWorks public infrastructure funds improved Ferry, Pleasant, and Lovefield Streets to support the One Ferry Street mixed-use development. The Ferry Street mill complex was one of the last mill complexes in Easthampton that was vacant and unused. At the grant project close, the City spent all but \$ 18,625.41 (.018%) of grant funds. "MassWorks was designed to support infrastructure projects like this that unlock innovative, mixed-use opportunities in communities across the Commonwealth," said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy. "The Baker-Polito Administration congratulates the City of Easthampton for putting its \$3.9 million grant to work on these transformative street, utility, and public space improvements that will advance redevelopment of the Ferry Street mill complex."

Infrastructure improvements included the design and construction of a mini round-about, new sidewalks and crosswalks, a public parking area with two electric vehicle chargers at Lovefield Street, improvements to the Manhan Rail Trail crossing at Ferry Street, construction of a retaining wall adjacent to the rail trail, a multi-use walkway on Ferry Street at Lower Mill Pond, improvements to the Lower Mill Pond earthen impoundment and the management of invasive plant species, new pavement and curbing, landscaping, planters, street trees, benches, the placement of utilities underground on Ferry Street and the addition of street lighting throughout the project area.

The City extends its sincere thanks to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Office of Dam Safety, the Easthampton Conservation Commission, McMahan Associates, Inc, Gomes Construction Co., and One Ferry Street Development for making this complicated project a success.