

GLOUCESTER CITY MASTER PLAN

UTILITY PLAN ELEMENT

**Peter P. Karabashian Associates, Professional Planners
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I. INTRODUCTION

Historically, one of the principal functions of the Government has been to provide a potable water supply and a system for the removal of waste water and solid waste. The importance of providing these utilities to maintain the health of the population continues to this day. The New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law specifically identifies among its purposes to "...promote the public health, safety...and general welfare" and "to secure safety from...flood...and other natural and manmade disasters".

As an urbanized community, Gloucester City is fully served by an existing network of public utilities and the combined sanitary/storm sewer system. Accordingly, this plan will focus on improvements required by the existing system as opposed to identification of areas for future utility service.

This report was prepared with the cooperation of Remington and Vernick, Gloucester City Engineers.

II. ISSUES OF CITY-WIDE CONCERN

Gloucester City is served by a combined drainage system wherein sanitary waste and storm water runoff flow through the same collection lines. Under daily operating conditions, where there is no storm event, sewerage flows through the system and is collected at the Gloucester City Pump Station. From this point, the sewerage is pumped into the regional collection system for treatment by the Camden County MUA. During storm events, the excess water in the system overflows into outfall pipes which discharge directly into the Delaware River. At the outfall point, these pipes are protected by tide gates which prevent the Delaware River from backing up into the system during high tide.

The development of a combined sanitary/storm sewer system would not be permitted under the current environmental regulations since it allows the outfall of untreated effluent and solids into the waterway during a storm event.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Delaware River Basin Commission are currently working to establish requirements and methodologies for the treatment of storm water outfall from combined systems such as Gloucester City. These agencies are evaluating types of control devices that would capture solids in the discharge system and also provide for some chemical treatment of the water prior to outfall into the Delaware River. Since the installation of these control devices could be an expensive

undertaking,¹ it is essential for Gloucester City to provide input to the regulatory agencies and to legislative officials to include provisions for grants or no-interest/low-interest loans to undertake this construction.

III. RECOMMENDED UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS IN SPECIFIC PLANNING AREAS

A. Gloucester Redevelopment Area

The existing combined sewer system in this area is outdated and not a sufficient size to serve the proposed development. The redevelopment of this area will require the replacement of the combined system with separate storm and sanitary sewers.

The redevelopment of this area will also require replacement of existing water mains and the provisions of new extensions as needed.

B. West Broadway Area

The combined sewer system has been replaced on Bergen Street, Hudson Street, Hunter Street, Market Street, and Monmouth Street. The remainder of the sewers in this area are very old and may require replacement.

A majority of the water mains in this area have been replaced and upgraded over the past ten years.

C. Broadway Corridor

Both the combined sewer and water mains in this area are outdated and must be replaced. The City has secured low-interest loans to fund this construction and has scheduled replacement of these utilities in 1997.

D. East Broadway Area

The combined sewer and water lines in the area between the railroad and Route 130 are all old, but complete reconstruction/replacement may not be necessary. The most crucial utility improvement for this area is the upgrading of the water system north of Hudson Street where there currently is a problem with low pressure.

In the area east of Route 130, minor upgrading of the sewer pump station is required, but generally the sewers are in good shape. The water mains east of Route 130 are also identified as being in good shape. The primary problem in this area is low water pressure. The City only has two water mains running under the state highways. Although the specific cause of the low pressure in this area is unknown, the engineers have identified either a leak or an obstructed valve as the cause of this condition.

¹The information available to the City Engineer estimates that under a "worse case scenario" (highest possible level of outfall treatment) the cost for construction of a control device would be approximately \$1 million per outfall point. The cost for constructing control devices at all seven of Gloucester City's outfall points would be approximately \$7 million.

E. Starlight Theater Redevelopment Area

The existing combined sewer system in this vicinity is undersized and not capable of accommodating either the commercial or life-care concepts suggested in the Economic Plan. The development of this area will require the construction of separate storm and sanitary sewers, including the possibility of a pump station.

As noted in the previous section, the entire area west of Broadway is subject to a low water pressure condition. Therefore, an additional inner connection would have to be provided under Route 130 in conjunction with development activities in this area. This water connection should be of adequate size to relieve the current water pressure condition for the entire area east of Route 130.