

# CIVIC EDUCATION SERIES

Class #4: Infrastructure and Public Works

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. The roles and responsibilities of the Public Works Department.
2. Road maintenance strategies, including repairs, snow removal, and seasonal upkeep.
3. Utility services such as water, sewer, and stormwater management.
4. Long-term infrastructure planning, including funding strategies and capital improvement planning.
5. Opportunities for residents to stay informed and engaged.

# INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC WORKS

## (10 MIN)

- Overview of Rindge's Public Works Department and its mission.
- The importance of infrastructure in maintaining public safety, economic growth, and quality of life.
- Key Message: *"Public works keeps our town running — from roads to utilities to long-term planning."*

# ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

## (20 MIN)

- Pavement Management Plan: How roads are prioritized for repairs or resurfacing.
- Seasonal maintenance strategies:
  - Snow & Ice Control: Snow plowing, salting, and safety protocols.
  - Pothole Repair & Paving: Assessing, prioritizing, and funding repairs.
- Bridge & Culvert Maintenance: Ensuring safe passage and stormwater flow.
- Visual Aid: A road maintenance priority map to show how roads are classified and maintained.

# UTILITY SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT (25 MIN)

- Water Management: Maintenance of wells, water distribution, and ensuring clean drinking water.
- Stormwater Management: Protecting waterways, minimizing flooding risks, and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations.
- Solid Waste & Recycling: How waste is collected, managed, and diverted from landfills.
- Streetlights & Signage: Maintenance of streetlights and roadway signage for public safety.

# LONG-TERM PLANNING & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (20 MIN)

- Capital Improvement Plan (CIP): Planning and funding major infrastructure projects like road upgrades, building improvements, and vehicle replacement.
- Funding Sources: How grants, state aid, and taxes are used to fund infrastructure.
- Project Prioritization: How Rindge determines which projects receive funding first.
- Visual Aid: A sample Capital Improvement Plan timeline showing key project milestones and timelines.

# RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES (15 MIN)

- How residents can provide input on infrastructure priorities through:
  - Public Hearings
  - Master Plan Discussions
  - Budget Meetings
- Encouraging residents to report road issues, drainage concerns, or facility needs to the Public Works Department.
- Engagement: Share an example of a recent infrastructure project improved by resident feedback.

# CLOSING REMARKS AND Q&A

## (10 MIN)

- Recap of key points.
- Open floor for participant questions.
- Distribute handouts with contact information for Public Works, key infrastructure resources, and tips for engaging in town planning.