



Custer Avenue Multi-Benefit Capacity Relief Project Community Meeting Recap Thursday, August 13, 2026 Barack and Michelle Obama Academy

PROJECT UPDATES

The Custer Avenue Capacity Relief Project continues to move forward, with construction of the underground storage vault on schedule. The dry weather channel is expected to be completed by the end of September, allowing flows to be routed more efficiently downstream. **The vault is scheduled to become operational by June 2027, with all remaining construction anticipated to be completed by December 2027.**

To date, crews have installed approximately 2,000 feet of shoring, 1,500 tons of reinforcing steel, and nearly 7,000 cubic yards of concrete. Crews are also upgrading water, stormwater, and sewer infrastructure along surrounding streets with larger pipes designed to increase system capacity.

The underground vault is located at the junction of five major trunk lines and is designed to temporarily store excess flow during heavy rainfall. By holding this flow and slowly releasing it back into the sewer system, the vault will help reduce the risk of flooding and sewer overflows. Check valves will also help prevent sewage from backing up into surrounding neighborhoods during heavy rain events. The system will enter a ready mode when forecasts indicate a 40 percent chance of more than one inch of rainfall. Odor-control measures are included in the design, with the ability to add additional controls after the system becomes operational, if needed.

As part of the overall project, two major trunk lines are also being cross-connected to help balance flows throughout the system. This system-wide approach replaces the previously proposed Connally vault, which was canceled after further analysis determined it would not provide the required level of service. The expanded Custer vault and trunk line improvements are expected to provide greater flood protection than the previous plan.

PROPOSED STORMWATER UTILITY

The City is developing legislation to establish a dedicated stormwater utility to provide additional funding for stormwater improvements throughout the City. Under the proposal, fees would be based on the amount of impervious surface on a property, such as rooftops, driveways, and other paved areas.

An advisory group that includes members of Atlanta City Council and community stakeholders will assist with developing the proposed legislation and recommendations regarding the fee structure. Residents will have opportunities to provide feedback and participate in the public engagement process as the proposal moves forward.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND FOLLOW UP

Residents raised several concerns during the meeting, including ongoing flooding, construction impacts, communication, and the need for additional transparency regarding project modeling.

- **Flooding and Stormwater Management**

Residents expressed concerns about continued flooding and emphasized the importance of capturing stormwater farther upstream. Questions were also raised regarding the impacts of new development and whether future rainfall patterns are adequately considered. The City acknowledged the need for additional stormwater investments and discussed the proposed stormwater utility as a potential source of dedicated funding for future projects.

- **Construction Impacts**

Residents raised concerns regarding construction truck traffic, road conditions, mud, and dust. Project leadership acknowledged these concerns and committed to working with the contractor, Ruby-Collins, to minimize impacts. The contractor has been asked to provide advance notification before visiting individual properties, remind drivers to yield to neighborhood traffic, and continue monitoring construction-related sediment near catch basins.

- **Communication**

The City and project team are working to improve advance notification regarding street closures, service interruptions, property visits, and other construction activities. Additional neighborhood updates and outreach will continue as the project progresses.

- **Property Damage Claims**

A formal claims process is available for residents who believe their property has been damaged as a result of project construction. For information or assistance with initiating a claim, please contact:

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ADDITIONAL UPDATES

The City continues to address stormwater management as a basin-wide issue, including coordination with Fulton and DeKalb counties and neighboring communities, as well as investments in green infrastructure.

The City also continues to evaluate long-term infrastructure improvements to strengthen Atlanta's water and wastewater systems, including planned improvements to treatment facilities and the Atlanta Drinking Water Replacement Renewal Program, a multi-year initiative focused on upgrading aging drinking water infrastructure.

The Department of Watershed Management appreciates everyone who participated in the community meeting and provided feedback. We remain committed to keeping residents informed as construction progresses and working to minimize impacts to the surrounding community.