

TIMBER | PUBLIC COMMENTS

Regarding Troy's administration of the Lead Service Line Replacement Funds (2-02-23)

Background: Following the 2017 enactment of New York's Clean Water Infrastructure Act,¹ the City of Troy was awarded \$516,565 in 2018 for a Department of Health grant to replace lead service lines.² Both independent research and the City itself confirms none of that money has been spent. A 1-10-23 review of the Office of the State Comptroller's Open Book Data shows that Troy is the only Round 1 City to spend none of the Lead Service Line Replacement money and the only Round 1 municipality to not request an extension after having spent less than 85% of the funds. This is not for lack of need: in its most recent annual water report, Troy discloses that it is in violation of the State's lead and copper control requirements.³ The children of at least two Troy residents were very recently found to have elevated blood lead levels (EBLLs).

Municipality	Category	Contract #	Contract Amount	Amount Spent	Start	End	Approved	Amended	Amended Approval	2nd Amended	2nd Amended Approval	% Spent
Albany	City	C33199GG	\$516,565.00	\$516,565.00	3/1/18	2/29/20	3/15/18	2/28/22	6/25/20			100.00%
Syracuse	City	C33200GG	\$698,134.00	\$698,134.00	3/1/18	2/29/20	5/29/18	2/28/22	6/11/20			100.00%
Auburn	City	C33201GG	\$698,134.00	\$698,134.00	3/1/18	2/29/20	4/13/18	2/28/22	7/15/20			100.00%
Rochester	City	C33202GG	\$538,096.00	\$538,096.00	3/1/18	2/29/20	4/25/18					100.00%
Middletown	City	C33211GG	\$544,745.00	\$544,745.00	3/1/18	2/29/20	4/13/18	2/28/22	6/12/20			100.00%
Buffalo	City	C33220GG	\$567,492.00	\$567,492.00	3/1/18	2/29/20	2/13/19	2/28/22	7/20/20			100.00%
Schenectady	City	C33198GG	\$516,565.00	\$516,565.98	3/1/18	2/29/20	5/17/18	2/28/22	7/7/20			100.00%
Newburgh	City	C33209GG	\$544,745.00	\$543,015.00	3/1/18	2/29/20	4/13/18	2/28/22	2/16/21			99.68%
Jamestown	City	C33222GG	\$567,492.00	\$561,897.81	3/1/18	2/29/20	4/13/18	2/28/22	7/31/20			99.01%
Kingston	City	C33212GG	\$544,745.00	\$529,822.59	3/1/18	2/29/20	3/29/18	2/28/22	7/15/20	2/28/24	3/17/22	97.26%
Long Beach	City	C34393GG	\$611,363.00	\$533,267.58	3/1/18	2/29/20	10/8/20					87.23%
Niagara Falls	City	C33221GG	\$567,492.00	\$472,166.84	3/1/18	2/29/20	4/13/18	2/28/22	6/25/20	2/28/24	5/17/22	83.20%
Watertown	City	C33217GG	\$607,629.00	\$479,675.57	3/1/18	2/29/20	5/7/18	2/28/22	7/30/20	2/28/24	3/17/22	78.94%
Poughkeepsie	City	C33210GG	\$544,745.00	\$399,928.00	3/1/18	2/29/20	9/6/18	2/28/22	6/11/20	4/12/22	2/28/24	73.42%
Elmira	City	C33219GG	\$663,185.00	\$469,044.73	3/1/18	2/29/20	9/5/18	2/28/22	7/31/20	2/28/24	3/17/22	70.73%
Lyons	Town	C33203GG	\$538,096.00	\$357,339.00	3/1/18	2/29/20	9/21/18	2/28/22	6/25/20			66.41%
Binghamton	City	C33218GG	\$663,185.00	\$412,554.00	3/1/18	2/29/20	1/28/20	2/28/22	7/30/20			62.21%
New York City	City	C33215GG	\$5,323,903.00	\$2,646,414.42	3/1/18	2/29/20	9/11/19	2/28/22	6/11/20	2/28/24	3/18/20	49.71%
Gloversville	City	C33214GG	\$623,655.00	\$264,949.52	3/1/18	2/29/20	4/13/18	2/28/22	7/20/20	2/28/24	3/17/22	42.48%
Utica	City	C33213GG	\$623,655.00	\$262,658.98	3/1/18	2/29/20	8/16/18	2/28/22	6/12/20	2/28/24	4/13/22	42.12%
North Hempstead	Town	C33208GG	\$611,363.00	\$228,032.00	3/1/18	2/29/20	6/8/18	2/28/22	6/12/20	2/28/24	3/17/22	37.30%
Geneva	City	C33204GG	\$538,096.00	\$168,984.00	3/1/18	2/29/20	3/4/18	2/28/22	7/31/20	3/17/22	2/28/24	31.40%
Hudson	City	C34396GG	\$548,422.00	\$153,491.25	6/1/29	5/31/23						27.99%
Gouverneur	Town	C33216GG	\$607,629.00	\$36,410.53	3/1/18	2/29/20	5/2/18	2/28/22	7/7/20	2/28/24	3/17/22	5.99%
Hempstead	Town	C33207GG	\$611,363.00	\$6,395.30	3/1/18	2/29/20	3/29/18	2/28/22	7/8/20	2/28/24	4/13/22	1.05%
Troy	City	C33197GG	\$516,565.00	\$0.00	3/1/18	2/29/20	6/26/18					0.00%
Southold	Town	C33205GG	\$611,363.00	\$0.00	3/1/18	2/29/20	6/25/18	2/28/22	7/14/21	2/28/24	05/09/22	0.00%

EBLLs are unsafe at any age, but they are most harmful in the early stages of human development, at which point they are closely linked to a wide range of chronic problems that includes stunted speech, decreased cognitive function, delayed puberty, poor hearing, and a host of anti-social behaviors.⁴

Public Comments: Because elevated blood lead levels are 100% preventable, lead policy advocates often say that the stubbornness of the lead poisoning epidemic is a political choice. The truth in that is rarely so literal. We find it deeply troubling that the City has neglected free money to address a preventable issue actively harming its residents for half a decade now. **We strongly encourage the City to request a grant extension and work urgently toward implementation.** If external support is needed to better understand how Troy can use the funds, TIMBER and its partners are more than happy to provide that at no cost.

¹ <https://www.nysac.org/files/WaterWhitePaper.pdf>

² <https://health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/IsIrp/docs/IsIrpreportfinal.pdf>

³ <https://www.troyny.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/AWQR2021.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5645046/>



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