

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR KATJANA BALLANTYNE
DEPARTMENT of INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSET MANAGEMENT
ENGINEERING DIVISION



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DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSET MANAGEMENT

BRIAN C. POSTLEWAITE, PE
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

Date: 10 March 2025
To: Members of the Public Utilities and Public Works Committee
From: Brian C. Postlewaite, Director of Engineering
CC: Intergovernmental Affairs, Rich Raich, Jill Lathan
RE: Portland Loo Update (ID 25-0359)

The Engineering Division is responding to the following Council order referred to PUPW:

- ID 25-0359: That the Director of Engineering update this Council on the whereabouts of the Portland Loos.

The City's Outdoor Pre-fabricated Standalone Toilets contract was issued to Portland Loo (Madden Fabrication) in April 2023, expecting to be delivered June 2024 for installation. During the contract period the City found that the Portland Loo product did not meet Massachusetts Building Code. To provide Madden Fabrication time to resolve the building code deficiencies, the City provided an extension to June 2025. By January 2025 it was clear that a substantial redesign was required to meet building code. Madden Fabrications and the City agreed that it was unreasonable to continue the 2023 contract, and the contract was closed in February.

Madden Fabrications continues to redesign the Portland Loo to better accommodate Massachusetts' and other states' building codes. The redesign is expected to be complete this fall, and then submitted to the state for Massachusetts Building Code review and approval. Once a building code compliant pre-fabricated standalone toilet can be identified, we will reissue a new invitation for bid to meet this goal.

