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**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES DESIGN PROCESS AS NEXT STEP IN ALBANY PARK
STORMWATER DIVERSION TUNNEL**

City Council today approved a design process that will make up the next step of the construction of the Albany Park Stormwater Diversion Tunnel. The approved proposal is an intergovernmental agreement between the Chicago Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to share the costs of the design work.

"Twice in five years we saw hundred year storms cause flooding in the same neighborhood," said Mayor Emanuel. "The construction of this tunnel will dramatically reduce flooding in this community and ensure that our residents and businesses don't need to worry about dealing with storm damage and its consequences. This is an innovative project that will bring much needed relief to the community."

CDOT has proposed constructing an 18-foot diameter diversion tunnel which would divert the excess flow from a storm through an underground tunnel, bypassing the Albany Park neighborhood. The stormwater would flow into the North Shore Channel.

The North Branch of the Chicago River drains into the North Shore Channel at the east end of the Albany Park neighborhood. Albany Park is a low-lying neighborhood that is especially prone to flooding, and faced severe flooding this summer and in September of 2008.

The Albany Park tunnel was announced by the Mayor this summer.

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