



Project Construction Update for:

Friday May 10, 2024

WEEKLY SAFETY TIP: Walkers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Please be extremely careful when walking or biking through the construction zone. We really cannot ask you to refrain from walking or biking within the city. But because you do not wear the personal protective safety equipment as the construction personnel do, please take the following precautions when walking or biking on the streets:

1. Please give the construction activities your utmost, 100% attention. That means remove your headphones, cell phones and other distractions as you pass through these zones. Your eyes and ears need to be completely aware of the construction work going on around you as you pass by.
2. Steer well clear of any moving construction equipment, which may mean moving over to the grass areas rather than along the gravel road.
3. Try not to let small children walk or bike through these areas unsupervised. Children tend to be very curious around construction equipment and activities.
4. Wear brighter clothing, such as nighttime reflectorized clothing if you have, so you are clearly visible to the workers.
5. Obey orders from construction workers. They may ask you to stop and wait briefly for certain activities. The contractor is responsible for all safety aspects of the job and within their construction areas, not just for their workers, but for anybody within their job site.
6. Finally, we are closing the trail through Memorial Park and along S. Shore to the regional trail. The contractor is going to start using this trail for employee parking as the grass areas are not very suitable, especially during rainy days. We will be setting up a temporary trail detour route with signage to direct you to the regional trail further down S. Shore Drive past City Hall.

SCHEDULE: The following are construction activities planned for the week starting May 13, 2024, subject to normal construction changes:

1. The contractor has completed the open cut excavation of the new sanitary sewer force main between S. Shore Drive and Kaiser Ave. to replace the 50-year-old forcemain. Several activities will continue related to this sanitary sewer main.
 - a. They are currently installing a new air release manhole at the intersection of Kaiser Ave and Peninsula Road. This does create a very narrow driving area for only one car to pass through this intersection so proceed with caution and follow all flag person directions and signage. This intersection will be congested for several weeks yet.
 - b. To connect the new force main to the lift station, they will need to take the lift station offline and set up a temporary pumping bypass system with above ground pipes and pumps, which will pump to this new manhole. That lift station provides service to almost all homes in Medicine Lake so if that were to stop working, there would be major sewer backups. Remember the City reconstructed a new lift station two years ago, so it is basically brand new.

For more information on the 2024 Street and Utility Project please visit the project website:

<https://streetandutilityproject.com>

- c. The temporary bypass pumps will need to run 24/7 so the system has an alarm that notifies the contractor if it stops working so they can mobilize quickly to get it running again. Also, they will have a night watchman to always keep an eye on the system. Finally, the contractor will have a septic pumper tank on site to use under extreme emergencies. We are taking every precaution to keep the sewer system operational.
 - d. This bypass system will start up on Monday May 13th and all work on the new manhole and forcemain should be completed by Friday May 17th at which time the lift station will be turned back on and new forcemain put into service.
2. Installation of watermain pipe via directional drilling continues. Please reference the map on the project web site to view the phasing segments described below.
- a. They have completed installing all drilled watermain on Kaiser Ave and Colonial Circle.
 - b. Work will continue for several weeks on these streets with the following activities:
 - i. Completing the pipe connections between drilling segments via open cut. The section on the curve of Kaiser Ave will require a temporary gravel bypass driving lane for a couple of days to get traffic around the large excavation for this work. This temporary driving lane may be on adjacent grass areas, but within the street right of way.
 - ii. Installing all fire hydrants and valves.
 - iii. They will be starting on installing the water services and curb stops on Colonial Circle and Kaiser Ave on Monday, May 13th. This should take about two weeks.
 - iv. You will notice the above ground pipes along these roads, and the pump at the corner. This is the dewatering operation. The pumps need to run continuously to lower the water table so they can open cut and install the items listed above. **If everything goes as planned, they will complete all the water main excavation work on Colonial Circle and Kaiser Ave by Memorial Day and the pumping system can be shut down and removed!**
 - c. The contractor has completed the watermain connection to the City of Plymouth water system on S. Shore Drive and the only work that remains is to patch the road. This work is scheduled for the next two weeks, prior to Memorial weekend.
 - d. For the next month, they will be directional drilling all the segments from Kaiser Ave/Peninsula Road intersection to Jevne Park loop. Segment 5 was completed this week. They will install Segments 6, 7 and 8 over the next two weeks. Each drill is a 3–4-day operation and they try and limit the drilling to 500-700 feet long. This is a much busier street for traffic and pedestrians, so please be patient if you are stopped behind the pipe crew as they complete their work. *Properties within this segment may have temporary driveway blockages during the day as the pipe is pulled into the ground, but the field crews will notify residents ahead of time so they can get their vehicles out ahead of the pipe coming down the street. They can also move the pipe out of your way to get you out if necessary*
 - e. Remember for each segment of watermain, they need to drag the fused pipe down from Jevne Park to the construction area so please take caution when this is happening.
3. They will complete the cleaning and televising of all sanitary sewer laterals within the next two weeks.
4. We will start installing the 10-foot-long UV cured lateral liners on Tuesday, May 14. The following homes will get their liners next week:
- a. 248 Peninsula through 272 Peninsula Road
 - b. 267 Peninsula through 271 Peninsula Road

- c. They can install approximately 3-5 liners per day and will have these laterals completed by Friday May 17th. During the liner installation, you will need to refrain from using water for several hours while they work on your lateral. You will receive a door hangar notice no later than Monday May 13. Please plan accordingly (i.e., avoid washing clothes, or dishes, during this time, or other unnecessary water usage). We apologize for the inconvenience, but you will be able to use water again later that same day.
- d. The purpose of the liners is to eliminate additional sources of clean water inflow into the sewer system at the lateral “wye” connection to the main, a primary source of ground water leaking into the sewer system. This reduces everyone’s cost of the sewer system and avoid expensive treatment of clean water at the Met Council sewer treatment plants.

Miscellaneous items of importance:

1. We had an unfortunate incident on Monday May 6. The contractors backhoe inadvertently pulled down an overhead live electrical line across Peninsula Road, essentially shutting down access to Medicine Lake for several hours. The emergency response and repair action with Xcel Energy went into effect immediately and they opened the road later that night. As a follow up, the contractor’s Safety Officer, met with the crew to debrief on what went wrong and how to avoid this in the future and what steps needed to be taken to prevent these incidents. We are holding additional meetings with all private utility companies, both underground and overhead lines, to ensure this does not happen again. Contractors take every precaution to avoid impacts to utilities but they also have a responsibility through the Gopher State One Call law to field locate and protect their facilities, but these incidents, while rare, do happen on occasion.
2. We are still staking proposed water services on the project, mainly toward the end of Peninsula Road and around Jevne Park. If yours has not been staked yet, please have patience.
3. Thank you for adhering to the driver safety tips as suggested by last week’s email. Traffic was much improved and minimal negative driver behavior was observed. It was a good week!

City led plumbing program update

The City Council has authorized getting bids from plumbers to determine what the cost per home would be for a City led plumbing installation program. As soon as the bids are in, more information will be provided. This will allow you to compare the City bid vs your own bid for those of you that have started talking to plumbers. Depending on the number of people that officially sign up for the City program will determine if the Council moves ahead with the program. More details will be provided as they become available.

15th Ave update

The contractor has removed all the pavement, and it is ready for watermain installation as soon as the contractor completes Peninsula Road. We apologize for the inconvenience. The watermain installation is still at least a month or two out though.