

Street Talk

Information for Dearborn Hills residents who live east of Telegraph, west of Outer Drive, south of Cherry Hill and north of the Rouge River.

Engineering Division

December 14, 2011



John B. O'Reilly, Jr.
Mayor

CITY COUNCIL

Thomas P. Tafelski
President

Suzanne Sareini
President Pro Tem

Mark Shooshanian
Robert A. Abraham
Brian C. O'Donnell
Nancy A. Hubbard
David Bazy

CITY CLERK
Kathleen Buda

City officials met with area residents at Dearborn High School on Nov. 14, 2011 to discuss details and address questions about the major storm sewer separation project that will affect your neighborhood beginning in February 2012 and continuing through 2013.

In accordance with the federally-mandate CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow) control project, the City will be separating the current single line sewer system into two lines, one for sanitary sewers and one for rain water. In order to do this, the City must remove pavement and dig down to the current sewers and install new sewer lines and new water mains. Old sanitary leads will be replaced with new PVC pipe from the City's sewer to approximately 5 feet behind the curb, leading to each house.

The City of Dearborn will keep you informed about this project through a meeting on Jan. 9, 2012, at 6:30 p.m., at Bryant Middle School, and at future meetings in your area. There will also be additional issues of *Street Talk*.

What Property Owners Need to Know

- Property owners are encouraged to document the condition of their homes, inside and out, prior to construction. It is highly recommended that they use cameras or videos that display the date, to show exactly how the home appeared before construction. In the event that building or structural damage does occur, any claims could be supported with photo-video documentation.
- Crews will close off half of each street during sewer and water main work. A lane will be left open for traffic. Access to garages will be maintained except when excavating in front of driveways.
- During the sewer and water main work, residents can expect a disruption in water service for four to six hours. Residents will be notified 24 hours prior to water shut-off. Also, there will be disruption at individual households when their water service is transferred from the old water main to the new main. The transfer will take approximately two hours and residents will be notified two hours before the transfer takes place.
- It is recommended that whenever water service is turned off and back on again that residents flush the lines by running water until it appears clear.
- When work on the streets is complete, crews will replace topsoil and sod, and make any repairs to damaged sprinklers. The city asks that that sprinkler heads be marked with flags when work comes to your area to help avoid damage.
- Trash pickup will continue as scheduled and residents should continue to put out their trash and recycling carts as usual. Otherwise, you will be given special instructions in advance of your trash day.

For more details, see answers on the following pages.

**The following are answers to questions asked by residents
at the Nov. 14, 2011 meeting at Dearborn High School:**

- 1) *When will the City communicate specifics about when work will be done on my street and in front of my house?***
The project contractor, Zito Construction, will provide a construction schedule at the public information meeting on Jan. 9, 2012, at 6:30 p.m., at Bryant Middle School. This schedule also will be shared in a future issue of the *Street Talk* newsletter.
- 2) *Will the City provide a timeline for work being done in front of my house?***
Notices will be provided to residents, generally the day before the activity for utility work. For paving, notice is provided 3-5 days prior to start of work.
- 3) *Will the City of Dearborn website be used to communicate and update residents on project information? Will the website be updated regularly?***
The intent is to utilize the www.cityofdearborn.org website on a regular basis during the construction process.
- 4) *During construction and when only half the street is open to traffic, will traffic flow be one-way only?*** Yes.
- 5) *Where should residents park during construction?***
Residents can park on alternate streets, or at corner side streets that are not under construction.
- 6) *How long during construction will I not have access to my driveway?***
Access to driveways will be limited at various times during sewer and water main construction, during house service transfer (replacing connections from the old water main to the new water main and when replacing sanitary sewer connections), and during paving. In general, all work for utilities should only affect driveway access on the day work is being done in that location. The contractor will provide residents' access by putting in a stone road base by the end of the working day. However during concrete paving, driveway access will be affected for two weeks.
- 7) *Will I be able to park in front of my house when contractors are replacing my driveway apron?***
The concrete pavement can not be used while it is curing. It may be possible to park in front of your house during driveway construction, but only if City staff verifies that the concrete has cured and the other lane is open for traffic.
- 8) *Will there be any disruption to mail and UPS deliveries?***
Mail service will not be interrupted. In general, other delivery service will be maintained as well. However, there are occasions during paving when delivery trucks will not be able to access homes.
- 9) *How will lawn cutting services and other personal contractors be accommodated?***
In general, the utility contractors have allowed lawn maintenance companies to access their customers' property throughout construction except during concrete paving. Lawn companies have to park on other streets, just like residents, and walk their equipment in. Other contractors, such as home builders, have coordinated with the utility contractor and scheduled their activities accordingly.
- 10) *Will driveway aprons be replaced with same size aprons?***
Yes, concrete will be used to replace driveway aprons with the same size aprons that existed prior to construction.
- 11) *What are the new ADA (American with Disabilities Act) slope/pitch requirements for sidewalks? How could these new requirements impact me?***
Sidewalks must have maximum 2% cross slope, which is the slope pitched toward the roadway, and maximum 8% longitudinal slope. In order to achieve 2% cross slopes on some driveways, the private side of the sidewalk will need to be removed, regraded and replaced to meet the revised slope of the sidewalk. This will occur more in areas with a smaller or narrower area between the curb and face of sidewalk.

12) When will we know if our individual driveway and/or sidewalks must be replaced due to ADA pitch requirements?

The construction plans show which areas will have to be changed to meet ADA requirements. The plans are available for review at City Hall, in the Engineering Division (3rd Floor, West Wing). The costs for making these adjustments are included in the project costs, therefore individual homeowners will not incur a charge to make required adjustments.

13) How long will my water be shut off during water main installation?

There are different occasions that the water is shut off during construction, such as for water main connections and to transfer individual water services. In general, it can take about 4-6 hours to connect new mains to the existing system. Individual water services will be shut off for a couple of hours during transfer to the new main. Residents will be notified of this planned activity. However, during past projects, older water mains have experienced main breaks due to construction loading and disturbance. These are unplanned events and repairs depend on the type and location of break. The City staff will do its best to notify residents affected by unplanned events such as water main breaks.

14) Have any houses experienced any basement flooding as a result of the work done in other neighborhoods?

In only one case in the last 7 years, due to unique and unusual circumstance, there was flooding in the basement of a home where the sewer has been separated. .

15) How will I know if my gas line and meter will be replaced?

DTE will replace natural gas mains during this construction project. If DTE determines that an individual gas line or meter needs to be replaced, they will work directly with the property owner to schedule the upgrade. **Note:** DTE work will be overseen by DTE personnel. Questions should be directed to DTE representative Jay Williams at 313.389.7303.

16) What will happen to my sprinkler system as a result of construction? Is there anything I need to do to identify that I have a sprinkler system?

The contractor is responsible to repair sprinklers they disrupt during construction. The City recommends that during construction, residents turn off sprinklers in the area between the curb and sidewalk. Also, the City asks that residents mark sprinkler heads with flags when work comes to your area to help avoid damage.

17) If I have a brick paver walkway directly to the street, will it be replaced if it is destroyed during construction?

No. The contractor will replace all drives and walks with concrete. If a resident chooses to keep pavers, the City recommends that the resident remove the bricks prior to construction. They will have to replace pavers themselves.

18) What material will be used to replace the streets? Will it be concrete or combination of concrete gutters and asphalt and why?

In general, the type of material used to replace road has to do with where the utility work is located and the amount of disruption. In this case, the roads will be totally removed for utility construction and roads replaced completely with concrete.

19) Will we still be confronted with sink holes in our streets if you convert the existing combined sewer to a sanitary sewer? If no, why not?

Generally, the house lead connections to the sewer main are the cause of the sinkholes, not the sewer itself. Video taping has been done on the sewer to determine its condition. Repairs will be made as necessary and the leads will be replaced, in general, to 5 feet past the curb, towards the house, at no cost to the homeowner.

20) Once this water separation project is completed in our neighborhood, can we reconnect our downspouts to the sewer? No.

21) Is there any negative impact to replace a water main with an 8-inch pipe? No.

