

**Storm Sewer Separation**  
**Job No. 10-01-073, Contract #2**  
***Informational meeting 11/19/2018***

City officials on November 19, 2018 met with Dearborn Hills residents affected by the upcoming construction projects bounded by South Silvery Lane, Cherry Hill, Telegraph Road, and the Dearborn Hills golf course over the next several years.

The first of the construction projects in the area outlined above are set to begin on March 2019.

These projects fit into the overall scope of the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project that began in 2004. This federally-mandated sewer separation project requires Dearborn, along with other cities, to reduce pollution in the Rouge River.

Along with addressing sanitary sewers to improve water quality, per the federal mandate, Dearborn also has been replacing neighborhood roads, sidewalks, and water mains, taking advantage of the required disruption to improve the overall infrastructure.

**Construction's impact on trees**

One of the major concerns voiced by residents is maintaining the tree canopy of the neighborhood, which the City also wants to preserve. City engineers have devised a plan to protect as many trees as possible.

Unfortunately, 48 trees will need to be removed prior to construction. Most of them are dead, dying, unsafe or diseased. Home owners were informed via a door tag about the need for their tree to be removed. The Department of Public Works will contact these residents with an official letter restating the need to cut their unfit tree.

The city is committed to replacing all trees lost in construction zones if space allows, with a practice of planting trees in front of homes once construction is done, even if a tree was not there before.

**Curbs**

The curbs in many of the impacted areas were replaced in recent years. Because of that, during this project, many of the curbs will not be replaced, saving time and tax-payer money.

**Advice for Residents Dealing with Construction**

The following are potential issues and steps to correct or mitigate them.

- A fair amount of dust and dirt on the streets has been problematic in past projects. Trucks will be on hand to spray down the streets, keeping dust at a minimum.
- Make sure to document the status of your property with video or photos that display the date and time.
- Every effort will be made to ensure nearby parking will be available during the project. Residents will continue to be able to access their street during the project (except for periods in which a street is being repaved and driveway apron and sidewalks are replaced). During repaving, there will be about a two-week period in which residents will *NOT* have access to the street. Work on streets will be staggered so that residents can park on nearby streets, giving them closer access to their homes.
- Most construction traffic will be contained to Cherry Hill and Telegraph Road. Crews will then enter neighborhoods only in the specific work site.
- Crews will work from 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. Mondays – Saturdays. This will prevent noise from interrupting normal sleeping times for most people.
- Pedestrian safety is important to the City. Sidewalks will typically be open and unrestricted during the project. If a slab of sidewalk does need to be replaced, stones will be laid down to facilitate walkability. People with mobility or special needs are encouraged to contact Dylan Abbas, the City’s Construction Engineering Technician (CET) overseeing this project, at cell number (313) 801-8575 for individual assistance.

### **Questions & Answers from the November 19, 2018 meeting**

- 1. What will happen with trash, recycling and yard waste collection during the project?**
  - a. Collections will continue during the project in front of the house on the regular schedule. Residents are encouraged to place their address on their trash and recycling carts, and yard waste receptacles.
- 2. Other projects took longer than the guidelines stated. Why should we expect this project will meet its deadlines?**
  - a. Most of the projects were completed in a timely manner, except Cherry Hill project which was delayed because of union labor dispute for about a month.
- 3. I live on a one-way street. Will I be able to get onto my street in order to access my property?**
  - a. Yes, access to your property will be maintained. The only interference with this will come during intermittent four-hour periods when work takes place in front of your specific property. Owners will be notified before these work-periods take place. The other interference time will occur during the two-week repaving process.
- 4. Will any sidewalks need to be torn out due to water mains running beneath them?**

- a. There are very few sidewalks with water mains beneath them. Most water mains and most of the work will take place below the streets.
- 5. Why did the impacted area between South Silvery Lane and Claremont get delayed to 2020 or 2021?**
  - a. South Silvery Lane serves as an important street for traffic into and out of the neighborhood. The project was laid out so as to leave South Silvery lane under construction for the least amount of time as possible (from three years to two years only).
- 6. Construction will not begin in the area between South Silvery Lane and Claremont until 2020. What can be done in the meantime to reduce severely damaged Newton street?**
  - a. We can add a thin layer of asphalt to sustain the area until the section undergoes construction. This will provide more thorough support than patching would.
- 7. Will the Claremont and Beechmont area construction be staggered to facilitate access?**
  - a. The paving process will be the most limiting time of the project. At this point, the roads will be staggered to provide space for additional parking.
- 8. Will the streets be done in asphalt or concrete?**
  - a. The streets will be reconstructed in concrete.
- 9. Will this project extend from the curb on one side of the street to the curb on the other side?**
  - a. No. In most cases, the curbs will not be replaced, except required for sewer and water construction. Any cracked or broken curbs will be replaced.
- 10. How will residents be notified that crews will be in front of their specific house that day?**
  - a. The City will post flyers on houses before work begins for that particular day.
- 11. Would an electronic notification system be possible for those who are not at home at the time?**
  - a. We can look into opportunities that technology can provide.
- 12. When a street has been completed, will water shut offs on other streets impact the completed areas?**
  - a. For the most part, a street will not be impacted by any other shut offs once it has been completed.
- 13. Can information be shared on rat problems arising from construction projects?**
  - a. Yes. The Engineering Division will coordinate with vector control (which manages rat problems) to mitigate the impact of rat-related issues for residents and also provide preventative information.
- 14. How long does it take for that street to become drivable after the paving process begins?**
  - a. It is expected that the paving and curing process will take two weeks, and then the street is drivable.
- 15. I have observed other CSO projects and there appeared to be no work taking place for several days. Why is that?**

- a. Work is always being done on some part of the street, however; it may not be visible.

**16. Can I still have my personal property remodeled during the project?**

- a. Yes, this project will not impact work to be done on individual homes.

**17. With this sewer separation project, will there be a reduction in my water bill?**

- a. No.

**18. Will my water pressure increase?**

- a. Yes, there will be greater water pressure in houses. The water flow will be able to increase due to newer pipes being put in that can handle the higher water pressure.

**19. How do we know water quality will remain high throughout this process?**

- a. All of our sewer separation projects have maintained water quality that is better than the set standards for lead levels.

**20. Will water back up into basements after this project?**

- a. One of the benefits of the CSO project is that there should be less of a chance of basement flooding. This is because the sanitary sewers are being separated from the storm sewers; meaning will have no impact on basements.