

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## STREET & UTILITY CONSTRUCTION



The following information is intended to be a general overview of what to expect during construction of project areas included in the Street and Utility Improvement Program. Any information included in this document does not supersede any specific project-related information or data issued by the City for individual project areas.

### **Q1. When will construction start and how long will it last?**

Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin the week of June 1, 2020. Many factors influence construction start and duration – but the single most important factor is weather. A long or late winter will typically delay the start of construction. While a rainy, wet summer season will make construction more difficult to perform, leading to non-working days and increasing the time needed to complete the project.

### **Q2. Will I be able to drive on the street during construction?**

Yes, but there will be times when you will be discouraged or restricted from doing so. These restrictions are not often and typically occur during the day when construction crews are performing specific work, such as underground utilities or paving operations, that block safe passage of the street or when vehicle traffic could damage their work. But for the vast majority of construction you will be able to drive on the street and park in your driveway.

### **Q3. Where do I park my car during construction?**

As mentioned in Q2 above, you will be able to park in your driveway most of the time during construction. It is requested that you avoid parking in the street during the day while construction crews are working.

There will be a period of approximately 7 to 10 days when you will not be able to move vehicles in and out of your driveway. This time period begins during preparation for construction of the concrete curbing and driveway aprons and is needed to allow proper curing of the concrete. You will be allowed to park on the street in front of your property overnight during this time. A written notice will be hand-delivered to your door approximately one week before this concrete work begins. The Police department will be notified not to ticket vehicles parked in the street overnight in the project areas.

Other notices may be delivered in advance of additional parking restrictions required for construction activities.

### **Q4. What happens to my mail, newspaper, and garbage pickup during construction?**

Your existing mailbox and post will be removed and placed in your front yard (for your disposal) when construction

first begins. (The contractor will remove any concrete that may be on the post.) Your mail will then be delivered to a temporary mailbox at a centralized location. Your mail will be delivered to this location until permanent mailboxes are installed after street paving and restoration is complete (approximately 6 to 8 weeks). A written notice will be delivered to you approximately one week before the mail delivery locations change. The contractor works closely with the US Postal Service to ensure smooth mail delivery transitions.

Your permanent mailbox will be supplied by the City and installed in groupings of one to four per location. These grouped mailboxes will be located near your property, but typically no further than across the street from the side lot line of your property. You may replace the City-supplied mailbox with your own if you choose, and you are responsible to reattach your newspaper boxes to the wood post. Please return the City issued mailbox if you choose not to use it.

Paid newspaper subscriptions, such as the Star Tribune and Pioneer Press, should continue to be delivered to your doorstep or their normal location. Other newspapers that are typically delivered at your mailbox will be delivered at the temporary mailbox location.

Garbage disposal pickup will not be affected. Continue to place your disposal containers at the end of your driveway throughout construction.

### **Q5. What is the boulevard and Right-of-Way?**

The City owns the property that the street and utilities are located. When land was developed and divided into individual lots, the developer gave the City this property, called Right-of-Way, to use for streets, water, sewer, power, natural gas, telephone, and other public benefitting uses. The streets are usually built in the middle of the Right-of-Way. The area between the street edge and your property line (where the Right-of-way ends) is called the boulevard. The boulevard blends into your front yard and typically extends 10 to 20 feet behind the street edge toward your house.

You are responsible to maintain the boulevard area (which is typically grass); and any landscaping, irrigation piping, or other private property located within it can be damaged by construction activities. The City and its contractor will not replace or be responsible for any damage to private property located in the Right-of-Way or boulevard area.

**Q6. What if I want to replace my entire driveway?**

The City will only be replacing the portion of your driveway next to the street that is disturbed by construction. Property owners are responsible to hire a contractor on their own to reconstruct any other portion of their driveway. It is highly recommended that you wait to reconstruct your driveway until after the new street is constructed to ensure proper grading and drainage. If you want to widen your driveway apron (entrance), or you have a driveway wider than 24 feet, then you are required to contact the City for your construction cost as part of the Private Improvement Program (see Q7 below).

A listing of asphalt and concrete contractors licensed by the City is available from the Community Development Department at (763) 717-4020. A driveway permit is required by the City to reconstruct your driveway.

**Q7. What is the Private Improvement Program?**

The Private Improvement Program, or PIP, provides property owners an opportunity to have improvements to their driveway and utilities constructed as part of the Street and Utility Improvement Project. The private improvements are limited to work within the Right-of-Way and includes only the following work: sanitary sewer service replacement; new sanitary sewer and water services; modifying (increasing/decreasing) an existing driveway apron width per City Code; and other modifications to existing non-conforming driveway aprons (setbacks, widths, multiple) subject to City policy.

The cost for the private improvements will be paid entirely by the property owner and requires approval by the City prior to constructing the private improvement. A schedule of costs, payment options, and application forms and deadlines are available from the Public Works Department.

**Q8. How do I know if I should replace my sanitary service?**

If you've experienced an occasional sewer backup or have to regularly clean out your sewer, you may want to consider replacing the service pipe as part of the Private Improvement Program (see Q7). Having the service pipe replaced as part of the street construction will eliminate the cost associated with street removals and restoration - costs that will you will be required to pay if the service pipe is dug up and replaced after the street is constructed.

The decision to replace the service pipe is entirely yours. The City suggests having your sewer service televised and evaluated by a reputable plumber or contractor to help in making your decision. You should always obtain a couple quotes ahead of time, check references, and ask lots of questions.

**Q9. What will all this construction cost me?**

There is no direct cost or special assessment to you for any

part of the planned street and utility construction. However, any costs associated with private improvements that you apply for (see Q7) will be your responsibility.

**Q10. Do I need to do anything before construction starts?**

Yes. You will need to remove any irrigation, landscaping, and other items from the boulevard (see Q5) that you want to preserve prior to street demolition. Also, contact the Public Works Department if you're interested in applying for private improvements before the application deadline. And lastly, reference the website to keep informed of what to expect during construction and to ask questions of key personnel. The City and its contractor will not replace or be responsible for any damage to private property located in the Right-of-Way or boulevard area.

**Q11. Who do I call during construction and where can I get construction updates for my street?**

Call the project hotline to speak with the on-site inspector for construction related questions and Public Works for other general questions. Weekly updates will be available on the City's website and on the hotline.

**Project Contact Information**

**Project Hotline-Voicemail:**  
**(763) 717-4055**

for weekly project updates during construction and to speak with the on-site construction inspector (M- F, 7:00 am to 7:00 pm)  
[www.moundsviewmn.org](http://www.moundsviewmn.org)

**Public Works Department:**  
**(763) 717-4050**

to speak with City Staff during normal business hours (M-F, 7:00 am to 3:30pm)

**For Emergencies: Call 911**