

June 24, 2011

W. 44th Street (Brookside Terrace to France Avenue) Improvement Project

Dear Residents:

Please note that this update is divided into two sections. The first section, Phase Updates, contains specific information pertaining to particular residents, while the second section, Overall Updates, contains important information pertaining to all residents.

Phase Updates

Phase 1 (Between Wooddale Avenue and France Avenue)

Gas Main

CenterPoint Energy's (CPE) contractor continues installing the new gas main. The new gas main has been installed between France Avenue and Glen Place; and CPE will continue installing the new main west towards Mackey Avenue. New gas service lines are currently being installed for properties between France Avenue and Grimes Avenue. CPE's contractor will continue working their way west towards Wooddale Avenue with the new service lines in the upcoming weeks. CPE will notify you before they begin working at your property.

Street and Sidewalk Removals

The contractor has started removing the existing bituminous pavement along W. 44th Street from Wooddale Avenue to approximately 100 feet east of Eton Place in preparation for the utility work. Removal of the curb and gutter, sidewalk and driveway pavement within the right of way is scheduled to start the week of June 27th. The removal limits for these areas will be marked with paint today. Your driveway will be backfilled with gravel after it is removed. You will still be able to access the roadway and enter your driveway after this work is completed.

Temporary Water System

The contractor is continuing to construct the temporary water main and make the connections to your outside faucet. The contractor plans to have the temporary watermain system operational by June 29. The contractor will contact you prior to switching you over to the temporary water system.

After the temporary water system is operational, you may notice your tap water is warmer than usual. This is normal and happens because the water pipe is above ground rather than below. Additionally, water main reconstruction may cause rust colored water. This too is normal. Flush your faucets by running all of them at the same time for several minutes and this will remove the rust color. You may need to clean off the aerator in each of your faucet heads after your flushing.

Please be careful when cutting your grass near the temporary water service pipe. It is possible to cut the pipe with a lawn mower blade and cause a leak. Also, once the temporary water system is in place, do not shut off the faucet that connects the temporary water service pipe to the house (the water will be shut off to the house). If applicable, please pass these warnings along to your lawn service company.

Utility Work

On June 29, the contractor plans to begin replacing water valves at the intersections of W. 44th Street and Grimes Avenue, Eton Place and Curve Avenue. Water service will not be available for a short period of time for certain properties along these streets. These properties will be notified of this using a door hanger.

Replacement of the watermain within W. 44th Street between Wooddale Avenue and Grimes Avenue is scheduled to begin on June 30. The watermain will be replaced using the "pipe bursting" method, which involves tunneling a new pipe into the ground to replace the existing pipe that is being burst.

Irrigation Systems

Please mark the location of your irrigation system along the roadway and your driveway. Please contact project inspector, George Bender (612-360-1321), if you have any questions about how best to locate and mark your irrigation system. If the contractor encounters your irrigation lines during construction, they will cap the system and repair it after the utility work is complete. You will still be able to operate the other parts of your system that are not capped.

Construction Staking

During construction, the project surveyor will place wooden stakes in the road right of way for the contractor's use in constructing the streets and utilities. It is important to leave the stakes in the ground until after construction has been completed. The contractor will promptly remove the stakes when they are no longer needed. If you have any questions about this process please call the project inspector.

Overall Updates

Detours and Access

Detour signage has been installed to direct cut-thru traffic away from West 44th Street during construction. Signs have been posted along 50th Street, as well as on France Avenue and Brookside Avenue to route drivers to 50th Street.

Property owners will still be able to access their properties from West 44th Street. However, when utility or driveway work is being completed there may be periods during the day when you may not be able to access your home or business. You will be notified in advance of driveway closures and the project inspector, will be able to assist you in coordinating access to your property.

Service vehicles such as emergency, garbage, postal, school buses, etc., will maintain their routes along West 44th Street.

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Pre-Construction Survey:

The contractor is required to hire an independent testing laboratory (ITL) to provide you the opportunity to have an interior and exterior pre-construction survey of your property completed in order to establish a baseline record relevant to the pre-existing conditions of your home or structure prior to commencement of construction. We do not anticipate any damage due to construction of the roadway; however, this survey is very typical for larger projects and protects both the property owner and the contractor. The site survey is being provided at no cost to you and is completely voluntary.

The ITL, Jay Houser of Loss Prevention (612-386-0622), may have already contacted you or will be contacting you to schedule an appointment to perform the surveys.

On-street Parking

On-street parking will not be allowed during construction operations. Please inform guests, customers, and private contractors of this.

Boulevard Plantings

If you have plantings or other landscape items that are currently located in the boulevard and wish to transplant or salvage these items, please contact the project inspector to coordinate when you will need to complete this.

Special Events or Deliveries

Please contact the project inspector if you have any special events planned during construction that may require special access to your home. Such events could include graduation parties, wedding receptions, medical deliveries, etc. The contractor will work with you as much as possible to accommodate your needs.

Safety

Please remind your children to stay away from construction sites, construction machinery, and stockpiled materials. These sites, machines, and materials can be dangerous. Job site safety is our number one concern.

Who to Contact in an Emergency

During a life- or property-threatening emergency, call 911. If construction equipment or materials need to be moved as part of dealing with the emergency, 911 will have a list of the contractor's emergency contacts.

Who to Contact with Questions and Concerns

Shibani Bisson, WSB's Project Representative at 763-287-7162, sbisson@wsbeng.com, or our on-site project inspector, George Bender, 612-360-1321.

Sincerely,

Shibani K Bisson, PE
Senior Project Manager
WSB & Associates, Inc.