

August 29, 2012 – Minutes

Updated 9/5/12 (Presentation by Rick Dolce, P.E.)

Public Informational Meeting

Cass Street Area Sewer Separation Project

Welcome, and thank you for coming to this **pre-construction meeting** explaining the Cass Street Area Sewer separation project.

1) Attendance Sheet

- If you haven't already done so please do sign-in.
- Please *clearly* include your email address
 - ◇ We will be using email to send project updates throughout the project duration

2) Introductions

- The City of Portsmouth
 - ◇ Peter Rice, Deputy Director of Public Works
 - ◇ Terry Desmarais, City Water & Sewer Engineer
 - ◇ Rick Dolce, Engineering Projects Manager
- Underwood Engineers
 - ◇ Phil Macdonald, Project Manager
 - ◇ Ben Dreyer, Project Engineer
 - ◇ Marc Guimont, Resident Project Representative (RPR)
- Albanese D&S, Inc
 - ◇ Tom Molenari, Project Manager
 - ◇ Andre Ciano, Field Supervisor

3) Purpose of Project

- Administrative Order by the US EPA via a Consent Decree – Continuation
- **The goal is to Eliminate Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)**
- Separate combined sewer and storm water systems
 - ◇ Minimizes backups in basements and catch basins in the street
 - ◇ Ultimately sump pumps will need to be separated from sewer lines
- Previous Work
 - ◇ Contract #1 – 2004
Parrot Avenue, Sherburne, Rockland, and Lincoln
 - ◇ Contract #2 – 2006
Elwyn, Kent, Sherburne, McNabb Ct., and Lincoln
 - ◇ Bartlett Area Sewers – 2011
Bartlett St, Islington St, Jewel Ct, Brewery Ln
 - ◇ Contract 3A – 2012 (Coming to a close)
Lincoln Ave, Broad St, Union St, Wibird St, Willow Ln, Spring St, Miller
 - ◇ Contract 3B – 2013
Richards Ave, Miller Ave, Broad St, Rockland St, Highland St, Merrimac St
- Also replacing old, existing water lines replaced - Water Main improvements
- Road, curbing and sidewalk improvements

4) Cass Street Work Areas

- See figure – (Projected Map)
 - ◇ Cass Street

- ◇ Albany Street
- ◇ Brewery Lane
- ◇ Chevrolet Ave
- ◇ Friend Street
- ◇ Madison St
- ◇ Lovell Street

5) Construction Schedule

- Commence construction – Beginning of September (9/10)
- Construction Completion Fall 2013

6) Phasing of work will be:

- ◇ pipe low to high: Brewery Lane OR Chevrolet Ave
- ◇ 3 utilities will be installed, THEN service lines will be installed
- Specific details to be coordinated with the contractor,
 - ◇ Available to residents/business owners via **City Website** and **email notifications**.

7) Special Considerations

- Communication relevant to the Project
 - ◇ Door-to-Door – during construction
 - ◇ Web-Page (weekly or bi-weekly Updates)
 - ◇ Emails
 - (1) this method of communication has been successful on previous projects
 - ◇ Handouts
- During construction Marc Guimont (Underwood Engineers) or Andre Ciano (Albanese D&S, Inc.) are your first point of contact, then Ben Dreyer of Underwood Engineers or Rick Dolce, and then if they can't help you please contact me, or Terry Desmarais/Peter Rice.
- One subject specifically that will need coordination is Basement plumbing
 - ◇ Determine where sewer lines leave your house & sumps pumps tied to sewers
 - ◇ Separate sign up sheet for Ben and I to take an initial look at the interior plumbing on certain houses
- Trees – Already Removed
 - ◇ Protection of trees is of high importance for this project
- Traffic Control
 - ◇ Temporary impacts = detours, flaggers, accessibility
 - ◇ If you coordinate with the contractor they may be able to get you to your house
 - ◇ However, this may not be feasible if they are excavating in front of your house
- We're currently reviewing the traffic Control Plan submitted by AD&S, which includes erecting signs for local business.
 - ◇ Initially we are intending to have VMB to indicate detour routes for local businesses
- Construction is dirty and noisy
 - ◇ We will do our best to minimize these impacts throughout construction
 - ◇ It is the nature of urban work that materials and equipment will be staged on the side of the street.

8) Special Events

- If there is a special event or gathering scheduled at your home that may require special considerations (i.e. a wedding) please provide as much advance notice as possible so that proper coordination can occur between the City, the Contractor, and the Homeowner.

9) We thank you in advance for your patience during this project, and for coming tonight.

Questions & Answers:

Q: How much notice will I get when parking will not be available in my driveway?

A:

- ◇ Weekly or Bi-weekly updates will be published to the City's website and via mass e-mail (if you have provided your e-mail. These updates show a general overall map of project area and where work will be taking place.
- ◇ You will see the work approaching your home as the Contractor works their way up the street.
- ◇ Impacts to driveway access will only be during working hours, All access will be restored every night and during the weekends.

Q: Will homeowners be able to contract with the Contractor to complete drainage and water service connections on private property?

A:

- The City does not facilitate, insure, guarantee, or warranty any of the work completed by the Contractor
- If the Contractor chooses not to complete the work, the City has a list of local contractors available that can complete the work.

Q: I think my sewer service runs under hedge in the front of my house. Can the hedge be removed if the new service has to go through the hedge?

A: The hedge can be removed and replanted, typically in the same day.

Q Where is the sidewalk located in relation to property lines and right of way? Is the sidewalk on my property?

A Sidewalks are located within the City Right of Way and typically located so the back of the sidewalk coincides with the property line.

Q What is the expected duration of project?

A The deadline for the sewer separation work is June 2013 but the total project completion is expected toward the fall of 2013. As with any project of this scope, unexpected delays or changes to the schedule are possible.

Q I own a hair salon and having water service during my regular business hours (open starting at 9:00 am) is critical. Will there be water shutoffs as part of the work?

A Water system improvements are proposed which may require temporary (and possibly emergency) shutdowns during the project. The City will provide 48 hour notice and work with the Contractor to coordinate shutdowns outside of your business hours. In certain circumstances, provisions for temporary water service may be available.

Q What is the time frame for the work on Albany Street?

A The schedule for work on Albany Street has not been confirmed at this time. The Contractor anticipates starting on Brewery Lane and Chevrolet Avenue in the beginning of September.

Q: How much notice will I get when parking will not be available in my driveway?

A:

- Bi-weekly updates will be published to the City's website and via mass e-mail (if you have provided your email). These updates show a general overall map of project area and where work will be taking place.
- You will see the work approaching your home as the Contractor works their way up the street.
- Impacts to driveway access will only be during working hours. All access will be restored every night and during the weekends.

Q I think my house has a direct drain connection to the sewer system. Do I have to do something about this connection?

A A new storm drain service will be provided for connections to private basement drains. A pump system is required. Gravity connections are not allowed to prevent problems from back ups and basement flooding.

Q Will there be root impacts to trees in the project area? There are two trees in front of my property that I would prefer to see removed. –

A The City's Blue Ribbon Tree Committee has reviewed the condition of trees within the project and selected trees have already been removed. Consideration for removal of any additional trees may be submitted using a request form to be provided by the City.

Q I live at a condominium at 85 Albany Street which has a steep hill with rocks for drainage going down to the street. Will this drainage path be disturbed?

A No, this would be work on private property and extends beyond the scope of the project.

Q I operate a home business at 85 Albany Street which involves audio recording. What is the schedule and duration for blasting?

A The Contractor will provide a certified mailing notice prior to conducting blasting operations.

Q Where will blasting take place?

A Blasting will be used in areas where ledge/rock removal is necessary to install utility pipe lines. In general, expected blasting areas include Brewery Lane, Cass Street (in the vicinity of Brewery Lane, Chevrolet Avenue and Middle Street) and Chevrolet Avenue.

Q Is blasting the proposed method for removing ledge? Are there alternative methods?

A Blasting is the most efficient method for ledge removal. Blasting presents less potential for damage from vibration effects compared to alternate methods such as a pneumatic hammer. The Contractor will employ a vibration consultant to monitor blasting vibration frequencies.

Q If there is damage from blasting operations how will this be assessed?

A The Contractor will conduct a pre-blast survey of the structures within a 500' radius of blasting operations to document the existing conditions prior to blasting.

Q Will the Contractor be working through the winter?

A The Contract requires a winter shutdown period from mid December to mid March. If weather conditions are favorable, the City may permit the Contractor to extend the construction season into the winter or start earlier in the spring.

- Q On street parking is limited on Cass Street. Will alternate locations be provided?
A Construction impacts will not be simultaneous through out the project area so parking should be available on streets adjacent to the work area. Although the City will work to minimize impacts, short term challenges with parking during the work should be anticipated.
- Q Certain residences on Lovell Street do not have driveways and require on street parking. Is it possible to restrict staging of construction vehicles on Lovell Street?
A The City will review this condition as the work progresses. Staging has not been identified at this location by the Contractor.
- Q A storm drain at 55 Lovell which is tied to the City's drainage system has a history of back ups during heavy rains. Will this be addressed during this project?
A The City will review the design intent with Underwood Engineers.
- Q How is this project being funded?
A The project is not receiving any state or federal funds. The City has bonded the project funds which will be paid through the City's capital improvement budget. City tax payers contribute to capital improvement accounts for road and sidewalk work. Rate payers contribute to capital improvement accounts for water and sewer work.
- Q What will happen to the grass strip between the road and sidewalk? I have landscaping in this area that I wish to maintain.
A The City supports home owners' efforts to maintain landscaping at their property frontage. Any specific concerns should be coordinated with Underwood's field engineer as the work progresses.
- Q Since the City is requiring pumped connections to storm drain services being provided as part of this project, who can I contact to have a pump system installed in my basement.
A The City can provide a list of Contractor's who perform this type of work.
- Q I believe my house has an old galvanized water service. Will this be replaced as part of the project work?
A The City will replace water services from the water main to the back of s/w (or property line). Home owners may inquire about AD&S' availability to complete this type of work under a separate private contract or other contractors can be recommended by the City.
- Q Clarification – Will e-mails be used for project communication?
A Yes – use of e-mail notifications on City projects started with alerts for emergency conditions but has proven effective with general project updates as well. E-mail notifications will only be sent if you provide your e-mail address.
- Q When was last project of this nature/scope in this area? Will the pavement (pot holes) on Albany Street be repaired?
A Much of the utility infrastructure like the sewer and drain pipes are from the Frank Jones era (100+ years). The road surfaces in the project area will be reconstructed and paved.
- Q Are any drinking water issues anticipated? Should we plan on using bottled water?
A Mild discoloration (rust) may be observed but this will be a temporary condition which can be relieved by adequate flushing. Flushing water through the bath tub may be most effective.

Q What quality control measures are in place for concrete sidewalk construction? I think the sidewalks on Aldrich Road deteriorated to poor condition in a short period of time after installation.

A The Contract Documents require a sealer to limit the effects of salt (used for winter maintenance) on concrete surfaces.

Q Does the drainage from the project area discharge to North Mill Pond? Will surcharge conditions in the Bartlett and upstream areas (Cass) be alleviated?

A Yes

Q How much time is anticipated to complete each phase (street) of the work – months?

A Yes – on most streets a total of three new pipes will be installed and then the road will be constructed. The pipes will generally be installed sequentially.

Q Will paving be completed by each street in the project area?

A Yes – a base course will be installed first followed by a final surface pavement.

Q Will a sidewalk be open on at least one side of the street during construction.

A Yes, the intent is to only impact one sidewalk at a time.

Q Will the construction operations impact the old brick buildings in this area?

A The pre-blast survey will be used to assess the condition of any buildings noted to be vulnerable to construction related vibration impacts. The Contractor's vibration consultant will provide guidance and/or special precautions as necessary. Based on the City's experience with similar utility work on adjacent buildings on Jewell Court, there is no reason for concern.

Q Will the sidewalk extend from Brewery Lane to Hannafords?

A No, this would be beyond the project limits

Q Will there be sidewalk installed on Chevrolet Avenue?

A No