

Aging infrastructure is a nationwide challenge. Renewing Austin is a program to upgrade aging water lines and to keep pace with the infrastructure demands of a growing city.

The Asbestos Cement (AC) Pipe Replacement Project will replace water lines in four neighborhoods in East Austin and one neighborhood in South Austin. In addition, the old water lines which are made from asbestos cement, will be removed during the project. The contractor will be required to use a certified asbestos cement removal contractor and conduct air monitoring by a state-certified inspector. These environmental mitigation steps will be taken to ensure the safety of workers and customers during the removal. We recognize that the construction period will bring disruptions and are working hard to be a good neighbor during the project.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Will you be closing streets?**

A: We will be closing lanes of traffic, but not entire streets. You will always have access to your home - for brief periods, driveway access may be limited.

**Q: What are the working hours? Which days?**

A: The work days are generally Monday through Saturday, though some Sundays may be required. The work hours are generally 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Q: How loud will it be?**

A: You will hear heavy equipment during work hours. The City's noise ordinance applies after 10 p.m.

**Q: Will my water be turned off?**

A: Yes, at some point your water will be turned off, but most likely just for a few hours on a single day. We will notify you via flyers posted on the door, prior to turning off the water. In rare cases, an emergency may cause water to be turned off without notice. We will do our best to avoid this.

**Q: Will you dig up my lawn?**

A: Most work will be limited to the right of way. In many cases, the right of way is located between the street and the sidewalk, in an area that you may consider to be part of your lawn. We will notify you as we start work on your street so that you may remove plants or personal items. If you have irrigation system pipes, landscape features or retaining walls in the City of Austin right-of-way, they may need to be moved in advance of the construction. If the contractor damages any of the features in the right-of-way, repair and costs to repair these features are the responsibility of the homeowner.

**Q: What are your plans for repaving the streets?**

A: We will repair trenches during construction of the utility lines. Following completion of all work on all streets, pavement will be restored. All streets will be milled/overlaid with a new asphalt surface.

## **Additional Information about Asbestos Cement Pipe**

- Asbestos Cement (AC) pipe was widely used in the 1950-1960s as a light weight and durable material.
- A survey conducted by the American Water Works Association found that AC pipes constitute approximately 15% - 18% of the nation's water distribution and transmission systems. The Austin Water system has approximately 647 miles of asbestos cement water pipe, out of a total of 3,928 miles of water pipe.
- In 1974, Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act. This law requires Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to determine the level of contaminants in drinking water at which no adverse health effects are likely to occur. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, asbestos is limited to 7 million fibers per liter (MFL) of water.
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has testing requirements for utilities with asbestos cement pipe. Austin Water's last test results show that no asbestos was found.

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