

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Harmon Ave Water and Wastewater Improvement Project is part of Renewing Austin, an Austin Water program to replace and upgrade aging water lines. Austin Water is protecting our city's water infrastructure by investing in upgrades and repairs of the existing water lines. Water line breaks are well documented in this area and the project is necessary to avoid further expenditures to maintain water lines that have broken frequently.

The project will replace about 8,240 linear feet of water lines and 5,700 linear feet of wastewater lines. Austin Water partners with the Public Works Department whose project management staff supervises construction.

OVERVIEW OF WORK

- New trenches will be dug to accommodate the new water and wastewater lines while the existing lines remain in service.
- New fire hydrants will be installed, and old fire hydrants will be removed. New fire hydrants may be placed in new locations to meet code requirements.
- Following completion of all work, pavement will be restored.
- The project is expected to take about 14 months to complete. Construction is expected to begin in October 2020.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Service Outages

- Once a section of line is completed, customers' service lines will be connected to the new line. Making this connection will require water service or wastewater service to be temporarily suspended. The project inspector will provide notice 48-hours prior to service being suspended by placing door tags on front doors. It typically takes several hours for connections to be completed and service to be restored.
- Emergency water outages are likely to occur during the project due to the age and condition of the existing pipeline. Crews will repair any unintended breaks in the existing line as soon as possible and will work carefully to try to avoid them.

Traffic Impacts

- Portions of streets will be closed during construction, however access to your homes will be maintained. Crews will notify you if access to your driveway will be temporarily blocked while work is being performed.

PROJECT CONTACTS

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Aging infrastructure is a nationwide challenge. Austin Water will replace water and wastewater lines in your neighborhood soon. Renewing Austin is a program to upgrade aging water lines and to keep pace with the infrastructure demands of a growing city.

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 expected to be 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.