



CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON

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Frequently Asked Questions About the 2015 Water System Improvements Project

What is the 2015 Water System Improvements Project?

- The 2015 Water System Improvements Project is an extensive water infrastructure improvement effort located in 3 areas of the Island.
Area 1: Island Crest Way from SE 40th St to SE 44th St, SE 44th St between Island Crest Way and 89th Ave SE, 85th Ave SE from SE 40th St to SE 42nd St
Area 2: 89th Ave SE and 90th Ave SE from SE 40th St to SE 41st St
Area 3: 93rd Ave SE, south of SE 72nd St

The contractor will:

- Replace and upsize approximately 5,500 lineal feet of water main
- Replace approximately 110 water services and 17 fire hydrants
- Construct 15 water main connections
- Make property and pavement restoration and other related improvements

Why does this work need to be done?

- The City of Mercer Island's water system is evaluated on a regular basis to ensure the infrastructure remains in good condition and has adequate capacity to provide water to customers. The water mains serving these areas are undersized and aging rapidly. In some areas, the fire flow capacity was also one of the consideration factors for system upgrades.

How much will this project cost?

- By the time all three areas of construction are completed, the total project will cost approximately \$2.4 million. This includes survey, design and construction costs.

How is this project being funded?

- This project is significant in terms of its large size, benefit to rate payers (projected savings on long-term maintenance costs and improved fire flows) and the pro-active actions for system upgrades before serious problems emerge. The project is funded by water rates.

When will construction begin? When will it end?

- Construction will begin in mid- to late March. The contractor is planning to run two crews and will work approximately 25 weeks, so the project will extend through the summer. If all goes as planned, we expect to be done by mid- to late September.

Who will be doing this work?

- On February 23, 2015, the Mercer Island City Council awarded the construction contract to Earthwork Enterprises, Inc., a general contractor that undertakes large-scale public works projects like water main replacements. Based in Mukilteo, Earthwork Enterprises, Inc. is a licensed and bonded contractor that has been in business since 1987. Earthwork Enterprises, Inc. has completed 5 other road, storm drainage and water main improvements projects for the City of Mercer Island within the last 5 years.

How will I be affected by this project?

- Area residents will be impacted by disruptions to your water supply and lane closures. We will need to shut down the water main on occasion; these water shutdowns will occur between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. You could also experience intermittent shutdowns for replacement of your individual water service if a shutdown will affect you, although these typically have a shorter duration (just two to three hours). Half street or partial lane closures are expected, but our contractor will try to keep at least one lane open on each road. Traffic flow will be maintained on Island Crest Way allowing one lane of travel in each direction at all times.

How will I be notified of water shutoffs or street closures?

- The City of Mercer Island will send you a notification postcard the week before work will directly impact your property. In addition, we will hang a reminder notice on your front door the day before work is scheduled to begin. Variable message boards will also be stationed around the Island Crest Way and SE 40th Street intersection alerting commuters to construction schedule.

Will you be replacing my water meter?

- Yes, some of the water meters and water meter boxes will be replaced for this project based on age and location. Meters along Island Crest Way will be upgraded to radio read meters. We will replace the service line that runs from the water main to your meter location.

During what hours will crews work? Will they work weekends?

- Crews will work between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm. We do not anticipate that they will need to work weekends. Work hours within 650 feet of the intersection of Island Crest Way and SE 40th St will be limited to the hours of 9:00 am to 3:30 pm to lessen the impact to commuters at this intersection.

Will construction crews work during SeaFair? During Summer Celebration?

- Yes, however the contractor will adjust their construction activities accordingly to minimize the interference with SeaFair and Summer Celebration events. No construction activity will be allowed on Island Crest Way or SE 40th Street Friday through Sunday of these weekend events.

How will my mail be delivered? Garbage picked up? Will this project change our school bus pickup?

- Your mail delivery and garbage pickup should not be impacted. If a full street closure is required, we will work around garbage pickup days to avoid interference. We will also coordinate directly with Mercer Island Public Schools officials to make sure there is no disruption to school bus pickups.

I'm planning to have construction done at my home. What do I need to do to coordinate schedules?

- Let us know about your plans *now* and we'll do our best to work around the construction at your house. It's especially important to let us know if you have large building materials deliveries or need access for concrete trucks at your home at any time during this period.

I'm having a large event at my house during the construction period. How can I eliminate conflicts?

- Communication is very important; let us know *now* if you have plans and we'll do our best to work around your special event.

If water is shut off, how long will my home be without water?

- On the days that water is shut off at the main, your service could be off from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Do I need to do anything special to my irrigation system / pool / hot tub / etc. during this period?

- No, nothing special is needed; although we want to remind you not to run hot water out your faucet during water main shutdown. This would drain your hot water tank which could cause damage.

Will this work disrupt my landscape?

- Yes, it could. While we will do everything we can to minimize disturbance to your landscaping within the public Right-of-Way, the contractor may need to dig a small trench through your yard, roughly 18 inches wide and two or three feet deep. Lawn will be replaced with the original turf or reseeded if needed. If you have any concerns about special plants or landscaping that might be impacted, particularly plants near the meter box, let us know.

What are my responsibilities?

- Let us know *now* if you have special landscape plants, irrigation lines or invisible fencing, particularly if they are located near the meter box. Also, keep everyone safe by keeping kids and pets away from the construction zones.

Who can I contact about this project?

- At any point during the duration of the project, you may contact Rona Lin, P.E., City of Mercer Island Utilities Engineer, at (206) 275-7806 or via email at rona.lin@mercergov.org.

Where can I learn more about the project and the contractor's progress?

- You can learn more about this project and get updates on our progress at the City of Mercer Island's website, www.mercergov.org. Find the information under Departments > Maintenance> City Projects> Capital Improvement Program > 2015 Water System Improvements Project. Or, you can directly link to www.mercergov.org/2015WaterSystem. We will post new information as it becomes available, so check back throughout the construction period.