



Upton Drive Reconstruction Project Pre-Construction Public Meeting Notice March 6, 2024 at 6:00 pm, City Commission Chambers or Zoom

The Upton Drive Reconstruction Project will soon begin. A Public Meeting will be held in the City Commission Chambers in City Hall or via Zoom at 6:00 pm on March 6th for those with questions or desiring more information. This update is being published to inform those impacted or interested in the project of what to expect.

Overview

The project limits include Upton Drive from its southerly end near the St. Joseph River to Momany Drive. The primary purpose of the project is to reconstruct the roadway, install new storm sewer to improve drainage, and replace the sanitary force main from the Edgewater Lift Station to the sanitary sewer interceptor sewer south of the St. Joseph River. While the roadway is removed, the existing sanitary sewer and water mains located under it will be replaced. The project also includes reconfiguration of the roadway to allow the installation of a non-motorized path.

The scope is more complex than most reconstruction projects as it includes three utility crossings under the CSX railroad tracks, a directional bore under the St. Joseph River, and changing the pavement width. This requires coordinating multiple agreements with CSX. Several external funding sources are also involved including a Transportation Economic Development Fund Category A grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation, a Clean Water State Revolving Loan (CWSRF) loan, and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan. A portion of the CWSRF and DWSRF funding will come in the form of grants rather than loans. The balance of funding beyond the external sources listed above will come from the City's Street Improvement Fund, Water Improvement Fund, and Sewer Fund.

Schedule Information

Kalin Construction was the low bidder and has been awarded the project by the City Commission. Kalin intends to start the project on or about March 25th with project completion anticipated in early November.

The project will be phased in order to reduce the impact on the residents and businesses to the extent feasible. Kalin will establish a detour to route traffic around the project area. Generally speaking, Kalin intends to work from south to north, with the initial work being from the St. Joseph River to just north of the CSX Transportation railroad tracks. Then work will shift north, extending to the Upton Drive/Virgina Court/Marina Drive intersection. The final phase of the project will continue north to and including the Momany Drive intersection.

The portion of Upton Drive under construction at any given time will be closed to through traffic, and as such access to the businesses and neighborhoods west and south of the Momany Drive intersection will be from the north, via Klock Road and Momany Drive, during the first phases and from the south, via Whitwam Drive, during the final phase. Work within the Upton Drive/Marina Drive/Virginia Court intersection will be undertaken in a part-width manner to allow traffic to be maintained. However, delays should be expected during the relatively short period of time that work at the intersection is underway. While minimal on this project, on-street, overnight parking on adjacent streets will be allowed for those residents with driveways directly fronting on the construction.

Another significant item to note is the coordination with CSX which started on this project two years ago and is ongoing. There are multiple agreements involved with CSX, one includes the crossing modification work that CSX is performing, and CSX has not committed to a schedule at the time of this notice. Therefore, those who wish to be kept apprised of the most recent schedule details as we receive additional information from CSX should fill out and return the requested information form at the end of this notice.

The order of work of construction items will also vary on this project as compared to a typical reconstruction project. In general, underground construction starts with the deepest utility, the sanitary sewer, and then moves to the shallower ones. In this case, work will start with the new storm sewer outfall at the St. Joseph River, and proceed north. Simultaneously, preparation for the first of the three utility crossings under the CSX railroad tracks is expected to begin. Please note that over time, you will see the contractor digging holes, filling them up, and then “re-digging” them again. This is normal, in order to properly build the new sewers and water main. This will also appear to be the case when the water main is constructed because the main must pass hydrostatic and water quality tests prior to switching the water services from the old to the new main.

Scope of Work

The scope of the proposed Upton Drive Reconstruction Project has been well publicized. The process started in October of 2022 when notice of the first public meeting, to gather input on non-motorized facilities options, was sent to the project area. Since that time, the City Commission directed City staff to install a non-motorized path based upon multiple factors, with one of the most significant being the path was preferred by a majority of those who provided input.

During the public input process, it was noted that the new road will be narrowed to provide space for non-motorized facilities. The non-motorized path will be located on the east side of Upton Drive over the full project length, connecting the existing path on Momany Drive to a proposed path along the St. Joseph River in the future. The proposed path along the river is expected to connect to the existing path east of the Harry Gast Parkway (M63). There will be no on-street parking on Upton Drive from its southerly limits to Momany Drive when the project is complete.

As stated above, the project includes reconstruction of the roadway, storm sewer, water main, sanitary sewer and sanitary force main within the Upton Drive right-of-way. The storm sewer will include a treatment chamber near the river to comply with current environmental regulations. The sanitary force main, which conveys all of the wastewater from the city north of the St. Joseph River under the St. Joseph River to the sanitary sewer interceptor on the south side of the river, will be replaced because it is more than 70 years old and at the end of its useful life. Replacement of water services will also be completed, with the limits of that work dictated by the State of Michigan 2018 Lead and Copper Rule. In addition, most of the sidewalk and all of the sidewalk ramps within the project area will be replaced to meet ADA requirements.

Foundation and Roof Drains

Foundation and roof drains present a significant problem in the City. In fact, the City continues to experience combined sewer overflow (CSO) events, and foundation and roof drains improperly connected to the sanitary sewer increase the volume and duration of the events. The City will be required to construct a CSO storage tank within the next 3 to 5 years to meet State and Federal

regulations; current estimates put the cost in excess of \$15,000,000. Improperly connected foundation and roof drains add costs to all City rate payer bills and offenders can be fined for the illicit connections. Given that both the sanitary and storm sewers will be reconstructed within the right-of-way as part of the project, now is the time to act to correct the issue. If you are uncertain if you have a foundation or roof drain connection to the sanitary sewer, we recommend that you contact David Linderman, Sewer and Water Superintendent, at 269-983-6341 to schedule an inspection.

Traffic Maintenance / Access / Trash Pickup / Water Service

Access to driveways and traffic maintenance will be a challenge during this project and we ask for your patience, particularly when construction impacts your street intersection or your property frontage. Because both sewer and water main will be replaced during construction, the entire roadway will be removed when excavation work is underway. As such, there will be times when access to streets/driveways will not be possible. For the limited number of properties directly impacted, on-street overnight parking will be allowed on nearby streets when your driveway is not accessible. Construction signage will be placed to direct local traffic throughout the project and a map will be posted to the City website illustrating the current closure limits.

For trash and recycle pickup, we request that you place your containers along the road as normal. If you have a problem with your trash pickup, please contact Liam Cormier, Streets Superintendent at 269-983-6341. We expect the U. S. Postal Service to be able to maintain normal mail delivery. Should this prove to be problematic, we will contact you with further information.

On occasion, water service will need to be shut off to make the necessary connections to the new mains and services; these interruptions will be held to the minimum necessary to complete the work. A written notice will be hung on your front door the day/evening prior to these planned interruptions. For those who sign up for email updates, construction progress notices will be sent out periodically, in order to help assist in planning for these events. After a water interruption, it is likely sediment from the old main will be suspended in the water. We ask that you flush your service line by running water from an outside spigot or a utility sink to clear your water service. It is important to note that your water service may be impacted even if work is not occurring directly in front of your property.

All public side water services on Upton Drive, some of which contain lead pipe, will be replaced with copper pipe as part of this project. The State of Michigan 2018 Lead and Copper Rule requires the city to notify impacted properties that they may experience a temporary increase of lead levels in their drinking water and provide guidance on measures to minimize exposure to lead. An insert is included in this public notice to meet that requirement. Additional information is available on the City webpage dedicated to lead service line replacement at the following link. <https://www.sjcity.com/cityengineer/page/lead-service-replacement-program>

Contact Information

General construction related questions should be directed to Tim Drews, Project Engineer with Abonmarche Consultants at 269-876-9286 (tdrews@abonmarche.com) or Tim Zebell, City Engineer at 269-985-0339 (tzebell@sjcity.com). Specific minor construction issues should be directed to the full-time Abonmarche Inspector on site. The inspectors should be identifiable as they wear Abonmarche shirts and typically drive vehicles with the company name/logo. After hours, non-emergency calls should be directed to the St. Joseph Water Treatment Plant at 269-983-1240. A contact information sheet is attached and may be clipped for posting on your refrigerator, etc.

We also request that you fill out and return the attached contact information form. This will allow City Staff to contact you should a construction-related issue require individual notification during the day. You may email, mail, fax, or drop off the form, or call us at 269-983-5541 to provide your name and daytime telephone. We also ask that you call if you require special care or services to allow us to inform the contractor of your circumstances

A Public Meeting will be held in the City Commission Chambers in City Hall at 6:00 pm on March 6th for those with questions or desiring more information. In addition to this notice and the Public Meeting, progress notices will be posted to the City's website, (www.sjcity.com) on a periodic basis. If you are interested in receiving update notices via email, please provide your email address on the attached form. We also intend to post notifications on the Public Works Facebook page. We thank you for your patience during this time of inconvenience. The project will ultimately result in a new roadway, improved drainage and non-motorized facilities, and increased reliability of water and sewer service to the surrounding area.

Commonly Asked Questions Regarding Construction Projects

1) **What is typically replaced on a street?**

The project will include replacement of the water main, sanitary force main, sanitary and storm sewers and the entire roadway. A new non-motorized path will be installed and sidewalks will be replaced as required for water and sanitary service connections and as needed for realignment. Sidewalk ramps will be reconstructed as needed to meet ADA requirements in the project area.

2) **Will my water service line and sanitary sewer lead be replaced?**

Water service lines and sanitary service lines will be replaced up to the tree lawn area as needed to connect to the new mains. In order to comply with the new State of Michigan Lead & Copper Rule, some private water services will be replaced to the meter inside the home.

3) **How long will I be without water?**

Planned water main connections in the right-of-way typically take 4 to 8 hours to complete. The time to switch over individual water service could vary significantly due to the new Lead and Copper Rule requirements. In fact, the City is not allowed to turn water service back on until the lead and galvanized pipe are replaced. We thank you for your cooperation in order to reduce the duration of the shut off.

4) **When will work start and how long will it take to complete the project?**

The project is scheduled to commence on or about March 25, 2024 with final completion expected in early November.

5) **Who is the contractor?**

Kalin Construction submitted the low bid of \$9,732,644.50. Kalin Construction, Abonmarche Consultants, Inc. and the City have teamed on many successful projects for more than 20 years, most recently completing the 2021 Langley Reconstruction Project.

6) **Will trees be removed in front of my house?**

No trees are designated for removal in front of homes. Clearing of mostly smaller vegetation near the south end of the project is expected as part of the project.

7) **I require special care/services; how will the project affect me?**

If you have a condition that requires special consideration i.e. medical services, disabled accessibility, Meals on Wheels, etc. please contact City Engineer, Tim Zebell, as soon as possible (269-985-0339). We will notify the Contractor of your needs and schedule a meeting to discuss your particular circumstances, if necessary.

8) **If I have a problem during construction, who do I contact?**

Abonmarche Consultants will have a full-time Inspector on the project; he or she should be your first contact (the Inspectors typically wear shirts that identify them as an Abonmarche employee). If you are not able to locate the Inspector, please call the Project Engineer, Tim Drews at Abonmarche Consultants, Inc. (269-876-9286)

9) **What about access to my driveway?**

Driveways will be inaccessible for varying lengths of time dependent upon the work items such as installing water main, sewer and pavement. The concrete curb & gutter and driveway work will also require cure time (up to 7 days) before vehicles can drive on it. Please do not move barricades and barrels when the concrete is curing to access your driveway as this will impact future durability. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated during this process.

10) **Why does the project need to be done?**

The project is being undertaken to address aging infrastructure issues. The deteriorating street condition is both visible and experienced with the poor ride quality, and the sanitary sewer force main has reached the end of its useful life and need to be replaced.

11) **If I have a problem after normal hours, who do I contact?**

In case of an emergency, please dial 911. If your problem is less critical in nature, for example no water service, sewer backup, etc. please contact the St. Joseph Water Treatment Plant at 269-983-1240. The Water Plant Operator will then contact the appropriate personnel to address your concern.

Zoom Sign In Information

If you desire to join remotely via Zoom, the login information follows.

When: Mar 6, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Upton Drive Reconstruction Project Public Meeting

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uZi3eXQ0RV-4OnL9WhW1sg

Meeting ID: 816 1013 5075

Passcode: 2024

SIP: 81610135075@zoomcrc.com

Passcode: 2024

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Please note: The meeting will be broadcast in a view only option. Those who join online or call in will be in an attendee mode, as such, questions and comments from remote attendees will not answered during the meeting.



Upton Drive Reconstruction Project Contact Information

First Call:

Tim Drews, P.E., Vice President
Abonmarche Consultants, Inc.
95 West Main Street
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Phone: (269) 876-9286
FAX: (269) 927-1017
Email: tdrews@abonmarche.com

If additional follow-up is necessary, call:

Tim Zebell, P.E., City Engineer
City of St. Joseph
700 Broad Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Phone: (269) 985-0339
FAX: (269) 985-0346
Email: tzebell@sjcity.com

For non-emergency, after normal working hours, call:

St. Joseph Water Treatment Plant:
Phone: (269) 983-1240

**Upton Drive Reconstruction Project
Requested Information**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

Please mail, scan/email, FAX or drop off this form to:

City of St. Joseph
700 Broad Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
Attn.: Tim Zebell, City Engineer

FAX: (269) 985-0346
Email: tzebell@sjcity.com

Please call 985-0339 with special care requirements.

REDUCING POTENTIAL LEAD EXPOSURE FROM DRINKING WATER

Guidance

Check if your home has a lead service line. Homes with lead service lines have a higher risk of having high lead levels in drinking water. Please contact your water supply for more information.

Run your water before drinking. The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Therefore, if your water has not been used for several hours, run the water before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes. Additional flushing may be required for homes that have been vacant or have a longer service line.

- If you **do not** have a lead service line, run the water for 30 seconds to two minutes, or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature.
- If you **do** have a lead service line, run the water for at least five minutes to flush water from both the interior building plumbing and the lead service line.

Running your water before you drink it does not mean you need to waste water.

You can run your water by flushing a toilet, watering your lawn or indoor plants, doing laundry, or even washing a load of dishes.

Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling will not remove the lead.

Use cold water for drinking and cooking. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.

Use cold water for preparing baby formula. Do not use water from the hot tap to make baby formula. If you have a lead service line, consider using bottled water or a lead-reducing filter to prepare baby formula.

Clean your faucet aerator. As part of routine maintenance, the aerator on the end of your faucet should be removed at least every six months to rinse out any debris that may include particulate lead.

Everyone can consider using a water filter to reduce lead in drinking water. Read packaging to find a filter that meets NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for the reduction of lead. Be sure to maintain and replace the filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.

Consider replacing older plumbing fixtures that likely contain lead. Older faucets, fittings, and valves sold before 2014 may contain higher levels of lead, even if marked "lead-free." Faucets, fittings, and valves sold after January 2014 are required to meet a more restrictive "lead-free" definition but may still contain up to 0.25 percent lead.

Flush your cold-water pipes after long periods of non-use. If you are moving into a new home or apartment or residence that has been unoccupied for some time, you should run all faucets an extended period of time, five minutes or more, before using any water for drinking or cooking.

Learn about your drinking water. Read your community's Consumer Confidence Report that is mailed to you each year or find it at your local water utility's website. If you wish to get your drinking water tested, call your water supply or use a certified lab. To find a certified lab, go to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy home page, Michigan.gov/DrinkingWater and search "certified lab list."

REDUCIR LA EXPOSICIÓN POTENCIAL AL PLOMO DEL AGUA POTABLE

Guía

Compruebe si su casa tiene una línea de servicio de plomo. Los hogares con líneas de servicio de plomo tienen un mayor riesgo de tener altos niveles de plomo en el agua potable. Comuníquese con su proveedor de agua para obtener más información.

Deje correr el agua antes de beberla. Cuanto más tiempo haya permanecido el agua en las tuberías de su hogar, más plomo puede contener. Por lo tanto, si su agua no se ha utilizado durante varias horas, deje correr el agua antes de usarla para beber o cocinar. Esto elimina el agua que contiene plomo de las tuberías. Es posible que se requiera lavado adicional para las casas que han estado con una línea de servicio más larga.

- Si **no tiene** una línea de servicio de plomo, deje correr el agua durante 30 segundos a dos minutos, o hasta que se enfríe o alcance una temperatura constante.
- Si usted **tiene** una línea de servicio de plomo, deje correr el agua al menos cinco minutos para hacer que el agua salga del interior de las tuberías de la casa y de la línea de servicio de plomo.

Dejar correr el agua antes de beberla no significa que deba desperdiciar agua.

Puede dejar correr el agua en el inodoro, regar el césped o las plantas de interior, lavar la ropa o incluso lavar una gran cantidad de platos.

No hierva el agua para eliminar el plomo. Hervir no quitará el plomo.

Use agua fría para beber y cocinar. No cocine ni beba agua del grifo de agua caliente; El plomo se disuelve más fácilmente en agua caliente.

Considere usar agua fría para preparar la fórmula para bebés. No use agua del grifo caliente para hacer la fórmula para bebés. Si tiene una línea de servicio de plomo, considere usar agua embotellada o un filtro reductor de plomo para preparar la fórmula para bebés.

Limpie su aireador de grifo. El aireador en el extremo de su grifo debe retirarse al menos una vez al mes para eliminar cualquier residuo que pueda incluir plomo en partículas.

Considere usar un filtro de agua para reducir el plomo en el agua potable. Lea el empaque para encontrar un filtro que cumpla con el estándar 53 de NSF / ANSI para la reducción de plomo. Asegúrese de mantener y reemplazar el dispositivo de filtro de acuerdo con las instrucciones del fabricante para proteger la calidad del agua.

Considere reemplazar los accesorios viejos de plomería que probablemente contengan plomo. Los grifos, accesorios y válvulas más antiguos vendidos antes de 2014 pueden contener niveles más altos de plomo, incluso si están marcados como "sin plomo". Los grifos, accesorios y válvulas que se venden después de enero de 2014 deben cumplir una definición más restrictiva de "sin plomo", pero todavía puede contener hasta un 0,25 por ciento de plomo. Al comprar nuevos materiales de plomería, es importante buscar materiales que estén certificados según la norma NSF / ANSI 61.

Vacíe las tuberías de agua fría después de largos períodos de inactividad. Si se muda a una nueva casa o apartamento o residencia que ha estado desocupada durante algún tiempo, debe abrir todos los grifos durante un período prolongado de cinco minutos o más antes de usar agua para beber o cocinar.

Aprenda sobre su agua potable. Lea el Informe de Confianza del Consumidor de su comunidad que se le envía por correo cada año o encuéntralo en el sitio web de su compañía de agua local. Si desea que se analice su agua potable, llame a su proveedor de agua o use un laboratorio certificado. Para encontrar un laboratorio certificado, vaya a la página de inicio del Departamento de Medio Ambiente, Grandes Lagos y Energía de Michigan, [Michigan.gov/EGLE](https://www.michigan.gov/EGLE) y busque "lista de laboratorios certificados".