

Silver Lake Infrastructure Improvements Project

Silver Lake, Minnesota

Project Update



SILAK 171969

Project Contacts

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Contractor

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City of Silver Lake

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Diane Petersen

City Clerk

Chris Penaz

Public Works Director

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This letter is being sent to inform you of construction activity on the above-referenced project.

IF YOU ARE A LANDLORD, PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR RENTERS/TENANTS.

The project has been awarded to R & R Excavating, Inc., of Hutchinson, Minnesota. A preconstruction meeting with the contractor was held on March 5th. The contractor is anticipated to mobilize equipment and materials, and install erosion control and traffic control, in early April. Construction will begin on Lane Avenue between Main Street and TH 7, and Lake Avenue between Frank Street and TH 7, shortly after mobilization.

The City is marking trees that are **not** to be removed with caution tape and/or snow fence. Residents are asked not to disturb the tape/fence.

Marking of various items (existing utilities, right-of-way, surveyor control points, etc.) can be expected in the coming weeks. They may be marked with flags, lathes, hubs, paint, or other means. Residents are asked not to disturb. Survey stakes for construction will be placed on the project site. **Destruction or alteration of survey stakes results in slowing the work and additional cost to the City.**

Private utility companies (Lumen, CenterPoint Energy, Xcel Energy, and Mediacom) are expected to mobilize to the site by the end of the month. Work/relocations will occur in all project areas to relocate or replace those facilities (gas mains, underground electric lines, fiber optic, and telephone cables).

This is also the time to remind everyone that anything within the public right-of-way is in jeopardy of being damaged and/or removed. This includes landscaping, sprinkler or pet containment systems, etc. Sprinkler and pet containment systems are considered "private" facilities. Locating them and marking them in and near the right-of-way is the property owner's responsibility. It would be helpful for those of you who have sprinkler or pet containment systems to contact me so that we are made aware of them. **Any damage to those systems as a result of failing to locate and mark them will be the property owner's responsibility.**

As work progresses, we will provide periodic Project Updates to keep you informed of progress on the project. **If you are interested in receiving future Project Updates by e-mail, please send your name, property address, and e-mail address to Julie Brinkman at jbrinkman@sehinc.com. (Any mailings will be sent blind copy so that your email address will be kept confidential.)**

Temporary Water System

Temporary water systems will be set up by the contractor during removal and replacement of water mains throughout the project. Replacing an existing water system involves several steps. First, an aboveground temporary water system is assembled. The two-inch temporary water main and three-quarter-inch water services are assembled, connected to a hydrant, filled, disinfected, then connected to the outside spigots of the houses. At this point, the existing underground water main can be shut off, removed, and the new water main can be installed. Water will be supplied to individual housing units through smaller pipes that branch out to the homes. Temporary water will only be installed in areas of the project where the existing water main is being replaced. In certain locations, these temporary water lines may cross the street and/or driveways. Gravel will be placed over the top of these lines so that vehicles can safely drive over them.

Notifications

The contractor will routinely notify you about upcoming work, such as work that will make your driveway inaccessible for most or part of a day, temporary water shutdowns, and similar items. The contractor will make every effort to notify residents as soon as the need for a schedule change becomes apparent. Please check *all* of the doors around your house for written notices of upcoming work. Crews can't always guess which door residents usually use. The contractor will make every effort to accommodate everyone before they start working. Please help out by actively looking for information, paying attention to notices, being observant of the work around them, and by calling me, Sam, or Brody with any questions.

Garbage Collection

We are asking residents to tape their house number on their garbage and recycling containers. Please have your garbage/recycling placed at your normal spot for pickup by 7:00 a.m. on the day of pickup. In areas where the garbage truck cannot access, garbage/recycling will be collected by the contractor, moved to a location for easier access by the garbage collection agency, and returned to residents. Your house number is needed so the contractor knows where to return the containers.

Questions?

Questions often come up on the project. To try and answer some of the reoccurring questions, we have included a question and answer section as a part of the Project Update. Please refer to the "Question and Answer" section on the following page. Do you have construction questions you would like to have answered in the newsletter? Please contact me, Sam, or Brody. Our contact information is listed on the left side of the first page of the newsletter.

Please remember that schedules can change at a moment's notice because of weather, delays by subcontractors, or other unforeseen events.

If you have any questions or concerns, either now or as the project progresses, feel free to contact me, Sam, or Brody. I will be on site providing construction observation and will be the first point of contact to answer any questions you may have during construction of the project. I look forward to meeting you on the project.

Dillon Boggess, Resident Project Representative
320.333.7545

Q. It's not raining. Why isn't the contractor working?

A. When it rains more than a little, construction has to stop to avoid turning everything to mud. Clay and silty soils tend to hold moisture. If soil is too moist, it turns to ruts and clumps when graded and cannot be properly compacted to build a good street. If grading is started before the surface is somewhat dry, the moisture is pumped deeper into the soil, making more mud. Muddy conditions can also limit accessibility when excavated soil must be hauled to other sites.

Q. What do the stakes mean in the boulevard or in my lawn? Is that where the street will go?

A. The stakes in boulevards or lawns will be used to indicate where new pipe and drainage structures go for the underground utilities. They do not mark the limits of construction. The stakes are offset from the utilities or curb being installed and are labeled with an "O" with an "S" inside it, indicating how far the stakes are away from the curb or utility. Typically, stakes are offset three feet from the back of curb and utilities are offset 10 to 15 feet, depending on the depth of the utility.

Q. Can I have the contractor do extra work at my house (driveway or sidewalk)?

A. Most contractors do not want to do extra work. Their seasonal work is bid with deadlines and most likely have full schedules. However, we can provide contacts to the general and subcontractor doing the work once the project is awarded for you to inquire.

Q. Does the project require removal of boulevard trees located on city right of way?

A. Several of the boulevard trees will need to be removed to allow for reconstruction of the street and/or the underground utilities. The City understands that the residents value the trees in the area, and they have worked extensively to revise the project design to limit the removal of, and potential damage to, healthy trees in the neighborhood. Trees designated to be removed as part of the project have been marked with a spray-painted "R". Trees *not* designated to be removed as part of the project have been protected by the City with caution tape and/or snow fence.

Q. Will police, fire and ambulance be aware of the street closures associated with the construction?

A. Yes, all emergency services are contacted prior to project start. They also receive these weekly project update newsletters.

Q. Can I use my driveway during construction of the project?

A. In most instances you should have access to your driveway at the end of each workday. If you will not be able to use your driveway for an extended time, the contractor will notify you the night before work begins. You will be notified when water main and sanitary sewer will be put in front of your house, when the excavation is done, and when curb and gutter is poured. You can park on adjacent streets that are not affected by the project during construction. There may be instances during the day that, before the end of the workday, you will need to get in or out of your driveway. If you have a problem getting through or getting into or out of your driveway, the contractor will help you.