

City of Urbana

Phase 2A Water & Sanitary Replacement – Frequently Asked Questions

According to local records, the City of Urbana’s water system was installed in 1877 under private ownership, and the system was taken over by the city in 1911. By 1935, the water distribution system was servicing a population of approximately 7,700 residents and 2,400 utility accounts. Currently, the system serves a population of just under 12,000 residents with 4,600 utility accounts. Aside from the addition of four (4) storage tanks and water line extensions required to accommodate the city’s expansion over the years, the initial water infrastructure has had little, if any, upgrades.

In 2014-2015, the City initiated the first phase of its Water Main Replacement Program which included: East Court Street, East Church Street, and East Ward Street between North Main Street and North Jefferson Avenue, including connecting streets. It also included water main replacement on Wooddale Drive, Amherst Drive and the last block of Finch Street.

Beginning in 2019, the City embarked on the second phase of its planned water main replacement projects. The replacement of water infrastructure in the Monument Square area and one block in each direction was completed in 2019. In late August 2020 and lasting into 2021, the City will replace water lines on Scioto Street (between Jefferson Avenue and Berwick Drive/Bon Air Drive), Finch Street, Crescent Drive and Ames Avenue. Sanitary sewer lines will also be replaced on Scioto Street during this project, entitled Phase 2A Water & Sanitary Replacement.

In an effort to provide property owners, residents, tenants, and businesses as much information as possible, the following questions and answers have been developed and are intended to help customers prepare for this project.

1Q: Is there a specific order in which the affected streets will undergo utility replacement and what is the estimated timeline?

1A: The project will begin on Scioto Street and includes multiple phases in order for two-way traffic to be maintained. This portion is anticipated to begin August 17, 2020 and be completed by mid-November 2020. The portion of the project on Finch Street, Crescent Drive and Ames Avenue will commence shortly thereafter. Depending on weather, the contractor may be able to work during the winter but must be complete by June 26, 2021. This estimated timeline can be impacted based on unforeseen circumstances, such as weather, or unknown underground obstructions, that arise once work begins.

2Q: Who is the contractor for the project?

2A: M&T Excavating LLC of Bradford, OH is the prime contractor for this project. In addition, subcontractors will also be on site during the course of the project. This prime contractor submitted the lowest and best bid of six bids received through a competitive bidding process.

3Q: How many miles of water lines is the City of Urbana responsible to maintain?

3A: The City of Urbana’s Water System consists of approximately 87 miles of water main ranging from 1” to 16” in diameter. Approximately 1 mile is being replaced with this project and approximately 0.5 miles were replaced during the Monument Square project.

4Q: What size are the existing mains within the project area?

4A: The mains in the target area are primarily 4” and 6” with some 12” main emanating from the Water Street Booster Station. The new mains will be 8” or 12” PVC.

5Q: Under normal conditions, how many gallons per day does the City's water system provide to its citizens?

5A: The City of Urbana relies on two (2) well fields, the Old Troy Pike facility and the newer treatment facility on West State Route 29, to meet the average daily demand of 1.8 million gallons per day (MGD) with peak flows of nearly 3.0 MGD.

6Q: What prompted the City to undertake a water main replacement program?

6A: Many of the water mains within the system are at or nearing 100 years of age and are structurally weak. Ongoing repairs do not address the problem of water main material aging past its useful life.

7Q: How are the target areas determined for the water main replacement program?

7A: The target areas are determined primarily by the system age and condition and the number of repairs conducted.

8Q: How many repairs has the City made in recent years on the water system?

8A: Over the last three years, the number of repairs has been less than an average of 50 repairs per year.

9Q: What is the cost for the Phase 2A project?

9A: Utilizing a competitive bidding process, the cost for Phase 2A Water and Sanitary Replacement is \$1.73 million.

10Q: How is the Phase 2A Water Project being financed?

10A: The water main replacement portion of the project is being funded through a loan from the Ohio EPA's Water Supply Revolving Loan Account as approved by Urbana City Council Resolution #2544-19. This loan was secured at a fixed 1.18% interest rate over the 20-year life of the loan.

11Q: Will the water rates go up as a result of this project?

11A: To fund the debt payments for this water main replacement project, a water rate increase is anticipated. However, as of this date, an increase in water rates has not been implemented.

12Q: How is the Phase 2A Sanitary Sewer Project being financed?

12A: The sanitary sewer portion of the project is being funded through a loan from the Ohio Water Development Authority Account as approved by Urbana City Council Resolution #2580-20. This loan was secured at a fixed 1.93% interest rate over the 10-year life of the loan.

13Q: Will the sewer rates go up as a result of this project?

13A: To fund the debt payments for the sanitary sewer replacement project, a sanitary sewer rate increase is not anticipated to be required.

14Q: Will the City run a new service line to my meter?

14A: No, any service line going from a curb stop into a residence or business is the property owner's responsibility. The City of Urbana **highly recommends** that all residents/businesses in the impacted project areas replace their side of the water service line when, or before, the City replaces the mains and the City side of those service lines.

15Q: What is the cost for a new service line installed to our house or business?

15A: The cost for a new service line will vary by each situation and will be impacted by several factors including the length of the run, the depth, obstacles, soil conditions, etc. It is a good practice to get more

than one estimate from qualified contractors. Please call the Champaign County Building Regulations Office (937-484-1602) to check whether a contractor is registered. In addition, local plumbers are licensed through the Champaign Health District (937-484-1605).

16Q: Will the City's contractor install service lines for the property owner?

16A: No. The City's contractor has a timeline and budget to meet. Therefore, the contractor will not be available to install private service lines for individual property owners. All property owners are encouraged to get quotes from contractors who are registered with Champaign County Building Regulations or licensed plumbers through the Champaign Health District.

17Q: Will the existing service line taps be maintained?

17A: The project has provisions in it to automatically upgrade any existing residential ½" taps to ¾". Any other up-sizing or additional taps will be handled per the City's existing ordinances and regulations.

18Q: How long will the water be off to my property when crews begin working on my section?

18A: Generally, water will be off for no more than a few hours.

19Q: Will traffic be maintained on streets while crews are working?

19A: Yes, Scioto Street will have two-way traffic maintained through a series of phased traffic control plans. During most times, three lanes will be available on Scioto Street, including a center two-way left turn lane. Additionally, local traffic will be maintained to individual residences and businesses on all streets affected. Appropriate signage and barricades (e.g. "Road Closed – Local Traffic Only") will be placed as needed. Signals and detection devices will be altered along Scioto Street as well.

20Q: If lead service lines are discovered during the project, will they be connected to the new water main?

20A: Lead lines will not be connected to the water main. New service lines will be installed from the main to the service connection (curb stop). In addition, owners will be advised to replace their side of a lead service line.

21Q: What might possibly keep the contractor from connecting to the existing water service behind the curb stop?

21A: If the property owner's exposed service is crumbling to a point where no connection is possible within 2' of the curb stop, the property owner will be required to replace the rest of the service at his/her own expense before water service is restored. This situation has occurred in other locations of Urbana which is why the City **highly recommends** that all residents/businesses in the impacted project areas replace their side of the water service line when, or before, the City replaces the mains and the City side of those service lines.

22Q: Are existing trees impacted by the project?

22A: Yes, approximately nine (9) trees will be removed due to their proximity to existing water or sewer service lines.

23Q: Will there be an impact to the area fire hydrants as part of this project?

23A: Yes, seven (7) fire hydrants are scheduled for removal within the project area. There are fourteen (14) new hydrants then planned for installation.

24Q: My water pressure seems to be low to moderate. Will I notice an increase in the water pressure?

24A: Water pressure is not anticipated to change as a result of this project.

25Q: Where can you find Water Quality data and other system information?

25A: Information can be found on the City of Urbana website as follows:
<https://www.urbanaohio.com/water.html>.

26Q: What type of PVC pipe is being used on the project?

26A: Polyvinyl-Chloride (PVC) AWWA C900

27Q: Are materials for this project required to be purchased from U.S. companies?

27A: There is an "American Iron and Steel" requirement for all iron and steel components.

28Q: Will sewer lines be replaced as part of this project?

28A: Yes, they will be replaced on Scioto Street only. Sewer mains have been inspected on the rest of the project as well and are in decent shape. With sanitary sewers, the City has the ability to "line" them from the inside to preserve their integrity and reduce infiltration.

29Q: Will all of the pipe and materials be stored along the street during the project?

29A: The contractor will utilize at least one off-street staging area at the southwest corner of Finch Street and E. Water Street. Any other on-street or off-street storing of materials will be upon the approval of the City and affected property owner(s), if applicable. Minimal material will be stored in the street.

30Q: Will surfaces be restored to their original or better condition?

30A: Yes, all disturbed hard surfaces will be restored. This restoration includes asphalt streets and drives; and concrete curbs and gutters, sidewalks and drives. In addition, all sidewalk ramps will be upgraded to ADA compliant curb ramps. All grassed areas disturbed will be smoothed and reseeded as well. The city encourages residents with planters and other landscaping features within the right-of-way to remove them as construction approaches. No guarantee can be made for how nicely the contractor will set these features to the side. On Crescent Drive, most private light posts are within the public right-of-way. The plans state that the contractor should avoid these when possible. Otherwise, the light post shall be furnished to the property owner after removal.

31Q: Who should I contact regarding further questions about Phase 2A?

31A: City Engineer, Tyler Bumbalough (937-652-4324). If Tyler is unavailable in the office during the construction work due to being on the jobsite, please contact Doug Crabill with the City of Urbana (937-652-4305).

32Q: Can residents or property owners contract with a plumber to complete the installation of multiple private service lines at one time in order to gain efficiency and reduce costs?

32A: Residents or property owners can explore this possibility as a private transaction. The city will not be involved in private contracting for the private portion of the water service lines.

33Q: If a resident is going to be gone for an extended period during the project, does the resident need to turn the water service off to the home?

33A: If a resident is going to be gone for an extended period, then the resident should consider turning the water off at the shutoff valve inside the home.

34Q: What is the proposed starting point for this project?

34A: The contractor intends to start at the intersection of Scioto Street and Jefferson Avenue and proceed eastward.

35Q: What is the normal installation process of the new water main, hydrants, and service lines?

35A: The new water main is installed first. Hydrants are installed as the main progresses. Generally, the contractor will run the new main to a logical stopping point such as a shutoff valve. After the new water main and new fire hydrants are installed, the new main is pressure tested and bacteria tested. After the new main has passed these tests, then the contractor will drop back to the beginning point again and start with the hookup of new water service lines from the new main over to the curb stop. After all service line connections are made to the new water main, then the old water main is abandoned. At that time, the contractor starts the process over again on the next section.

36Q: Will the resident, tenant, or business be notified prior to their water being shut off?

36A: Water should only be shutoff for the connection of the new service line to the curb stop. Generally, the water should only be shut off for a couple of hours. The contractor will notify each resident prior to the shutoff occurring. If the contractor cannot establish contact with the resident, tenant, or business, a door hanger will be left in order to establish contact prior to the water being shut off to make this required connection.

37Q: Has a staging area for the project been identified?

37A: The contractor intends to use the city owned lot at the southwest corner of the intersection of Amherst Drive and Finch Street as a staging area.

38Q: Will the streets be resurfaced in 2021 upon project completion?

38A: Yes, Scioto Street, Crescent Drive and Ames Avenue will be resurfaced upon project completion. However, this is not within the scope of M&T Excavating's contract (only trench repair is) and will be separately bid next year. The city will be evaluating whether or not to resurface Finch Street after the project, since it was more recently paved.

39Q: Will boil water advisories be required as a result of the project.

39A: No, generally, boil water advisories are not required to complete this work. However, if an unplanned event occurs that results in a substantial drop in water pressure, a boil water advisory may be issued and residents will be notified.

40Q: Where are curb stops generally located?

40A: Generally, the curb stops are located either behind the curb or behind the sidewalk. Curb stops will be relocated if not currently within the right of way. The city's responsibility stops at the curb stop.

41Q: Does the city have an engineering design standard for water service line installation?

41A: Yes, please refer to City Construction Standard 1167.57 at this link:

[https://www.urbanahio.com/uploads/1/2/4/6/124631710/1167.57 -
_water_main_service_connection.pdf](https://www.urbanahio.com/uploads/1/2/4/6/124631710/1167.57_-_water_main_service_connection.pdf)

42Q: Isn't it better for homeowners to wait until after the city is done before replacing their portion of the waterlines?

42A: Possibly, however if the contractor is unable to connect the owner's service line to the curb stop, water cannot be turned on until the owner's line is replaced, resulting in additional disruption time.

43Q: Are there any area contractors who install utilizing the horizontal/ directional boring method?

43A: We are not aware of anyone in the Urbana area; you may want to check with your plumbing contractor.

44Q: Will water meters need to be replaced?

44A: No.

45Q: What type of warranty are we getting?

45A: A performance and payment bond is in place during the construction project. In addition, the contractor is required to provide a three-year maintenance bond/warranty upon completion.

46Q: What type of pipe can be used on the owner's service line?

46A: Copper Type K and CTS Plastic Tubing are both approved for potable water.

47Q: Will access to my business entrance be maintained during the project?

47A: Yes, customers will be able to access your business during the project. If a temporary closure of an entrance is required, the contractor will coordinate with the business. The intent is for access to businesses to be maintained during the project. When businesses have multiple entrances, one of those entrances may be temporarily shut down to facilitate construction work.