



CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON

9611 SE 36th Street • Mercer Island, WA 98040-3732
(206) 275-7600 City Hall • (206) 275-7608 Public Works
www.mercergov.org

Frequently Asked Questions 2021 Water System Improvements Project

What is the 2021 Water System Improvements project?

- The 2021 Water System Improvements Project is a water main replacement project. Construction will begin in late April 2021. The contractor will:
 - Replace and upsize approximately 2,600 linear feet of water main
 - Replace 32 water services
 - Replace 8 fire hydrants
 - Install 3 air vacuum release valve assemblies
 - Provide roadway and sidewalk restoration

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 in your neighborhood are undersized and aging rapidly.
- There is an upcoming King County Sewer project that overlaps a portion of our project area, on SE 24th St and 81st Ave SE. Constructing this project ahead of the King County project should result in cost savings for the City on roadway restoration.

How much will this project cost?

- The construction contract for this project is \$1,082,268.

How is this project being funded?

- This project is funded by water utility rates.

Where will construction take place?

- The work will take place on
 - 82nd Ave SE, from SE 24th St to north dead-end street
 - 81st Ave SE, from SE 24th St to N Mercer Way
 - SE 24th St, from 80th to 82nd Ave SE

When does construction begin? When will it end?

- Construction will begin in late April and is expected to take approximately 17 weeks to complete.

- Current global pandemic caused by Covid-19 virus, and unpredictable conditions, such as unforeseeable underground conditions and unknown weather may cause delay in the construction completion date.

Who will be doing this work?

- On April 6, 2021 at the teleconferencing Council Meeting, the Mercer Island City Council awarded the construction contract to Pacific Civil & Infrastructure, Inc (PCI), a licensed and bonded contractor from Sumner, Washington.

How will I be affected by this project?

- Area residents will be impacted by disruptions to your water supply and road closures. There will be multiple scheduled water main shutdowns during the construction for the contractor to make water main connections.
In addition, when your water service is switched from the old water main to the new water main, 2 to 3 hours of individual service disruption is expected. Advanced notice will be provided to affected residents.
- Partial street closures are expected. Our contractor will try to keep at least one lane open at all times.

How will I be notified of water shutoffs?

- For scheduled water main shutdowns, the City will send you a notification postcard the week before the shutdown. Also, the contractor will put a door hanger at your front door the day before the shutdown.
- For water service shutoffs (service switch-over), the contractor will put a door hanger at your front door the day before the work is to take place. They will also knock on your door before the water is turned off.

Will you be replacing my water meter?

- Water meters older than 6 years will be replaced. All service lines connecting water meters to the water main will be replaced.

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

- Construction activities are allowed between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm, Monday to Friday. PCI's proposed schedule will be published here once their proposed schedule is submitted and approved by the City.

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 School District to make sure there is no disruption to school bus service.

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 material deliveries or need access for concrete trucks at your home at any time during this project.

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.

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 recommend that you provide information to us regarding irrigation system and invisible dog fence near front of your property if you have any concerns.
- On the day of water main shutdown and service disruptions, avoid using/draining water from your hot water tank. There should be a safety feature on the tank preventing you from draining the hot water when the supply is off. However, it's a good practice not to use hot water tank during water outage to avoid potential damages in case the water tank continues to drain.

Will this work disrupt my landscape?

- It could. While we will do what we can to minimize disturbance to your property the contractor may need to dig a small trench through your yard to replace your water service. Displaced 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 *now*.

What are my responsibilities?

- Let us know *now* if you have 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., Utilities Engineer, at (206) 275-7806 or via email at rona.lin@mercerisland.gov