2019 Street and Alley Improvements
Frequently Asked Questions

The following information is intended to be a general overview of what to expect during construction of the 2019 Street and Alley Improvements project.

Q1. What blocks are in the project?

The project includes the following 6 individual blocks:

- 8th Avenue from 9th Street to its west end.
- 9th Avenue from 15th Street to its east end.
- The Alley north of 2nd Avenue, from 2nd Street to 3rd Street.
- The Alley north of 2nd Avenue, from 3rd Street to 4th Street.
- The Alley north of 7th Avenue, from 8th Street to 9th Street.
- The Alley north of 8th Avenue, from 8th Street to 9th Street.

Q2. What is being done?

PAVEMENT: All 6 blocks are receiving new blacktop pavement. For all blocks except 9th Avenue, the pavement will be supported by new layers of gravel and sand. On 9th Avenue, the existing gravel beneath the pavement will be shaped and supplemented as necessary.

CONCRETE CURB: New concrete curb is being installed on 8th Avenue. On 9th Avenue, individual sections of the existing concrete curb will be replaced as necessary. Some short segments of concrete curb may be included in alleys where needed for sloping purposes.

SIDEWALK: The existing sidewalks on 8th Avenue are being replaced with new concrete sidewalks.

SANITARY SEWER: The existing sewer is being replaced on the entire block of 8th Avenue. No sanitary sewer work is anticipated on any other block of the project.

WATER MAIN: The existing water main is being replaced on the entire block of 8th Avenue. No water main work is anticipated on any other block of the project.

STORM SEWER: The existing storm sewer on the Alley North of 2nd Avenue between 2nd and 3rd Streets is being replaced with new storm sewer. Drain tile is also being installed on that block, as well as on the Alley North of 2nd Avenue between 3rd and 4th Streets, the Alley North of 8th Avenue between 8th and 9th Streets, and on 8th Avenue. Yard drains are also planned to be installed on the Alley North of 8th Avenue between 8th and 9th Streets.

Q3. When will construction start and how long will it last?

Construction is expected to begin in late June. Since there are 6 individual blocks in the project, not all blocks will start at the same time.

In general, work on a block will take about 3 weeks from start until the block has the new gravel in place.

8th Avenue will take a little longer because of the utility work. 8th Avenue is expected to take 5 weeks.

Once a block has the new gravel, it should be paved within about another 4 weeks.

Several factors can influence construction duration - but the single most important factor is weather. A rainy, wet season will make construction more difficult to perform, leading to non-working days and increasing the time needed to complete the project.

All work is planned to be substantially complete by the end of September.

Q4. What are the working hours? Will they be working on weekends?

The approved working hours are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The contractor may work Saturdays, if they request permission from the city. Working on Saturday is usually only if they are making up for rain days during the week or they are trying to meet a deadline.

Work on Sundays or holidays would only happen under extreme or emergency conditions.

Q5. Will I be able to drive on the block during construction?

Due to the utility work, 8th Avenue west of 9th Street is expected to be closed to traffic for about a month.

For all other blocks, in general you should be able to drive on them during the project. However, there will be times when you will be discouraged or restricted from doing so. These restrictions are not often and typically occur during the day when construction crews are performing specific work that prevent safe passage, such as underground utilities or paving operations, or when vehicle traffic could damage the work.

All driveways should be accessible and usable at the end of each day. The only exception may be for a few days after concrete is poured, to let the concrete cure and harden. Written notice would be provided for those situations.

Q6. Will my water or sewer be interrupted?

It will be necessary to interrupt the water and sewer service on 8th Avenue for isolated periods during the construction of the new utilities.

Properties affected by water or sewer service interruptions will be notified in writing at least 48-hours in advance.

Service interruptions will generally be limited to 4 hours or less. Service will not be interrupted before 9:00 a.m.

Q7. What happens to my mail delivery during construction?

The contractor will work with the U.S. Postal Service for coordination of mail delivery.

In general, mail service should not be affected by the work.

However, if it becomes unsafe for the mail carrier to deliver the mail, it may become necessary to set up temporary mailboxes for a period of time. The temporary mail boxes are usually placed on the next block over from where construction is occurring.

If temporary mailboxes are needed, a written notice will be delivered to affected properties before the mail delivery locations change.

Q8. What happens to garbage service during construction?

Residents should put their garbage out as usual during construction.

The contractor will coordinate with the garbage haulers. Efforts will be made to allow the haulers to collect along the alleys as usual. However, if there is a day when the alley is not accessible, the contractor would move the containers to the end of the alley so they could be collected, then the contractor would return the containers to each property.

Q9. Do I need to do anything before construction starts?

If you have any personal property, such as landscaping, plants, rocks, timbers, etc., within a few feet of the existing pavement or sidewalk, and you would like to save that property, you should remove it prior to the start of construction.

Anything still in place when the work occurs will be removed by the contractor and will be disposed.

Q10. What will happen to the trees?

Trees will be preserved as much as practical during construction. However, some trees will be affected by the work and will need to be removed. Factors such as long-term health of the trees, public safety, and impacts of the trees on the newly constructed utilities, sidewalks and streets will be considered when deciding whether a tree needs to be removed.

Q11. Who do I call during construction and where can I get construction updates?

The city will have a project representative on-site daily during construction, who would be the first call for questions. The contact information for that person is:

Garey Pankonin

Cell phone: 763-355-4380

You can also call City Hall at 218-834-5631 during regular business hours.

Project information will also be available through the City's website at: http://www.twoharborsmn.gov/

FOR EMERGENCIES, CALL 911.