

# 2026 Street & Utility Improvements Construction Newsletter

May 18, 2026

## Schedule:

**Start:** June 1, 2026

**Completion:** Early Sept 2026



## City of Houston

PO Box 667, 105 W Maple St  
Houston, MN 55943



# BOLTON & MENK

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## Houston County

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Assistant County Engineer

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## Construction Start

BKC Construction has been hired to complete this year's reconstruction and repaving project. Although some preparation work has already started, we expect that the street will close during the week of June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Anticipated Work & Impacts

### Reconstruction Area

Only the portion of Spruce Street which is planned for reconstruction will be closed (see attached map). Crews will excavating the street and boulevard areas to install new underground piping for the next 1 ½ to 2 months. During this time, access to properties directly off of Spruce Street will be very limited – please plan accordingly.

Detours will be in place during the closure. Elm Street will be converted to 2-way traffic to allow for access to properties on the south side of Spruce Street.

### Repaving Areas

Repaving work outside of the reconstruction area will remain unaffected until later in the summer. We will provide separate notice once this work is planned to start.

### Private Utility Work

The gas, electrical, and communication companies will start relocation work soon. This may cause intermittent disruptions in these services. Those utility companies will be in contact with you.

## Easements

A number of property owners within the reconstruction area have received requests for easements. If you have not already returned your easement to City Hall, please do so as soon as you're able.

## Contacts & Communication

Your best source of information throughout the project will be the engineer's construction project representative, **Chason Mierau** at 507-785-8714 or [chason.mierau@bolton-menk.com](mailto:chason.mierau@bolton-menk.com).

Use the QR code in the margin to access the project website and sign up for electronic updates via email or text.

<https://clients.bolton-menk.com/houston2025streets/updates/>

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## Detour and Access

During construction, access through the construction zone will be difficult and/or limited depending on the construction activity taking place. Local traffic should obey road closed signs and find alternate routes around the active construction zone.

When possible, the contractor will provide temporary gravel for driveway access within the construction site. However, direct driveway access may be limited during the day when excavation and other construction activity is occurring adjacent to driveways. In addition, when concrete curb, walk, and driveways are being constructed, access to driveways will be restricted for extended periods.

Wet weather will also make access difficult for periods of time. Please monitor the weather throughout the summer and plan accordingly. If rain is forecasted, residents are advised to park on adjacent streets to ensure that vehicles do not get trapped in driveways or stuck in mud.

Please also be advised that if you choose to drive on the closed road, there can sometimes be construction debris or other items that can damage vehicles. Driving through the construction site is at your own risk. If you are concerned about access during construction, or have questions, please contact our construction representative.

## Garbage and Mail

Garbage and recycling collection will continue on its regular schedule during construction. You should set your garbage and recycling containers out as you normally would. During times when the garbage truck is unable to access the front of your property for any reason, the contractor will label and move them to an accessible location for pickup and return them to you after collection.

The Contractor will be setting up a temporary mailbox bank during construction. You will be notified of the temporary location later

## Disruptions to Sewer and Water Service

Water and sewer service will be provided throughout most of construction. However, planned short term shut-downs and disruptions will occur. During these times, residents will be provided a notice delivered to the front door. Most residences within the reconstruction area will be connected to a temporary water supply system until the new piping is installed and tested. This may result in a decrease in water pressure and warmer than normal water. The contractor will need to access your home to make the connection to the temporary system.

## Private Improvements in Right-of-Way

If you have improvements such as landscaping, retaining walls, shrubs, bushes, flowers, sheds,

irrigation systems, etc. in the right-of-way, it is not the contractor's responsibility to work around them. The property owner is responsible for securing these private improvements and moving them if necessary to allow the project to be constructed. Neither the contractor nor City/County is responsible for damages incurred to private improvements in the right-of-way. Any underground improvements, such as irrigation lines and heads, dog fences, etc., should be located and marked so they are readily visible. Please contact our construction representative with any questions.

## Work Area Safety

It is very common on these types of projects that area residents (especially children) become quite curious about the work the Contractor is performing. We ask that you please be respectful of and stay well clear of construction zones. Many hazards and dangers exist from heavy machinery, trenches, loose material, confined spaces, hot asphalt, etc. and often times are not recognizable by the general public. The Contractor has responsibility to ensure safety on the project and within the construction area. Any direction from the Contractor regarding safety must be heeded; likewise, if you observe an unsafe condition please report it to the RPR immediately.

# Project Map

