

2021 Street & Utility Improvements Project Newsletter 1

July 16, 2021

Construction:

- Watermain and service lines
- Sanitary sewer mains and service lines
- Storm sewer
- Street construction
- Sidewalk construction
- Driveway and turf restoration

Construction schedule:

Start: July 26, 2021

Finish: June 2023

City of Wells

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Project Website

A website was recently created to provide updates and information about this years construction project. Go to the link below to find project information and to sign up for email or text notifications with project updates. Newsletters and email updates will be provided through this website. If you do not have the capabilities for receiving email updates, please contact Ben Rosol.

<https://clients.bolton-menk.com/wells2021/>



Overview

As you are aware, the City of Wells is undertaking a construction project this summer to reconstruct and improve multiple city streets and utilities in the northeast portion of town. These streets consist of North Broadway from (T.H. 109 to its north dead end), 5th Street NW from (2nd Avenue NW to N Broadway), 4th Street NE from (N Broadway to 2nd Avenue NE), and 1st Avenue NE from (T.H.109 to N Broadway). In addition to these improvements, the project will also consist of extending 3rd Avenue SW through the former school site, connecting 2nd Street SW and 3rd Street SW. The project will include the removal and replacement of sanitary sewer, watermain and storm sewer facilities along with new asphalt and concrete street construction. Newsletters like this one will be sent out to the email group during certain milestones of the project to help keep residents informed. In addition to this, small updates will be provided weekly to keep you up to speed. It is important to note that information and scheduling might change due to weather and unforeseen issues. We will do our best to keep you up to date with the construction progress and changes. Bolton & Menk, Inc. is the City's engineer for the project. They will act as an extension of City Staff in monitoring construction work and interacting with the contractor daily. Should any questions or concerns arise during the construction process, please contact Bolton & Menk's representatives listed on the lower left side.



Project Timeline

The project was awarded to Wenc Construction from Owatonna, MN in May of 2021. In addition to their own staff, they will employ several subcontractors for the project. This project allowed the contractor to have some flexibility with scheduling. Wenc Construction has indicated they are planning to complete all construction on N Broadway, 5th Street NW, and 3rd Avenue SW this summer and fall. They will then come back in the spring of 2022 to begin construction on 4th Street NE and 1st Avenue NE with work finishing up towards the end of July 2022. Starting the week of July 26th, you will begin to see some work activity taking place with erosion control setup and tree removals. More information regarding tree removals can be found below. Pavement removals on Broadway are planned to begin August 2nd. At this time, access will still be provided to residents. Weather depending, underground construction will begin August 9th on 3rd Avenue SW and August 18th on N Broadway. As the underground work is completed, the contractor will place aggregate base (gravel) for temporary access to driveways. Concrete curb and street restoration will likely be done later in the season once all areas are ready. More information will be provided as construction progresses.



Work Area

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 Construction Representative immediately.



Questions

Trees

Some tree removals are necessary to construct the street improvements. Trees that are identified for removal will be marked with pink ribbon. These trees need to be removed due to curb, sidewalk and service impacts. Tree removals are tentatively scheduled for July 26th. If you have any questions about your tree, please contact Ben Rosol. A new 2-inch diameter Autumn Blaze Maple tree will be installed for every tree removed on the project. We will help coordinate the location of the new tree with you.



Water Shutdowns

Occasional water shutdowns will be required for the crews to make connections to the existing water lines. We ask for your patience and understanding, as the Contractor will do their best to provide reasonable notice and reduce the length of any water shutdowns required. Typically, we will try to ensure at least a one-day notice is given for shutdowns and the outage limited between 2 to 8 hours long.



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 is responsible for damages incurred to private improvements in the right-of-way. Any underground irrigation lines and heads, dog fences, etc., should be located and marked so they are readily visible.



Access

As the project moves forward, parking and access to your property will continue to change. When construction is being conducted adjacent to your property you may have to park in the alley, at a neighbor's house or on a side street, where your vehicle is safe and out of the way. Access will be intermittent during underground construction and for longer periods during street grading, curb, and pavement construction. Rain will also have an impact on property access. We realize access will be difficult and thank you for your patience. We will communicate access restrictions on a regular basis throughout the project. You may contact Steve to discuss your needs and concerns.



Garbage, Recycling & Mail

Until further notice, continue to place your garbage and recycling bins where you normally place them for each scheduled pick-up. We ask that you please have your garbage or recycling bins at the end of your driveway by 7:00 a.m. the day it is supposed to be picked up. This will help the contractor know that garbage and recycling bins need to be moved to side streets. The contractor will contact and coordinate with the pick-up companies. Please write or display your house number prominently on your bins so they can be returned to you.

The contractor will contact and coordinate with the postal service on how mail will be delivered during the project. Temporary mailboxes will be installed if needed.