

Takoma Park Water and Sewer Main Replacement
WSSC Contract BRCRLR5355C12
Public Meeting July 26, 2016

This handout includes WSSC's response to questions received from Councilmember Qureshi and concerned citizens representing "Neighbors for Takoma Park Trees" following the field walk on Tuesday, July 19, 2016.

1. How many trees on Westmoreland properties will be impacted by the project?

WSSC preliminarily identifies 7 trees for removal on Westmoreland Avenue. A final assessment of tree impacts will be completed when 100% design plans are submitted by Wilson T. Ballard.

2. What is the time period during which WSSC will assume liability for any adverse health developments to trees close to the trench?

WSSC is responsible for and will develop tree protection plans for the five years following construction. This is the time period during which trees will exhibit hazardous damage from construction.

3. Will WSSC comply with the Takoma Park tree ordinance for work completed on private property?

WSSC is not required to follow the Takoma Park tree ordinance for private trees. However, WSSC will submit a tree protection plan for trees within the project area which are impacted but not removed. WSSC will also pay the replanting fee for all removed trees.

4. Will WSSC have its engineers assess boring/tunneling under the critical root zones of trees close to the proposed easement in order to save these trees?

WSSC is moving forward with the backyard alignment for addresses 6617 through 6761 Eastern Avenue. WSSC is examining other construction methods that will possibly minimize environmental impacts. WSSC's decision of a construction method will consider cost, technical feasibility, and implementation timeframe.

5. How will the Westmoreland homeowners be reimbursed for the removal of their trees?

WSSC will pay for a temporary construction easement around all trees on Westmoreland which will be impacted by construction. The market value for the temporary easement will include the contributory value of the impacted trees.

6. Will the WSSC team take a fresh look at all of the options to save trees, including boring/tunneling, re-siting the trench, and especially including a gravity sewer system with main line under the street?

WSSC is examining other construction methods that will possibly minimize environmental impacts. WSSC's decision of a construction method will consider cost, technical feasibility, and implementation timeframe.

7. Will WSSC conduct a financial analysis of the alignment alternatives?

WSSC is moving forward with the backyard alignment for the sewer at addresses 6617 through 6761 Eastern Avenue. The team has completed a preliminary cost comparison of using a jack and bore method versus an open-cut installation method. Jack and bore will be approximately twice the cost of an open-cut solution. This estimate does not include necessary temporary construction easements to complete jack and bore.

8. Do you have written evidence of why the roadway gravity alignment was rejected? Can WSSC design a mixed gravity and grinder pump system?

The roadway gravity sewer alignment was rejected due to the need to dig deep trenches between the Eastern Avenue homes. Wilson T. Ballard has determined that trenches would be between 6.7 and 17.9 feet deep to install the new sewer house connections. This construction would potentially damage houses along Eastern Avenue. A mixed grinder pump and gravity system could lead to sludge issues (i.e., clogs, smell) in the gravity main depending on which homeowners choose which option. Few of the homes have a small enough drop off from the front to the back of their homes to make it so that a pump is not needed.

9. What is preliminary assessment of trees impacted by routing the new water line out to the street?

WSSC estimates that 7 trees will need to be removed from the Eastern Avenue roadway side of homes for installation of proposed water and pressure sewer house connections. A final assessment of tree impacts will be completed when 100% design plans are submitted by Wilson T. Ballard.

10. What will be the storm water runoff/drainage effects of the backyard alignment on the Westmoreland Ave properties?

WSSC Urban Forester Doug Sievers and City of Takoma Park arborist Todd Bolton reviewed the project area, and they anticipate no change to the current amount of runoff due to the removal of trees.