



## Neighborhood Meeting Questions & Answers Birchwood Estates Street Reconstruction Project

Wednesday, March 22, 2023 – 6 pm

Below are answers to questions asked during the informational neighborhood meeting held on Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

1. *How long will the project take to complete?*
  - a. If the project is approved by the city council construction is anticipated to start in the spring/early summer of 2024 and be substantially completed in the fall of 2024. Final touch up items and paving of the final layer of pavement would occur in spring/early summer of 2025.
2. *Will the construction occur in phases*
  - a. It is anticipated that the project will be constructed in phases to minimize the overall impact to the neighborhood. The exact phasing will be determined by the contractor once the project has been bid and a contract awarded. More information regarding construction phasing will be sent to residents prior to construction.
3. *Will we still have access to our driveways during the project?*
  - a. Access may be restricted at certain times during the day for this project. Most of the time the delay is short, and the contractor is required to provide access at the end of each day. However, there are exceptions, such as when the curb and gutter is replaced and needs time to cure. During that time, you may park on the street.
4. *Where do we park once curb has been poured?*
  - a. Once curb has been poured in front of your property we ask that you park any vehicles you will need to use for the next week on the street. We will coordinate on one side of the street to allow vehicles to pass simultaneously. Please contact us if you have any access concerns.
5. *Will my mailbox be impacted?*
  - a. Yes, the contractor will remove your mailbox prior to the project and place it up near your house. A bank of temporary mailboxes will be installed at a specified location so mail deliveries will not be impacted. Once final boulevard grading is complete, the contractor re-install your existing mailbox back to its original location.
6. *What happens to landscaping in the boulevard adjacent to the roadway?*
  - a. Landscaping items in the right of way may be impacted due to reconstruction of the street or utilities. If a homeowner would like to save plantings or other landscaping

items impacted by the project they should remove them prior to the start of the project. The project team can coordinate with residents on approximate disturbance limits as the project progresses.

7. *Will trees removed with the project be replaced?*
  - a. Trees in the public right-of-way removed with the project are not proposed to be replaced. The project team will work to minimize the removal of trees to the extent feasible.
  
8. *What material will the impacted portion of my driveway be patched with?*
  - a. *The impacted portion of driveways will be replaced in-kind. For example, if a homeowner has an asphalt driveway the impacted portion would be patched with asphalt.*
  
9. *I am interested in having my entire driveway replaced. Can that be accommodated with the project?*
  - a. The city would be unable to have the contractor fully replace a homeowner's driveway under the city's contract. However, if a contractor is interested in fully replacing residential driveways the city can provide their contact information so a homeowner can directly coordinate the work with the contractor. If the contractor is not interested in fully replacing residential driveways the homeowner can hire a contractor to do the work and the city will reimburse the homeowner for the amount it would have cost the city to replace the portion of the driveway impacted with the project. Homeowners who are interested in having their driveway fully replaced are encouraged to contact the project team prior to the start of construction.
  
10. *Are sidewalks proposed to be installed with this project?*
  - a. Sidewalks are not proposed with this project.
  
11. *Are street lights proposed with this project?*
  - a. Street lights are not proposed with this project. If street lights are desired by the neighborhood a petition would be required. Installation of street lights would be an additional cost to homeowners.
  
12. *Will the overhead utility lines be buried with the project?*
  - a. The overhead utility lines are not proposed to be buried with the project. While private utilities are required to relocate if they conflict with the proposed project they are not required to bury their lines. If the neighborhood desires to have the overhead utility lines buried with the project it would require a petition. Burial of overhead utility lines would be an additional cost to homeowners.

13. Will drain tile be installed with the project and if so, will I be able to tie my sump pump drain into it?
  - a. Drain tile is proposed to be installed with the project and is typically located adjacent to storm drain inlets. If a property is located in the vicinity of a storm drain inlet the City may be able to install a yard drain box in the boulevard to allow for connection of a sump pump in the future by the homeowner. If you would like to tie your existing sump pump drain into the system, please fill out a comment card at the project meeting or contact the project team and we will let you know if installation of a yard drain box is feasible in your situation.
  
14. *How much is my assessment going to be?*
  - a. The amount of the assessment is not known at this point. Assessments are based on the bids received for the project, which is not anticipated to take place until the spring of 2024. While not a guarantee as every project is different, the assessment for similar recent projects have been around \$11,000.
  
15. *What are my payment options?*
  - a. Exact details of the payment options will be provided prior to the assessment hearing, but each property owner has several options. One option is to pay in full or partial by the end of October of 2024. Another option is to have the assessment paid with your property taxes over the standard assessment term, which is anticipated to be 15 years.
  
16. Is there an interest if the assessment is paid over the standard term and if so, what is the interest rate?
  - a. The interest rates for 2024 have not been determined yet but the 2023 interest rate for the 15-year term is 3.22%.
  
17. *I am interested in a rain garden, is my property a good candidate?*
  - a. The project team will identify potential locations for rain gardens as the project design progresses. Homeowners who are interested in a rain garden are encouraged to fill out a comment card or contact the project team. The project team will reach out to interested homeowners.
  
18. *Does the City maintain rain gardens and how often do rain gardens receive maintenance?*
  - a. The city will maintain rain gardens installed in the public right of way. Typically, rain gardens receive maintenance once per month from snow melt through October.