

General Questions and Answers
Sanitary Sewer Replacement:
GFS No. R-0000-00-0

- 1. Why are we doing this sewer replacement project at this time?**
 - a. The sanitary sewer collection lines are very old, in poor condition, and continue to deteriorate. It is more feasible for the City to replace the lines than to try to repair and maintain the old lines.
- 2. When will the project start and how long will it take?**
 - a. The project will be accomplished in three phases: design, construction of the new collection sewer, and the reconnection of services. Private services will be reconnected by the City or by a City contractor after the new collection sewer in the street has been completed.
- 3. Why is the new sewer being placed in the street instead of at the rear of the property, as is the case on several streets today?**
 - a. There are obstructions and encroachments in the back lots that preclude the acquisition of new easements and would make construction there very difficult.
- 4. Is the need to address the sewage system caused by capacity stress from the number of townhouses and multi-family dwellings that have been built recently in the area?**
 - a. No. The basic sewer system is very old and has deteriorated to the point that it is no longer functioning properly. The new system will be adequate to handle the volumes of waste that are anticipated.
- 5. Will I have to pay to make the connection from my property to the sanitary sewer in the street?**
 - a. Not if the Right of Entry Agreement is signed and returned to the City. In that case, the reconnection will be a part of this project and funded by the City of Houston.
- 6. How soon will we need to sign the Right of Entry Agreement?**
 - a. The City would like to receive the signed Right of Entry as soon as possible. This will enable the City to proceed timely in the planning, bidding, and awarding of work.
- 7. Will I have input into how the connecting line from my house is routed to the new sewer line to the street?**
 - a. Yes. Routing of the new service lines will be coordinated with the property owners.

- 8. How will we know where the sewer connections are, and whether the contractor takes into account the homeowner's preferences?**
- a. A licensed plumber will do the work, and will work with the homeowner on the details of routing the new line through the property.
- 9. Can a neighbor and I agree on a single trench to handle both connecting lines?**
- a. No. For single family service, each service must have a separate line and may not cross another property.
- 10. Will I be able to pick my own plumber to do the hookup and have the City pay?**
- a. You may have your own plumber make the connection. However, the City will not pay for privately hired plumbers.
- 11. What will happen if I don't sign the waiver to let the City's contractor on my property?**
- a. In that case, your property will not be connected to the new sewer line as part of this project. Any future connection to the sewer line will be entirely at your cost, including permit and connection fees.
- 12. Will the City put back my landscaping?**
- a. It is the City's policy to require the contractor to restore landscaping to preconstruction conditions or better.
- 13. What is my recourse if the contractor doesn't do the job or doesn't do it right?**
- a. The City requires insurance, a performance bond, and a maintenance bond from City contractors.
- 14. Should we take pictures of the before condition to help ensure replacement to preconstruction conditions?**
- a. This is a good idea and is encouraged.
- 15. Besides landscaping restoration, will the contract require "hardscape" replacement, i.e. fences, concrete, etc., that may be damaged by the contractor?**
- a. Yes, those items should be left in as good or better shape than they were before start of work.

16. Why can't the City take responsibility for damages caused by the contractor?

- a. State law and the City Charter prohibit the City from assuming liabilities that are possibly open-ended. This is true of most of the cities in Texas. That said the City does intend to work with property owners to ensure a good outcome.

17. Will the City coordinate with utilities to make sure that other utility functions like water services are not disrupted?

- a. Yes. If there is unintended damage, the contractor will be required to fix the problem.

18. What will happen to the existing sewer lines once we cut over to the new system?

- a. The existing sewer lines will be abandoned in place.

19. What is involved in abandonment?

- a. The City will fill the line with fine aggregate concrete to prevent collapse.

20. Will there be an overnight period when the sewer system doesn't work in any particular home?

- a. No.

21. Will private property be disturbed due to do the abandonment process?

- a. This would not be typical, but it may happen. For example, if there is a manhole on private property, that manhole will have to be cut down and filled as part of the abandonment process. Again, the amount of disturbance should not be great, and will be repaired.

22. Will I be able to get to my driveway during this time?

- a. It is unlikely, but there may be brief periods during the construction of the collection system when a driveway may not be accessible. The City will work with the contractors to minimize this inconvenience for the homeowners.

23. Will there be street parking restrictions?

- a. During construction on each street, on-street parking restrictions in the construction areas will probably be necessary in order to expedite construction and to allow traffic flow and access.

24. What will happen to traffic flow during the project?

- a. Traffic disruption will be minimized to facilitate the construction of the project. Local traffic and access to all properties will be maintained throughout the construction period. However, streets may be limited to one-way traffic at times. Traffic control plans are included in the construction plans and bid documents, and are available for viewing by the public.