

April 29, 2011

## **W. 70<sup>th</sup> Street (TH100 to France Avenue) Reconstruction Project**

Dear Residents:

Please note that this update is divided into two sections. The first section, Overall Updates, contains important information pertaining to all residents, while the second section, Phase Updates, contains specific information pertaining to particular residents.

### **Overall Updates**

#### **Detour/Traffic Control**

We understand there have been issues with drivers going through barricades and using the side streets as a detour, instead of using the posted detour or other alternative routes. We thank you for your patience and alerting us to the problems that you see. Some of the issues we have seen cannot totally be eliminated as all of the traffic is not necessarily cut thru traffic, but instead is most likely traffic from the neighborhood trying to make their way around the construction. With any construction project, the volume of traffic along side streets usually will increase.

We have attempted to decrease the cut thru traffic by increasing the amount of signs and barricades at TH-100 and the side streets. The police cannot ticket drivers for using side streets; however, they can ticket for speeding, rolling through stop signs, etc. There will be a police presence on most of the side streets throughout the project to discourage speeding.

We are encouraging drivers to use TH-100, I-494, TH-62 (Crosstown) and France Avenue as much as possible for the duration of the project. In addition, there is a posted detour (see link below).

To view the posted detour, please click on the following link:  
[http://www.ci.edina.mn.us/PDFs/EngineeringProjects/ENG10-3\\_West70th/Project\\_Schedule\\_and\\_Detour.pdf](http://www.ci.edina.mn.us/PDFs/EngineeringProjects/ENG10-3_West70th/Project_Schedule_and_Detour.pdf)

#### **Centerpoint Energy Gas Main Relocations**

As you are most likely aware, Centerpoint Energy is replacing the existing 24" high pressure gas main that runs along the eastbound lane of 70<sup>th</sup> Street. Originally, Centerpoint planned to complete the replacement from West Shore Drive to France Avenue during the months of May and June, and come back in August to complete the segment from TH-100 to West Shore Drive.

In an effort to speed up the construction process, Centerpoint has agreed to do the entire distance from TH-100 to France Avenue starting on Monday, May 2. You will notice the City's contractor will be removing the south half of 70<sup>th</sup> Street from TH-100 to France Avenue. This process will make the construction of Phases 2 and 3 more efficient by eliminating potential conflicts and the possibility that Centerpoint would not be able to come back to complete the work in a timely manner in August.

Centerpoint will be patching the segment between TH-100 and Cornelia with a temporary bituminous pavement layer once those areas are complete, to create a better driving surface until Phases 2 and 3 commences.

### **Arneson Acres Plant Sale**

The Arneson Acres Plant Sale will be May 6-7. We have notified the contractor of the plant sale, and have been assured access from France Avenue and TH-100 will be maintained. We do encourage drivers to use TH-100 to access Arneson Acres as there will be numerous construction activities taking place near France Avenue and exit in the same direction. Additional signing directing drivers to TH-100 will be in place those two days.

### **Bus Service**

The Metro Transit bus stops and bus routes will be temporarily relocated to 66<sup>th</sup> Street for the duration of the construction project.

### **Trash Pickup**

Trash pickup during the construction project should be unaffected. 70<sup>th</sup> Street will be open to traffic in the mornings when garbage trucks are usually doing their pickups. The companies have been notified of this.

### **Safety**

Please remind your children to stay away from construction sites, construction machinery, and stockpiled materials. These sites, machines and materials can be dangerous. Job site safety is our number one concern.

### **Who to Contact in an Emergency**

During a life or property-threatening emergency, call 911. If construction equipment or materials need to be moved as part of dealing with the emergency, 911 has a list of the contractor's emergency contacts.

### **Who to Contact with Questions and Concerns**

Please call me, Andrew Plowman, WSB's Project Representative at 763-287-7149 to discuss any concerns or questions you might have regarding the project or email me at [aplowman@wsbeng.com](mailto:aplowman@wsbeng.com). You may also call the on-site inspector, Blair Fowler, if you have a specific question during construction. Blair's number is 612-245-7835.

If Blair or I do not have an answer for you, we will route your question to the City, contractor or other staff members of WSB. Once I have your answer or information, I will call you back.

### **Special Events**

Please contact me if you have any special events planned for this spring and summer that may require special access needs to your home during construction activities. Such activities could be graduation parties, garage sales, retirement parties, weddings, medical deliveries, house moves, etc. The contractor will work with you as best they can to accommodate your event into their reconstruction schedule.

### **Phase Updates**

#### **Phase 1**

**(Streets between Cornelia Drive and France Avenue)**

**Removals**

Removal of the existing concrete pavement commenced on April 25. The contractor will be removing the entire pavement on the south side of 70<sup>th</sup> Street between TH-100 and France Avenue.

Starting May 2<sup>d</sup>, the contractor will continue to remove pavement on the north side of 70<sup>th</sup> Street between Cornelia and France Avenue.

**Utilities**

On May 3, the contractor will begin placing water main near the intersection of Valley View Road and 70<sup>th</sup> Street. New valves will be placed to limit the need for long water main shut downs. You will be notified via doorknob hangers prior to any water main shut-off that will affect your water service. We do not anticipate any water shut-off lasting for more than 4-6 hours.

On May 9, the contractor will begin placing storm sewer between Cornelia Avenue and Valley View Road.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during this project.

Sincerely,

Andrew Plowman, PE  
Project Manager  
WSB & Associates, Inc.