



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – September 7, 2016 Agenda Item 4

### **Work Session**

Update on Status of Road and Utility Projects

### **Recommended Council Action**

Hear information from the City Manager.

### **Context with Key Issues**

As the Council reconvenes after the August recess, staff wishes to review with Council a number of road and utility projects that will affect the community in the coming months. At times, these projects may cause substantial disruption to traffic flow in and around Takoma Park. Because a number of different agencies and contractors are involved, and all projects may be affected by weather, coordination to limit disruption is challenging.

### **Council Priority**

Livable Community for All; Engaged, Responsive, and Service Oriented Government

### **Environmental Impact of Action**

All of the projects are to maintain infrastructure to improve the environment or to minimize harm to the environment that could occur with leaks or erosion from deteriorating roads and utilities.

### **Fiscal Impact of Action**

None specifically for this item, though the projects outlined above will have fiscal impacts. Of particular note is the additional \$46,643 needed for additional design work associated with the Flower Avenue Green Street project. An agenda item and ordinance will be presented to Council for consideration on September 21.

### **Attachments and Links**

- Staff Update on Planned Road Work, Utility Work, and New Sidewalk Design as of August 30, 2016
- Flower Avenue Green Street Project Page: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/flower-avenue-green-street-project/>
- Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape Project Page: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/ethan-allen-gateway-streetscape/>
- Sidewalk Design and Construction Project Page: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/sidewalk-design-and-construction/>
- Utility Work Project Page: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/utility-work/>

## **City of Takoma Park Staff Update on Planned Road Work, Utility Work, and New Sidewalk Design - August 30, 2016**

### **Planned Road Work:**

- This fall and into spring, WSSC will be milling and repaving almost every street in the New Hampshire Gardens neighborhood (area bounded by Glenside Avenue, Carroll Avenue, University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue). Before the repaving begins, the City is repairing broken curbs and gutters and addressing subsurface pavement problems not associated with the WSSC work.
- Streets scheduled for resurfacing, based on the FY17 budget and the recent pavement condition inventory, are: Winding Hill Way and Greenwood Avenue (Ward 5), Crescent Place (Ward 1), Geneva Avenue (Ward 4) and Montgomery Avenue (Ward 3). It may not be possible to pave all of these streets during FY17; any remaining work will carry over into FY18.
- The Flower Avenue Green Street project is at 90% design and SHA is reviewing the documents; we anticipate going to bid in the fall or winter and construction to begin in July 2017. Note that Washington Gas main replacement work is planned to begin in November 2016. On September 21, there will be an agenda item requesting additional funding to complete the Green Street design. The additional expenditure totaling \$46,643 brings the total design cost to \$573,675. The additional expenditures relate to additional SHA requirements for the Transportation Alternatives grant and permit submittal preparation for the County and State, as well as additional work required for development of the bid documents.
- Ethan Allen Streetscape Project: Design is complete and all permits approved. The project is awaiting the Federal Highway Administration (source of Federal Transportation Alternative Program funds) to authorize the request to advertise. Construction activities could commence in Spring 2017.
- Carroll Avenue Bridge replacement work will continue as planned. Some of the detour routes will be affected by the Washington Gas work identified below.
- Regarding pedestrian improvements at several intersections: SHA, through their contractor, has been upgrading pedestrian crossing signals and curb ramps to meet accessibility standards and prepare them for transitioning to Montgomery County's Traffic Signal office (currently traffic signals in Takoma Park are the only ones that are maintained by SHA in Montgomery County). The work affects 15 intersections along Philadelphia and Carroll Avenue, including the Grant Avenue crossing at Carroll Avenue. The project has been progressing much more slowly than originally anticipated and is now expected to be completed by November 2016.

### **Planned Utility Work**

- Pepco line maintenance, tree pruning and tree removal are taking place throughout Takoma Park. Information on the plans for tree pruning/removal are on the City's Project Directory.

- Washington Gas is scheduled to begin work in November on the gas main replacement on Flower Avenue between Carroll Avenue and Piney Branch Road. The project should be completed by March. This work is required before the rest of the Flower Avenue work can proceed.
- Washington Gas recently notified the City of additional gas main replacement work to take place between October and March. One major project will take place east of Flower Avenue (in unincorporated Silver Spring) between Houston and Domer Avenues. The project within the City limits will include the Long Branch/Sligo neighborhood area, including Carroll Avenue between Washington Adventist Hospital and Long Branch Parkway, as well as on Flower and Garland Avenues south of Carroll Avenue. Washington Gas reports that their work on Carroll Avenue will require a single lane closure for a period of approximately two weeks. To avoid the traffic delay that a single lane closure and flagging operation would cause, the City is asking Washington Gas to develop a detour route for southbound Carroll Avenue traffic, possibly through Garland Avenue to Kennebec Avenue and then to Flower Avenue. (Since that route is outside of Takoma Park, Montgomery County would need to approve the detour.) A community meeting in September is recommended to be held with the Long Branch-Sligo neighborhood so that Washington Gas can discuss the project with residents.
- WSSC has been developing a project for many years to replace failing sewer lines and replace the water main for residents of Eastern Avenue between Walnut Avenue and Kansas Lane. The plans for the project between Walnut Avenue and Second Ave have been very contentious due to WSSC's proposal to remove a significant number of mature trees for the sewer line installation. Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection has agreed to provide an environmental impact assessment for the project. The proposed work area is within the backyards of residents on Eastern and will also impact residents on Westmoreland whose property abuts the work area. Based on a community meeting on July 26, WSSC was reviewing their final construction plans and is scheduled to provide revised plans in September for review. Additionally, WSSC agreed to assess hydrological records and provide an environmental impact assessment, to include stormwater (surface water) impacts, subsurface water impacts, as well as tree removal impacts.

### **Planned New Sidewalk Design**

- The third community meeting to review designs for sidewalk along Lincoln Avenue (400 and 500 block) is scheduled for September 15. Construction funding is approved through a Safe Routes to School grant. This project will require a separate construction bid and approval from SHA. We currently anticipate construction in Spring 2017.
- Also in the design queue are Glenside Drive, Maple Avenue (7900 block) and Larch Avenue (900 block). City staff has requested pricing from on-call engineering firms for design. Based on proposals and available funding, will begin design development in Fall/Winter FY17