

# Watermain Construction on Avenue Road and Vicinity between MacPherson Avenue and Caribou Road

## Q & A's

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### 1. Why is it necessary to replace the existing watermain?

The existing cast iron watermain on Avenue Road and Duplex Avenue was built in 1915 and 1923. The watermain needs to be replaced to increase the security of water supply, improve system performance and increase efficiency of water delivery.

Also, the City of Toronto's long term Watermain Management Plan involves replacing all cast iron trunk watermains with concrete encased steel lined watermains in order to meet current and future demands of safe drinking water in the City of Toronto.

### 2. What areas does this watermain service?

Transmission watermains from the High Level Pumping Station, located at 235 Cottingham Street, make up a hub of Toronto's, and a portion of York Region's water supply. The large diameter transmission watermains are a critical component of the City's water supply infrastructure. The watermains distribute water to reservoirs across the city, which in turn, feed the local distribution watermains that go into each residential and commercial property.

The Avenue Road/Duplex Avenue 900 mm transmission watermain currently carries up to 50 million litres per day up to Lawrence Avenue, where it joins the trunk network which distributes the water east towards Bayview Avenue and north towards the Town of Markham. This watermain is a little unusual as it has a number of local distribution branch connections to service the neighbourhoods along the route.

### 3. What happens to the existing watermain once the new watermain is installed?

The existing watermain will be taken out of service and abandoned. The existing valve chamber structures will be partially removed and the valves will also be removed. The portions of the chambers that remain and the watermains will be filled with concrete.

The decommissioning of the watermain and valve chambers will occur after the new watermain is installed and commissioned which is tentatively scheduled between January 2012 and April 2012.

### 4. Why is a smaller watermain being replaced on Avenue Road?

A new section of 400 mm distribution watermain is being installed and connected to the new Avenue Road transmission watermain and an existing 300 mm watermain is being upsized in order to alleviate a persistent low pressure problem south of Macpherson Avenue. The new section of distribution watermain will be installed via slip lining method (minimal surface disruption) from Poplar Plains Crescent to McMaster Avenue and an open cut method will be used to upsize the existing distribution watermain from McMaster Avenue to Macpherson Avenue (south of the CPR overpass). Slip lining is used to make use of the existing old 900 mm transmission pipe that would normally have been abandoned after the new transmission watermain was installed on Avenue Road. This allows the City to

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reuse existing infrastructure and not have to excavate a new trench, for the new section of distribution watermain, in the congested area.

This new distribution watermain will be constructed once the new transmission watermain is installed and commissioned and the existing transmission watermain is decommissioned, tentatively scheduled from April 2012 to July 2012.

#### **5. What is the timeline for construction?**

Construction will start mid-May 2010 and is expected to be completed in late 2012. Construction activities will be carried out in stages along the watermain alignment to minimize disruptions to traffic and the local community.

The Contractor, Drainstar Contracting Ltd. (Drainstar), is proposing to utilize several construction crews to accelerate construction progress due to the aggressive construction schedule. Therefore, there will be several areas along the watermain alignment that will be under construction at one time.

Work will generally be carried out between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, but occasionally it will be necessary to carry out work in the evenings and on weekends.

Construction notices will be provided to those residents, businesses, and institutions in the surrounding community prior to the commencement of construction in their area. Notices are also available on the project website.

#### **6. What are the impacts to traffic and how will the City ensure traffic flow is maintained during construction?**

Traffic will be maintained on all major streets during construction, including Avenue Road, Lonsdale Road, Oriole Parkway and Chaplin Crescent. Construction work will take place in stages in order to minimize traffic disruptions. There will be lane closures and lane reductions during construction.

Cottingham Street, Rathnelly Avenue, and Poplar Plains Crescent will be temporarily restricted in stages to through traffic, but will be kept open for local traffic and emergency vehicles. While parking spots are temporarily displaced, alternate parking arrangements for existing parking permit holders on these streets will be arranged by the Project Manager, Jeff Flewelling.

It is recognized that many residents on Rathnelly Avenue and Cottingham Street have permits for parking on those streets since their houses do not have driveways. It will be necessary to remove some of those on-street parking spaces once construction commences on those streets. The City will make arrangements to provide alternative parking spaces nearby to offset the loss of those parking spots. The City will send a notice to those affected residences to inform them of the alternative parking arrangements prior to the removal of the on-street parking spaces.

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Advance warning traffic signage will be installed to notify drivers and pedestrians of lane closures and reductions and indicate alternative detours, road closures, etc. Where necessary, signs will be installed discouraging drivers from using residential streets as detours. The City and Drainstar will make every effort to minimize the amount of traffic disturbance on local residential streets due to the construction activity.

TTC transit service will be maintained; however, temporary relocations of bus stops may be required to suit construction work zones. TTC will issue notice of changes at the stops.

The following information may ease your commute:

- Construction on Yonge Street was completed by the end of June 2010. The re-opening of all lanes of traffic on Yonge Street will help ease current volume levels on Avenue Road.
- Summer school closures will also help to relieve the current volume of traffic.
- In addition to the construction signs already in place, two electronic sign boards (one at the north end at Lawrence Avenue West and the other, at the south end at Bloor Street West) will be in place on Avenue Road to notify drivers before they enter the construction area. This will provide drivers with advance notice to choose alternate routes.
- The signal timing of traffic lights may be modified to better accommodate north and south bound traffic. Traffic engineers will be monitoring and adjust traffic lights accordingly.

#### **7. Why are some sections of the watermain being constructed using open cut method while other areas are being constructed using tunneling methods ?**

Based on the Environmental Assessment Study that was completed in 2007 for the watermain replacement, as well as collaboration with all stakeholders and the City of Toronto during the design phases of the project, areas were identified as “highly sensitive” that required tunneling installation methods to reduce social implications.

Sections of watermain that will be constructed using tunneling methods were identified in areas that involved traffic constraints, institutional constraints, location of existing trees, disturbance to the local residences and public and the location of existing underground and above ground utilities.

The criteria involved in determining which areas will be constructed using open cut methods include: sharp changes in watermain alignment and the costs of construction.

#### **8. Why is my water service being replaced as part of the Avenue Road transmission watermain project?**

The City of Toronto has an ongoing Substandard Water Service Replacement Program that replaces existing lead water services throughout the City. The program

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coordinates these service replacements with capital projects to prevent redundant construction work.

As part of the Avenue Road transmission watermain replacement project, all substandard water services will be replaced along Cottingham Street, Rathnelly Avenue, Poplar Plains Crescent, and Avenue Road from McMaster Avenue to MacPherson Avenue. For the remainder of the transmission watermain alignment (along Avenue Road between Poplar Plains Crescent and Caribou Road), substandard water services are being replaced at specific locations only when the distribution watermain is exposed for the installation of the Avenue Road transmission watermain installation.

All residential and commercial properties that have a substandard water service to be replaced will be notified via Construction Notice, prior to the commencement of construction work.

#### **9. How can I keep informed about the project?**

Prior to all phases of the watermain construction project, the City of Toronto will provide detailed information by mail or hand delivery. Information will also be provided on the City's website: [www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/avenue\\_watermain/](http://www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/avenue_watermain/)

#### **10. Are there other construction or City projects in the area that I should know about?**

The Eglinton Avenue Watermain Replacement project has been deferred until at least March 2011. For more information go to:  
[http://www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/eg\\_watermain/index.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/eg_watermain/index.htm)

All construction works associated with the Avenue Road Watermain Replacement project will be scheduled and coordinated to minimize conflict with other ongoing projects in the area.

#### **11. Who do I contact about construction impacting my neighbourhood, traffic and any water supply problems in my home or business?**

Jeff Flewelling - Project Manager  
416-392-6628 or [jflewel@toronto.ca](mailto:jflewel@toronto.ca)

Maogosha Pyjor – Public Consultation Coordinator  
416-338-2850 or [mpyjor@toronto.ca](mailto:mpyjor@toronto.ca)