

Federal and Main Streets

Water main replacement projects

Meeting date:

April 14, 2010

Focus on:

Federal Street and Main Street Water Main Replacement Projects

On Tonight's Agenda:

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Water mains on Federal Street and Main Street are among the oldest in the system.

Replacement will improve fire flows, water quality, and capacity.

Why Are We Here Tonight?

The purpose of the public hearing on April 14, 2010 is to discuss the need for the proposed projects, how they will impact residents (and businesses), the scope of the projects, and the estimated schedule for the work. The design and construction elements of the two project areas will be based on each area's uses.

As the Wiscasset Water District moves forward with Final Design, it is trying to anticipate the needs of residents, businesses, and other impacted parties, and incorporate those needs into the design. The design and plans may be modified based on the comments received at the public hearing.

Scope of Project

The District has been planning for replacement of water mains on Federal Street and Main Street since 2007, working with the Town of Wiscasset to determine schedule. In March 2010, the Water District Board of Trustees evaluated three options for moving forward with water main improvements. The Options included:

Option 1: Move forward with both projects in summer 2010.

Option 2: Complete Federal Street work in summer 2010; complete Main Street work in spring 2011 in partnership with multi-utility replacement with Town of Wiscasset and Maine Department of Transportation.

Option 3: Delay both projects until spring 2011.

The Trustees considered "the benefit to water ratepayers" as its primary criteria, and moved unanimously in favor of Option 2 after a long discussion of advantages and disadvantages. As the Federal Street project is Bid, the District will also **request** prices for work on Main Street, and reserves the right to move forward with that work in summer 2010 if prices are favorable. The Water District replacement project will increase the size of water mains to improve flow, water quality, and water pressure. The benefits of splitting the larger project into two smaller projects are: reduced impact on water rates; cost savings of a partnership for work on Main Street; and ability to complete the work in a single construction season.



Project Partners

Water mains on both Federal and Main Streets are owned by the District, which has applied for a combination grant/loan through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) Agency. Sanitary sewers and storm drains on Federal Street (owned by the Town of Wiscasset) are in need of replacement, but the Town is not ready (as of April 2010) to move forward with replacement. In order to take advantage of excellent grant opportunities (up to 45%), the District is moving forward with this work now.

Storm drains on Main Street are owned by Maine Department of Transportation. Negotiations between the District, the Town, and the Maine DOT are ongoing to coordinate replacement of all utilities in spring 2011. Full pavement restoration of Main and Federal Streets will be completed by Maine DOT following a multi-utility replacement.

Project Schedule

The District has a limited opportunity to receive up to 45% grant funding through the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development program, with the balance as a low-interest loan with attractive terms. The District has set an aggressive schedule to maximize funding, minimize impact to residents, and ensure that permanent pavement can be placed before the arrival of winter. Construction of Federal Street work is expected to begin in June 2010.

Continuous Services

Residents and businesses on Federal Street (and Main Street, when that work is completed) will have full water service for the duration of the project. This service will typically be provided by temporary piping placed at grade. Asphalt pavement will be used to allow vehicles to drive over the piping. The District and its Contractor will ensure that mail delivery, garbage collection, and package courier service can be maintained. Personnel involved in the project will communicate any driveway access issues in advance. Water services will be replaced to the property line.



Contractors install water main on Churchill Street during a 2008 District project

Pavement and Sidewalks

This project does not involve full restoration of existing sidewalks or pavement. Where sidewalks are impacted by the installation of new water services, the sidewalk will be replaced "in kind". That is, brick sidewalks that are disturbed will be reconstructed with the same bricks; asphalt sidewalks will continue to be asphalt sidewalks. Sidewalk width will remain the same. The District will repair water trenches (which will be about five feet wide) in the roadway with trench pavement. Trenches for water services will also be repaired. Existing granite curbing will be removed and relayed. All grassed areas will be re-loamed and re-seeded.

Traffic Management

Proper and thorough management of traffic on both Main and Federal Streets will be vital to the success of the project. Work on Federal Street will be completed during the day. In areas where an excavation is open, one travel lane will be open at a time- usually just a few hundred feet. Certified flaggers will be used to manage and control one-way traffic on this road, and signs and traffic cones used to designate the travel lane.

Contact Information

Please contact the following people for information on the project:

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Project website: http://www.wiscasset.org/committees/main_st_and_federal_st_reconstruction/

Project documents are available for review at the District's office
at 65 Birch Point Road during regular business hours.