



323 W Michigan Ave, Marshall, MI 49068  
P 269.781.5183 F 269.781.3835  
[cityofmarshall.com](http://cityofmarshall.com)

December 13, 2024



**SUBJECT: Cosmopolitan Avenue Watermain Improvements**

Dear Resident,

We are writing to inform your neighborhood of our plans for construction along Cosmopolitan Avenue in the spring of 2025. The City is proposing to replace the watermain from North Drive to the end of Cosmopolitan, line the watermain between Cosmopolitan and North Madison, and reconstruct the street. Survey for the area has been completed. The City is issuing bids for the watermain lining portion in the coming weeks. And, in January we plan to have an engineering design firm authorized to prepare the watermain replacement documents.

*Figure 1: Watermain Replacement and Lining Locations*



This project will rehabilitate (lining portion) and replace cast iron watermain from the 1950s. This watermain is past its useful life and corrosion buildup on the interior of the pipe is causing water quality problems in your neighborhood. This water quality, while displeasing to the senses, does NOT affect the safety of the water. The water department has worked over the last year flushing and testing the water in this area while the project plans were developed. None of the test results exceeded allowable levels in drinking water. However, we do know sediment that comes off the interior of the pipe makes the water look displeasing. The department also recently tested several individual homes water and received zero results above the allowable levels in drinking water.

The City approached the project with two possible solutions; 1) replacement of all the watermain or 2) lining of all the watermain. Watermain lining is a cured in place pipe that allows for rehabilitation of the existing watermain without open excavation of the pipe. Pipe

replacement entails the installation of a completely new watermain pipe. After reviewing the project area and estimated expenses, a combination of these two options was determined to be the best. The lining will be completed on the watermain that is hard to excavate in private property easements and the replacement will be completed for watermain within the right of way.

City staff met with several Cosmopolitan Avenue residents in November. The result of that meeting was a large amount of information sharing. One of the important things learned at this discussion was that some homes in this neighborhood have sanitary sewer laterals that are constructed with Orangeburg pipe. While the City's project is specific to watermain, the information on the presence of Orangeburg pipe should be concerning to all property owners.

Orangeburg pipe is a type of sewer pipe made from layers of paper and wood pulp. It was popular in the 1950s, 60s, and early 70s. This type of pipe has a limited life span due to its ability to absorb moisture and distort over time. Residents along the watermain replacement portion of the project are encouraged to investigate the material of their sanitary sewer lateral. If the pipe is Orangeburg, it may be a good time to consider replacing it while the City has the road under construction. Further information on how this would work will be available after the new year. In the meantime, if you decide you are interested in replacing your sewer lateral please call Jonathan Skiles in the Engineering Department at 269-558-0346

A webpage on the City's website has been created for this project at <https://www.cityofmarshall.com/362/Cosmopolitan-Street> Updates on the project status will be posted to this page. Residents, property owners, and interested community members are also able to sign up for construction specific email or text notifications on the City's website at <https://www.cityofmarshall.com/list.aspx>. Included with this letter are instructions on how to sign up for the notify me portal to receive these detailed updates.

We apologize in advance for any inconvenience caused by the construction and appreciate your understanding while we work to improve the Marshall community. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Marguerite Davenport, PE  
Director of Public Services  
[mdavenport@cityofmarshall.com](mailto:mdavenport@cityofmarshall.com)  
269-558-0323



Aaron Ambler  
Water Superintendent  
[aambler@cityofmarshall.com](mailto:aambler@cityofmarshall.com)  
269-558-0328