



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
51 Grove Street
Arlington, Massachusetts 02476

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Date: July 8, 2011

To: Forest Street and Surrounding Neighborhood Residents

RE: Forest Street Project Update

Dear Resident:

This letter has been sent to provide an update on the Forest Street Project status.

Last fall, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) advertised the construction of Forest Street Improvements and awarded the project to J Marchese & Sons. Work began over the winter with some required repairs/adjustments being performed on the storm drain system in preparation of conducting the road work. This spring, because the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) has a 24" water main running beneath Forest Street, the contractor was required to file a permit with the MWRA for the proposed construction. The permit is needed for both the roadway work to be completed as well as the replacement of the Town's 8" water mains.

The MWRA has identified some concerns about the roadway construction as it relates to their 24" water main. Some sections of the main have been identified to be only 2 feet below the surface of the existing roadway and the MWRA has requested that MassDOT's contractor provide detailed analysis on the loads the proposed construction equipment will produce on the water main during construction. The development of this analysis is what has been preventing the project from progressing. Although the project plans were submitted to MWRA last year for review, the condition of the shallow water main was not identified by them until just recently. In order to get the project moving forward, the Town requested that the MWRA separate out the permit for the replacement of the Town's water main and they have accommodated us and approved the permit for that portion of the work.

MassDOT does not yet have a final schedule of when the water main replacement work will begin but we received a verbal confirmation from the contractor that they are looking to **begin the week of July 18th**. Initially, this work will involve the installation of temporary water mains to allow for the excavation and replacement of the Town's water mains. While this work progresses they anticipate finalizing the remaining permit requirements for the MWRA. Once the MWRA approves the complete project permit, the contractor will be able to begin the improvements to the roadway. Currently it is anticipated that roadway improvements will follow the water main replacement such that as the water work is halfway complete, roadway work will begin. Although a formal schedule has not yet been finalized, the Town has expressed its desire to have the water work complete and a uniform base course of pavement installed prior to the end of this construction season (October/November 2011). Feedback from the contractor on this request was positive with the comment that further delays due to unforeseen

conditions could jeopardize this goal. Final paving and sidewalk improvements would follow next spring.

Once a formal schedule is approved by MassDOT, the Town will post it online at arlingtonma.gov/dpwprojects. In addition, the Town will use this site to post updates on the project schedule (as they become available from MassDOT) as well as any other relevant project information.

Arlington DPW thanks you for your patience while we work to make this challenging and long overdue project a success.

Sincerely,

Michael Rademacher
Director of Public Works