

BROADVIEW SEWER & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS 10/19/11 Public Meeting Summary



The Broadview Sewer and Drainage Improvements Project meeting took place October 19, 2011 at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, at 13047 Greenwood Ave. N., Seattle, from 6:-00-8:00 p.m. Approximately 90 residents attended the meeting and a number of Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) staff members and SPU-hired consultants also were present.

6:00-6:30 was an open house format, with stations where the public could ask questions of staff and view: 1) maintenance map, 2) maps of known areas where flooding and sewer backups have been reported, 3) a backflow device, 4) and a model of the infiltration reduction pilot. The meeting went from 6:30-8:00, with staff remaining afterwards to answer any additional questions.

During the meeting, SPU gave an overview of the program goals, described the pilot projects, the bigger sewer and stormwater improvements project, and storm season preparation. Visit <http://www.seattle.gov/util/broadviewprojects> to view a copy of the presentations. After presenting each topic, SPU took questions from the audience, as summarized below.

12th Ave. Infiltration Pilot Project Presentation

Q: We are sealing sewer lines but won't this increase flows to Metro King County?

A: No, as we seal the sewer line we reduce the amount of "leaks" that can allow stormwater and groundwater to enter the system. So in the end we will be reducing the flows to the King County system.

Q: What is the life span of the process?

A. In Florida they have been using it for over 20 years and the systems are still operating without failure. Based on researching the process we believe that the process will last 50 years.

Q: If evaluations show success in the pilot area, what will be done in the rest of Broadview?

A: We are currently looking at sealing maintenance holes along 12th and 4th Avenues. If the pilot is successful we would look at additional locations in the basin as part of the bigger project.

Q: Have we qualified the impact of the project yet?

A: Yes, on a pipe by pipe basis we know that the infiltration rates have been greatly reduced. We are monitoring to gain a better understanding about the improvements the flood grouting brought to the part of the system that was part of the pilot.

Q: Stormwater is now not going into pipes; where is it going to go?

A: The groundwater flow across the basin is not anticipated to be significantly affected.

Q: Is the water really infiltration, not from inflow?

A: It is from both. This project is for infiltration (groundwater and/or stormwater getting into the sewer pipes); inflow reduction will be part of the bigger project.

Q: How much did the pilot cost, and how many homes were impacted?

A: \$1.1 million for 88 homes, but our hope is that the impacts are felt downstream as well.

Backflow Pilot Presentation

Q: What happens when flap gate closes, where does the house sewage go?

A: When the flap gate closes the house cannot flush anything or a backup would occur. Knife gate has a warning to inform homeowners that the gate is closed.

Q: Will home owners have input on locations, for maintenance?

A: Yes we will work with owners on locations.

Q: Is electricity needed for operation of the valves?

A: No, and the alarms utilize batteries.

Q: Are all the homes selected for the pilot project?

A: Yes

Q: If we are not in the pilot can we still get in if we have a problem?

A: Yes, if your home qualifies based on the established criteria. Please contact on project email box or phone number provided below.

Q: Are we only talking about the 2010 storm?

A: Yes for the pilot project we looked at the areas that were impacted from this storm event. These same homes may also have been impacted by other storms. That was a 25-50-year level of storm and the 25-year storm is the basis of our design standard in the city.

Q: Are you only looking at residential homes?

A: Yes so far that has been the focus. However if you live in a multi-family housing and have had sewer backups please contact our project email box or phone provided below to discuss.

Q: Have we tested the valve and confirmed that they will work?

A: Other municipalities have installed flap gate valves only. We are looking at installing higher quality knife gate valves at some locations as well.

Q: If several homes are on a single lateral line what can be done?

A: A backflow preventer will not work on the particular line you are mentioning; problems like this will be part of the bigger project.

Broadview Sewer and Stormwater Improvements Project Presentation

Q: There are flooding issues from 124th to 127th on 9th Ave; what will be done there?

A: Fill out our form telling us about the issue as a start, and we will look into it.

Q: What is the status of the Venema project?

A: We are currently evaluating the geotechnical information, planning to do additional soil monitoring throughout the winter to ensure that we have all the relevant information available for the final designs.

Q: With planning now going on, how much of the \$22 Million will be available for “action”?

A: The \$22Million is in the 2012 to 2018 budget. Q: How are claims being improved with SPU?

A: Rick Eilman of SPU does field investigation of SPU claims and works with the City’s claims department to continually improve the claims process.

Storm Season Preparation Presentation

Q: Can we get real time notification from the flow monitoring that the City is installing, to inform us of any problems?

A: The city will get back to the community to discuss if this is feasible.

Q: Is there a way to inform the public if their storms drains are connected to the sewer system?

A: Disconnection is a complicated topic and needs to be addressed block by block to ensure no harmful impact to adjacent neighbors; will look at as part of the bigger project.

General Questions

Q: How will projects be prioritized?

A: 1st phase will be to prevent back-ups into homes, 2nd phase will be to reduce the potential of sewer overflows into the Right of Ways, and the 3rd phase will be reduce the potential of sewer going into creeks.

Q: If we disconnect gutter and downspouts where will the flow go?

A: The bigger project will investigate this issue. We are not encouraging disconnects at this point in time because we want to work on where it can be done without downstream impacts to the basin.

Q: Who can we call to see how the drainage system is supposed to work in front of our house?

A: Department of Planning has a map of the drainage system and can provide some information. Also, as part of this project we can talk about this with concerned citizens.

Q: How to deal with springs in the basin?

A: The City addresses springs that directly impact city public drainage performance, but have had limited oversight if on private property. Please work with SPU to help properly identify the springs in the basin.

Q: Why not upsize drainage system to meet current needs?

A: We are looking at this as part of the planning efforts of the bigger project. However, rebuilding a completely new system is significantly cost preventative.

Q: Are you looking at retention upstream in the basin?

A: Yes we are looking at this as part of the project.

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