

# NOTICE OF UPCOMING WORK

April 24, 2015

## Emergency Water Main Replacement Work on Western Avenue Starting

*Ground settlement in Pioneer Square has put the 20-inch pipe at risk for breaking*

### PROJECT / DESCRIPTION:

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) will replace a large water main (20 inches in diameter) on Western Avenue from Yesler Way to Spring Street. Although the 110-year-old, cast iron pipe is generally very long-lived, it cannot tolerate the stress of shifting back and forth and is now at risk of breaking due to the ground settlement that has occurred in Pioneer Square.

The water main is located directly above the route of the SR 99 tunneling machine, which is expected to pass through the area in September 2015. SPU needs to complete this work before the tunneling starts again just in case more ground settlement occurs or the viaduct needs to be closed.

A new 24-inch steel water main will be installed that is able to tolerate additional ground settlement and built to withstand seismic activity. In the meantime, SPU has reduced the water flow of the pipe to minimize flooding impacts should there be a water main break before the replacement work is finished.

After the water main work is completed, Western Avenue and the impacted intersections will be temporarily paved. Final street restoration will be coordinated with the other construction projects in the area and may not occur until after the tunnel boring machine passes through the area.

### LOCATION:

Work will occur along Western Avenue from Yesler Way to Spring Street. At times, side streets to Western Avenue will also be affected.



## SCHEDULE:

**Preparatory work and potholing will start as early as Monday, April 27.** In May, crews will shut down the existing water main and install a temporary water system above ground along Western Avenue that will provide water services to customers until the project is complete. ***In order to perform this work, some customers will have their water temporarily shut off while crews switch over water services to the temporary line.*** SPU will notify affected customers in advance of the water shutdown and work with residents and businesses on a shutdown time that has the least impact on all customers.

Major construction will start in June and includes digging up the street and installing the new pipe. Crews will work block by block and expect to have the new water main installed and fully operational by September 2015.

## PROJECT IMPACTS

- **Temporary water shutdowns:** Some customers will experience temporary water shutdowns several times throughout the entire project. SPU will notify affected customers in advance of the water shutdown and work with residents and businesses to determine a shutdown time that has the least impact on all customers.
- **Lane and street closures:** Some lanes along Western Avenue will be closed when crews are working and the street may be fully closed to all vehicle traffic at times. Detour routes will be clearly signed and communicated.
- **Noise:** There will be noise from trucks and equipment used to dig up concrete.
- **Restricted parking:** Street parking near the active work zone will be reduced to accommodate construction. Visit [www.downtownseattleparking.com](http://www.downtownseattleparking.com) to find nearby garage parking.
- **Day and night work:** Crews will work during the day and night to complete work as quickly as possible. Night work will primarily include welding activities and require some lighting; Crews will perform the noisiest work (drilling, digging and removing concrete) during the day.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

SPU is moving through the planning, construction and community engagement process for this project faster than usual due to its emergency status. We are working to minimize the construction impacts to customers while ensuring the project is completed as soon as possible. Please contact us with questions.

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**Website:** [www.seattle.gov/util/WesternAveWatermain](http://www.seattle.gov/util/WesternAveWatermain)

Seattle Public Utilities provides essential services — pure mountain drinking water, recycling and composting that lead the nation, and sewer and drainage systems to protect our local waterways — that safeguard your health and our shared environment, and help keep Seattle the best place to live.