

# April 19, 2016

## Broadview Community Council briefing

### Summary

On Tuesday, April 19, 2016, SPU briefed the Broadview Community Council to provide updates on Broadview Program planning and proposed projects. The following are key questions from Broadview Community Council board members and Seattle Public Utilities' (SPU) responses.

### Key questions

- **SPU considered over a dozen options addressing sewer and drainage issues in Broadview last spring. None of these options, however, provided the neighborhood with enough value to balance high costs. How does SPU determine “value”? How does SPU do a cost-benefit analysis?**

SPU is committed to providing equitable service across the city. Our commitment in Broadview is to provide the greatest benefit possible consistent with all utility projects city-wide while staying within our approved, five-year budget.

When evaluating project options, SPU considers the social, financial, and environmental impacts of each option including construction-related traffic, community preferences and financial constraints. SPU also takes into consideration its stakeholders – such as Seattle residents and King County. When SPU evaluated different regional options, there was no single solution or “silver bullet” that would solve all of the drainage and sewer issues across the region. Additionally, those options ranged in cost from \$64 to \$112 million, which exceeds the available capital funding in the department’s Strategic Business Plan and five-year Capital Improvement Project budget.

Therefore, while SPU continues to study a possible long-term regional sewer option with King County, the project team is proposing two smaller, cost-effective projects. These projects will serve as important foundational pieces for future phases of work in Broadview. They will help provide some relief to highly impacted areas, drive down the cost of a regional option and will help us be more strategic in planning future work as well as our coordination with the county. Over time, it is more cost-effective for SPU and King County to build “at the source” solutions that keep stormwater out of the sewer system.

- **In 2011, SPU crews sealed mainlines and side sewers using flood grouting to reduce flows of stormwater into the system. How long do those repairs typically last?**

The lifespan of the flood grouting is estimated at about 20 years.

- **If stormwater flows are removed from the sanitary sewer system in Dayton, will those flows be pushed into the 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Basin and create issues for residents living there?**

No. Flows from the Dayton Basin move south into a different basin.

- **How is SPU collaborating with other departments and the community to make projects as most cost-effective/aesthetically pleasing as possible?**

SPU and the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) are working to improve project coordination efforts across the city. In Broadview, SDOT's Move Seattle levy earmarked \$8 million for the Broadview neighborhood over six years. SPU will aim to coordinate, co-locate and find efficiencies for partnership opportunities. SDOT will look at SPU's planned work in Broadview and how the two departments could provide shared benefits.

- **Are there opportunities for art or holistic design with SPU's sewer and drainage projects?**

We will continue to look for potential opportunities to engage the community throughout project initiation, planning and design. Oftentimes, buried-pipe (underground) projects don't present great opportunities for newer, more creative or aesthetic treatments of infrastructure. However, wherever possible, when planning green stormwater infrastructure, SPU's design teams will work with landscape architects and the community to enhance the public experience of capital projects.