



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **12.5.17**

#### **What is the Hillsborough Wastewater Consolidation Program?**

The Northwest Hillsborough Wastewater Consolidation Program consists of retiring two outdated wastewater treatment plants (Dale Mabry and River Oaks), expanding the Northwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility, and building new transmission pipelines and pump stations to transfer wastewater from the old plants to the expanded Northwest plant. New reclaimed water mains will return reclaimed water back to the service areas. When completed, the program will improve wastewater service, improve reliability and save money for all County customers. The River Oaks Diversion Project is one component of the overall program.

#### **What is the River Oaks Wastewater Diversion Project?**

The River Oaks Wastewater Plant Diversion Project will retire the River Oaks plant, located at Sheldon Road and Waters Avenue. The project includes constructing 4 miles of 30- and 36-inch diameter pipeline and a pump station to transfer wastewater flows from contributing service areas to the Northwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility. Additionally, the project includes constructing a 20-inch diameter reclaimed water transmission pipeline to return to reclaimed water to the area and improve reliability.

#### **Why is this project necessary?**

The River Oaks Wastewater Treatment Plant is over 55 years old, at the end of its useful life, and too costly to maintain and operate. By retiring the plant and consolidating treatment to the Northwest facility, the County can provide customers with more reliable service, protect the environment, save energy, and minimize future rate increases.

#### **When will construction begin and when will it be completed?**

Pipeline construction is planned to begin in 2018 and run through 2019. The River Oaks Wastewater Treatment Plant will be retired and removed in late 2020 or early 2021, after the Northwest facility has been expanded.

#### **Where will the pipelines be installed?**

New transmission pipelines will run from the River Oaks plant in Town 'N Country northeast along the Upper Tampa Bay Trail, then west along Linebaugh Avenue and north on Sheldon Road. On Sheldon Road and Linebaugh Avenue, pipelines will be installed primarily in the medians. This route was chosen after an extensive route study to determine a construction path that would have the least impact on traffic and residents.

**Will the installation of the pipelines be done in the middle of the roadway?**

Construction crews will install the new pipelines within trenches primarily in the existing median and tunnel under a major roadway intersection to minimize disruption of traffic flow. Inside lanes will be used for construction activities in various locations along the project corridor during non-rush hour periods. This will allow access for trucks to bring in pipes and other materials, and also to remove dirt as it is excavated.

**When are the construction hours?**

Construction activities will primarily occur on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Work is being scheduled to ensure that all through-lanes remain open during morning and afternoon drive times.

**Will there be lane closures?**

There will be some increased congestion and travel delays due to construction, but the County's traffic plan is designed to minimize impacts. First, no through-lane will be closed during morning and afternoon rush hours. Second, the contractor will keep as many through-lanes open as possible. If a through-lane must be closed, it will occur between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and will be clearly marked. Turn lanes will be intermittently closed where construction activities are occurring.

**How will traffic flow be maintained?**

Maintaining access to businesses and homes is a priority. The project team will work closely with local and state transportation authorities to develop maintenance of traffic plans that ensure the traveling public moves safely through the construction zone. Lane closures will be clearly marked and flaggers will help direct traffic. Emergency services will be notified by Hillsborough County in advance of detours and lane closures.

**Will there be night or weekend construction?**

Yes, some night and weekend work is expected, but most construction will take place during normal working hours. Night or weekend work will occur when certain construction operations must continue uninterrupted or when work could affect service. Night and weekend work will be kept to a minimum and will be announced in advance.

**Will there be construction equipment and materials in the roadway when crews are not working?**

Yes. Construction equipment and pipes will be stored in areas along the project corridor, sometimes within the inside lane and also on the outside shoulders in the right of way.

**Will construction activities block access to residential communities or businesses?**

Maintaining access to homes and businesses is a priority. The project team will work diligently to maintain full access where a single point of entry and exit exists. In limited areas with multiple entrance options, there may be temporary closures and detours for a limited time during construction.

**Will wetlands be impacted during pipeline construction near the Northwest Plant?**

During the project, some wetland areas will be affected, but will only be considered as temporary impacts and restored to existing conditions upon completion of construction activities. The ultimate goal is a net zero wetland impact.

**How will access to recreational activities at the Upper Tampa Bay Trail be affected?**

Access to a portion of the trail will be interrupted for several weeks as the pipelines are installed adjacent to the Upper Tampa Bay Trail. The affected area is a 1.1-mile stretch of the trail, running from the River Oaks plant northeast, parallel to the waterway up to Linebaugh Avenue. Recreational enthusiasts and trail goers will be kept up-to-date on any closures through the project website and via area bike, running and fitness group contacts.

**What else can be expected during construction?**

Residents can expect to hear construction noise near the River Oaks plant and along the project corridor from Town 'N Country to Westchase.

**What does demolition of the River Oaks plant entail?**

Demolition of the River Oaks facility will occur once the new wastewater main and pump station have been placed in service. After an operational start-up period, wastewater treatment facilities will be removed from the River Oaks site. A storage basin may remain for emergency use during heavy rains or hurricanes to prevent overflows and protect against discharge into Tampa Bay.

**Will demolition be noisy?**

Yes, the demolition process will produce noise during certain construction activities, but will be within the limits of the County's noise ordinance. Hydraulic hammers and crushers will be used to pulverize and recycle the concrete and metal material onsite. Some vibration from the machinery may be felt in homes and businesses near the site. The contractor will monitor noise and vibration at the property line to ensure they are within acceptable levels.

**Will there be additional traffic associated with demolition?**

Yes, there will be truck traffic to and from the plant to remove materials and also bringing in fill dirt to backfill below-grade tanks and structures as the site is renovated.

**What hours will crews work for demolition?**

Demolition crews will work Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**What will happen to the River Oaks site?**

Once wastewater treatment facilities are removed, a majority of the site will be left as a green space; a storage basin may remain for emergency use during heavy rains. The Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners will determine any future uses for the property.

**Where will the pump station be located?**

The pump station will be located on County Public Works property near Linebaugh Avenue and Sheldon Road.

**How much does this project cost?**

The design-build contract for the River Oaks Wastewater Plant Diversion Project is approximately \$28.5 million and is being funded through the County's Capital Improvement Program.

**How will you keep the community informed?**

Hillsborough County is committed to an open dialogue with the community. County and project staff will provide information as the project progresses. You can visit [HCFLgov.net/WWC](http://HCFLgov.net/WWC) to learn more about the project or sign up for email announcements. You can also call Hillsborough County Customer Service at (813) 272-5275 or contact contractor project community liaison Darren Alfonso at 813-957-3208 or [Darren@alfonsocommunications.com](mailto:Darren@alfonsocommunications.com).