



CITY OF TAMPA

Pam Iorio, Mayor

Office of the Mayor

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Pipeline Construction Heading to Downtown Tampa

Tampa, Fla. (September 30, 2009) – Downtown Tampa's aging water pipelines will soon be replaced as construction crews prepare to install new lines in locations throughout Downtown. Construction of the Downtown Pipeline Replacement Project is scheduled to begin in October and will take 16 months to complete.

The project will replace six miles of Downtown Tampa pipelines, some of which are 100 years old or more. The new 12-inch diameter pipelines will alleviate pressure problems and service interruptions associated with aging pipelines, improving water service reliability, increasing water pressure and improving fire protection for Downtown businesses and residents.

The construction schedule for October affects the following areas: Florida Avenue, beginning at Jackson Street and moving north to Cass Street; Nebraska Avenue, beginning at Channelside Drive and moving north to Washington Street; Jackson Street, beginning at Jefferson Street and moving east to Nebraska Avenue; and Cass Street from Jefferson Street to Nebraska Avenue will be closed in both directions.

Tunneling crews will also be working at the intersections of Florida and Kennedy, Florida and Madison, and Jackson and Nebraska. Construction schedules for the remainder of 2009 can be found at the project website, tampa-ucap.com, under Downtown Pipeline Replacement Project.

The \$17.7 million dollar Downtown Pipeline Replacement Project is partially funded by a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The project is one component of the City's Utility Capital Improvement Projects (UCAP), an important pipeline program designed to improve reliability and service by replacing the City's aging water and wastewater pipelines. CH2M HILL will oversee construction.

To minimize inconvenience to Downtown businesses, commuters, residents and visitors, the construction approach will be similar to all UCAP projects, where a "three week block" active work area for trench installation is planned. At certain intersections, tunneling technology will affect traffic patterns for short periods during construction. Construction over the next 16 months will be coordinated around significant events and performances. The City's contractor is working with local businesses and residents to provide advance notice of construction. The City will place variable message boards and other temporary signs Downtown to provide advance notice of road closures and detours.

Project inspectors wearing blue vests and blue hardhats will be located in the construction areas to work with businesses and residents directly affected by construction.

The public can stay up to date on the project by visiting tampa-ucap.com. Questions or comments should be directed to the UCAP hotline at (813) 777-9222. For additional information, please contact Wendy Nero with CH2M HILL at (813) 874-0777.

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