
CITY OF BIDDEFORD, MAINE

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Lincoln Street Construction Update: Work Will Improve Water Quality and Downtown Walkability

BIDDEFORD — The upcoming phase of construction on Lincoln Street will contribute to the City of Biddeford’s efforts to separate sewer lines throughout the city and improve downtown walkability.

In a previous phase of downtown upgrades in 2011, the City completed sewer separation from Elm Street to Main Street. Additional work completed in 2016 separated the sewer in the intersection of Lincoln, Main and Adams Streets as well as along the section of Main Street from Adams to Washington Street ahead of Maine Department of Transportation work and sidewalk work in the downtown. At that time, a stub from the sewer manhole on Main Street was also installed to connect to Lincoln Street in preparation of the construction that is set to begin this week.

As City Engineer Tom Milligan explained, the sewer separation process will convert the old combined, single-pipe system into separate sewers for wastewater and storm water flows. With this new method, storm water will be discharged directly into receiving water, while wastewater will be treated before discharge. This improves the quality of water for city residents as a whole.

“The new two-pipe system helps reduce Combined Sewer Outflow during heavy rainstorms when the collection systems piping exceeds its capacity,” Milligan said. “The previous one-pipe system led to a combination of wastewater and storm water overflow draining into bodies of water, which causes contamination.”

This Fall 2018 phase of the sewer separation work prepares for future sewer upgrades by installing a force main under Lincoln Street for use in the future sewer separation of lower Elm Street near the Route 1 bridge and to provide sewer service to the City-owned lot at 3 Lincoln Street.

In addition to sewer upgrades, the project will also continue ongoing downtown revitalization work with sidewalk replacement, installation of LED lighting, crosswalks, and curbing. Utilities will also be installed underground to match the underground utilities on Main Street. These street upgrades are consistent with recent improvements from the Main Street Sidewalk Improvement Program that aim to provide a cleaner, safer, and more walkable downtown for pedestrians and city residents. Future phases of this work will be continued on Main Street from Adams to Elm.

Updates on the status of the project will be posted under the Citywide Updates tab on www.biddefordmaine.org. Additional questions can be directed to the Public Works Department at 282-1579 or the Engineering Office at 284-9118.

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