

Authorized Adjustment 2023 Downtown Project

The City Council met in emergency session on Friday May 5th to discuss unanticipated findings related to the existing watermain uncovered during the start downtown construction. The Council voted to adjust the 2023 Downtown Improvement Project scope to include replacement of watermain, services within the right of way (as needed), and associated components. The expanded scope will not increase projected property owner assessments.



Comparison of new curb box (left) to curb box from 2023 project (right)

The Council made the decision after examining the severely deteriorated condition of existing watermain and curb boxes. The excessive corrosion and deterioration is potentially the result of corrosive soil and de-icing products used on downtown sidewalks and roadways. To minimize susceptibility to corrosion in the future, replacement watermain will be PVC and curb boxes will be protected with a gasketed cover when located in concrete.

The City budgets annually for watermain improvements and has reserves to cover the unanticipated expense without negatively impacting the City's financial position. How or if the approved change will potentially impact the project schedule is not known at this time. However, it appears needed materials are in supply and there may be some upside to not having to work around existing watermain.

Property owners and businesses within the project area will soon receive information on a changeover to temporary water service. The City will attempt to minimize disruption and provide adequate lead time to property owners and businesses. Property owners and businesses are encouraged to contact Project Engineer Cory Bienfang by emailing bpdowntown2023@bolton-menk.com or calling 507-995-2936 with questions.



The crack found in watermain that resulted in emergency water shut-off



Ductile iron watermain in project area corroded down to concrete pipe liner

