West Rosemary Street Water Main Replacement Project
First Community Meeting: June 18, 2025, Chapel Hill Public Library, Meeting Room A, 2 to 3 p.m.
OWASA Staff: Bri Carter, Katie Hall, Steve Bailey, Darren Berger
McKim & Creed Staff: Jacob Bowes
Total attendance: 25 (audience)

Meeting Survey Summary:

Concerns expressed on surveys collected from those in attendance included:

- access for emergency vehicles
- sediment or minerals in water during or after water main replacement
- traffic
- parking
- noise
- fire protection
- access to businesses
- water service continuity
- dust/air pollution
- noise on streets
- pedestrian impediments
- dirt and mud on streets,
- impediments to cyclists

Questions and Comments left on submitted surveys:

Q: What's the cost of the project?
A: $8.28 Million

Q: Who pays for the project?
A: OWASA pays for the project was budgeted into OWASA's Capital Improvement Projects budget. Rates and fees for OWASA services all go back to the operation and improvement of our community's water and sewer infrastructure.

Q: Can you recommend a temporary filtration system to minimize sediment in system
A: Each system offers its own benefits. Contact a plumber to evaluate the infrastructure entering your home and help identify the best filtration system.

Q: Will water main size change?
A: No, we are replacing a 12-inch line with a 12-inch line.

Q: Will hydrants have "storz" connection?
A: Yes, this is now OWASA's standard hydrant connection.

Notes from 6/18/25 Community Meeting:

- A representative from the Chamber for a Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro asks if the contractor can open sections of the road under construction for all traffic when the workers aren't active—for example, covering open areas of road with steel plates over the weekend? OWASA and McKim and Creed project managers explained that if work is delayed for an extended periods the contractor may open sections while work is not underway. They also explained that peak traffic times, like UNC's move-in weekend and major UNC athletics weekends.

- A meeting participant from the community expressed concerns about pavement being replaced properly after the project. McKim and Creed project consultant Jacob Bowes answered that temporary pavement will be used during the project to maximize accessibility; at the end of the project, the entire road will be repaved.

- A meeting participant inquired about any potential sanitary sewer impacts. Project managers responded that some areas of sanitary sewer are undersized and will be replaced during this project.

- A participant asked about continuity of service for water and sewer. Project managers explained that a temporary water main will be put into service at the start of the project to provide reliable water service throughout the water main replacement project.

- A meeting participant representing the Chamber for a Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro asked if it would be possible to have one contact for the project for all. OWASA staff explained that Darren Berger, the project manager, will be the prime contact for the project. Darren's contact information is on the project homepage at owasa.org/rosemary.

- A meeting participant who is a resident on Pritchard Avenue asked how many times water will be off during the project. Project managers answered that there will be two water service changes—first to connect customers to the temporary line, and then to permanent line. Loss of water service with each change will last 1 to 3 hours.

- A representative from The Addition (Apartments) expressed concern about parking access to residents. Project managers explained that sometimes one access to parking lots will be closed but they will remain accessible through other accesses.

- Residents of the Greenbridge facility recalled a previous project in which it seemed that sediment got into water lines during the project. They indicated they have experience with pipes corroding and clogging and relate this to OWASA projects. These residents request flushing directions and advice, like how remove and replace aerators. Project managers explained that minerals naturally occurring in water build up in pipes over the years, and these are disturbed during water line repairs and replacements, but are not harmful.

- Greenbridge participants inquired as to whether there will be a difference in water pressure during and after the water main replacement. Project managers indicated it is more likely that water pressure could be improved after the project is complete.

- A meeting participant inquired as to whether fire hydrants will be working. Project managers responded that water hydrants will be hooked up to the temporary main during project, keeping service available throughout the project

- A meeting participant inquired as to whether there could be road closure blackout dates. Project managers explained that the Contractor will time water shut-offs for a suitable time for businesses; for example, they will not cut restaurants off during lunch or dinner peak, or coffee or bagel shops off during breakfast hours.

- A meeting participant representing the Chamber for a Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro asked if there can be road closure blackout dates, like move in weekend, holidays and football games. This participant also asked if OWASA contractors can do all this work at night in certain areas to avoid business disruption, to which the answer is “no”. The participant further wanted to know if the contractor can schedule which phases of project are do active ne what time of year, to which the answer is “maybe”. Project managers explained that while we do have blackout dates in the contract, the contractor cannot do night work (allowable dates and time of day are determined by Town of Chapel Hill). While the contractor will have 18 total months schedule phases to be certain times of year- contractor will determine.

- A representative from 140 West (shopping and dining plaza) expressed concern about potential damage to other utilities and asked what recourse there is for restoring any damaged utilities. Project managers explained that all other utilities have been clearly marked, and OWASA is already very familiar with their locations due to decades of previous work in the area.

- Representatives from 140 West and Greenbridge expressed concerns about their parking decks and loading docks, and whether residents and customers can become “boxed in” by street closures and /or construction barriers. Project managers explained there could be up to 8 hours per day in which

the deck blockage may require you enter the deck from a different entrance—but that both entrances will not be blocked

- A meeting participant representing a W. Rosemary Street business asked whether pedestrians who park in parking lots could be blocked from entry. Project managers explained that patrons parking to visit W. Rosemary businesses may have to walk further, but they will be offered parking within a reasonable radius of businesses.

- A representative from the Chamber for a Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro asked if road and pedestrian closures can be set as close to construction as possible (e.g., not extended from construction site). Project managers explained that there are legal requirements for minimum pedestrian and road closures around construction for safety reasons.

Next Community Meeting

The next community meeting about W. Rosemary Street will be held in August. To ensure you're on the contact list for W. Rosemary Water Main Replacement project updates, contact OWASA Public Information Officer Katie Hall at khall@owasa.org919-537-4236