

# Hampton Roads Sanitation District steps up pace on Newport News sewer project



HRSD is beginning work on a \$8 million sewer project along Menchville Rd. Work includes signposting and digging at Boxley Blvd and going up towards the high school; from Riverview Farm heading towards Mechnville and on Warwick, where they could be starting to dig pits for boring work under the road near the Boxley intersection.



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**T**he Hampton Roads Sanitation District is stepping up work on a major project to replace a four-decades old line in northern Newport News.

The \$8 million project involves installing nearly 2 miles of 42-inch-diameter sanitary sewer pipe along Warwick Boulevard between Scufflefield Road and Boxley Boulevard, along Boxley from Warwick to Menchville Road, and down Menchville and Riverview Parkway to Riverview Farm.

"This effort, which replaces a pipeline built in the 1970s, will reduce the likelihood of a pipeline failure, improve system operation, increase capacity and enhance HRSD's ability to protect public health and the environment

for decades to come," said sanitation district spokeswoman Nancy Munnikhuisen.

When completed in September 2017, the new line will replace one that runs directly from the Warwick-Scufflefield intersection to Riverview.

The district's contractor, Basic Construction, started working in the spring along Riverview, installing pipe on the median between that street and Old Menchville Road.

This month, Basic is installing a pipe under Warwick, beginning next to Med Express and working toward the median, according to its latest construction update notifications. The work is expected to take about one month.

Munnikhuisen said the contractor will be using the jack-and-bore method to cross Warwick — basically, digging pits on the side of the road and drilling a tunnel between them with a jackhammer-like boring machine. The technique avoids the need to dig a trench and, while it can cause vibration that can be felt on the surface, does not disturb soil or paving above the tunneling work, engineering experts say.

In addition, Basic will this month begin installing pipe along Menchville, working from the Boxley Boulevard intersection toward Menchville High School.

The aim is to install about 300 feet of pipe at a time, to minimize the impact on traffic and on the neighborhood.

"HRSD has been working with the city to minimize traffic disruption in this heavily traveled corridor while these large sewer pipes are installed," said Newport News Director of Engineering Everett Skipper.

There will be traffic detours on Menchville, near the intersection with Boxley, and lane closings on Boxley when work proceeds there, although the plan is to maintain two-way traffic flow there. A lane on the east side of Warwick also will be closed during work hours.

The city is allowing a temporary connection from Old Menchville Road to Menchville Road to detour traffic, as well.

During construction, Basic will make sure residents have access to their homes and that at least one entrance to businesses will be maintained, according to a sanitation district briefing paper.

The district said the project is a necessary part of a larger effort required by the federal government to reduce overflow of sewage when heavy rains hit the area.

The work will not affect water or sewer service, the briefing paper stated.

The project is part of a continuing series of regional sewer improvements.

It is the first of three phases of a effort that will total \$16.5 million to modernize the line feeding the sanitation district's **James River** Treatment plant on City Farm Road. The district plans to award a contract for work

along Warwick Boulevard later this month, and the third segment, running along Riverview Parkway to the treatment plant will be advertising for bids in the fall.

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