



News Release

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HRSD to plant 170 trees in Warwick Boulevard median from City Center Boulevard to Oyster Point Road after new pipeline is completed —Project to protect public health and area waterways will also provide attractive new plantings—

Residents who travel Warwick Boulevard between Peninsula Memorial Park and Boxley Boulevard will soon see workers mobilizing for the construction of another segment of a critically needed new HRSD pipeline. One of the first activities motorists will notice is the removal of holly and crape myrtle trees in the median where the 42-inch pipeline is to be installed. Tree removal is scheduled to begin November 1 and will take place in two phases. HRSD will be restoring the area by planting 170 new trees after the pipeline is completed. The new plantings will extend from City Center Boulevard to Oyster Point Road.

HRSD prefers to protect existing landscaping when undertaking projects in developed areas. However, after working closely with the city to identify a route for the new pipeline, it became apparent that locating the pipeline in the median and restoring the landscaping would be the best option for this heavily traveled corridor. This strategy will also prevent prolonged traffic delays for commuters.

City staff recommended the number, types and location of trees that will be planted as well as the mulch to be used. Plans call for the installation of 70 Muskogee Crape Myrtles, 24 Hightower Willow Oaks, 22 Chinese Pistaches, 14 Brandywine Red Maples, 30 Bosque Lacebark Elms and 10 Regal Prince Columnar Oaks, generating a more aesthetic, diverse and sustainable plant palette than the existing landscape. HRSD will hire an experienced landscaping contractor to accomplish the planting at the seasonally optimal time of year and will provide a plant warranty to ensure successful establishment.

Identifying a pipeline location in developed areas is a challenging task. Because the old pipelines must remain in service so treatment can continue while a new pipeline is built, a different alignment is usually required. The ideal route avoids existing homes and businesses as well as other underground utilities such as gas, water, cable and power lines. On major roadways, such as Warwick Boulevard, it is also essential to minimize traffic back-ups. Therefore, the preferred routes do not require extended lane closures or detours. The ability to construct a new pipeline safely and later access it for maintenance and repairs without inconveniencing the public is also critical. Consideration of all these factors led to the decision to use the median for this project required to replace a pipeline built in the 1970s.

More information about this project and other HRSD construction efforts can be found on HRSD's website, www.hrsd.com. Click on the link of interest under Construction Status.

HRSD Vision: Future Generations will inherit clean waterways and be able to keep them clean.

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