

Scott Hedlund

From: Scott Hedlund
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2023 8:27 PM
To: Scott Hedlund
Subject: From the City of Baxter - 5/5/2023 Project Construction Update #1 for the 2023 Cypress Drive & Douglas Fir Drive Improvements project
Attachments: Project Update No. 1 - May 2023.pdf

Project Stakeholders,

My name is Scott Hedlund. I'm the contracted project manager/engineer with Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc (SEH) for the City of Baxter's 2023 Cypress Drive and Douglas Fir Drive Improvements project. I, or one of my colleagues, will be sending regular project updates like this during active construction.

Attached is the first project construction update. In it there is project team contact information, an updated project schedule for May, and answers to frequently asked questions. The attachment was also mailed to property owners adjacent to the project today. **Note, future project construction updates will be by email and project website postings only.**

Project Website → <https://www.sehinc.com/baxter2023cypress>

5/5/2023 Project Status & Traffic Control

- **The City's prime contractor for this project, Kraemer Trucking & Excavating, Inc (KTE), has advised they will be starting some lower disruption construction activity on Monday, May 8th.** This work will consist of targeted removals mainly to facilitate private utility relocation work, mostly off of the existing roadways, and will be completed under traffic. Private utility companies (electric, gas, communications) will be completing relocation work in and around the project limits the week of May 8th as well. Their work is anticipated to be ongoing through May.
- KTE has further advised that the first of two main construction phases (Phase 1) is planned to begin on or around May 30th. This work will impact local traffic patterns. KTE and their subcontractors will be working at the Hinckley Road/ Douglas Fir Drive intersection, and on Cypress Drive between Hinckley Road and College Road with Phase 1. A notice of the corresponding road closures will be sent out closer to the start date.
- Throughout the project KTE and their subcontractors will be working on the future road corridors of Douglas Fir Drive south of Hinckley Road and Cypress Drive between Hinckley Road and Highland Scenic Road (CSAH 48). These areas are off of existing roads and will not directly affect traffic.
- Phase 2 of construction, that includes a planned 50-day closure of Highland Scenic Road (CSAH 48), in order to construct a roundabout at Cypress Drive, is planned to occur some time between Memorial Day and Labor Day. There will be a posted detour route for this work.
- Overall project completion of construction is planned for October 2023.

Please convey this information to others in your organization, co-workers, customers, tenants, etc. Please forward me any additional email addresses you'd like me to include on future project updates.

Thank you,

Scott D. Hedlund, PE (MN, LA), PMP
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Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.
612.865.3509 mobile

2023 Cypress Drive & Douglas Fir Drive Improvements Baxter, Minnesota

Project Update



BAXTE 168390

Project Team

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BAXTER



"A Growing Community"



May 2023 | Project Update No. 1

Hello and welcome to the *2023 Cypress Drive & Douglas Fir Drive Improvements Project Update*. In this issue, we will be updating you on the project team, status, and help answer frequently asked questions. If you wish to receive future Project Updates via email, please provide your email to Scott Hedlund at shedlund@sehinc.com.

This Project Update will be the only paper update issued. All future project updates will be ELECTRONIC ONLY by email or the project website.

Project Website: <https://www.sehinc.com/baxter2023cypress>

The project team consists of the City of Baxter, SEH, WIDSETH, and Kraemer Excavating, Inc. SEH and WIDSETH are the local engineering firms that will serve as the contact between the contractors and residents/property owners. All general project questions should initially be directed to SEH.

Alex Bitter, WIDSETH's Construction Engineer, will have a team of project representatives on-site during active construction to observe project progress. **Once active construction starts, Alex Bitter will be the fastest link to problem solving because he communicates directly with everyone on the construction team on a daily basis.** Do not hesitate to contact Alex B. at 218.316.3627 with any questions you may have. If you are unable to reach Alex B. in the field, please contact Scott Hedlund at 612.865.3509 or Alex Voit at 218.821.0085 in the SEH office.

Project Status and Schedule

The City of Baxter publicly bid the project and awarded the construction contract in April to the low bidder Kraemer Trucking & Excavating, Inc. (KTE) of Cold Spring, MN. Kraemer Trucking & Excavating is the General Contractor responsible for the overall project.

You have probably noticed private utility companies (electricity, natural gas, telephone, cable TV, etc.) marking their private utilities and working in the project area already. This will continue throughout the construction process. Relocation of private utilities is necessary to avoid construction conflicts with proposed street and public utility construction. There are significant private utility relocation and upgrade efforts anticipated and underway for this project.

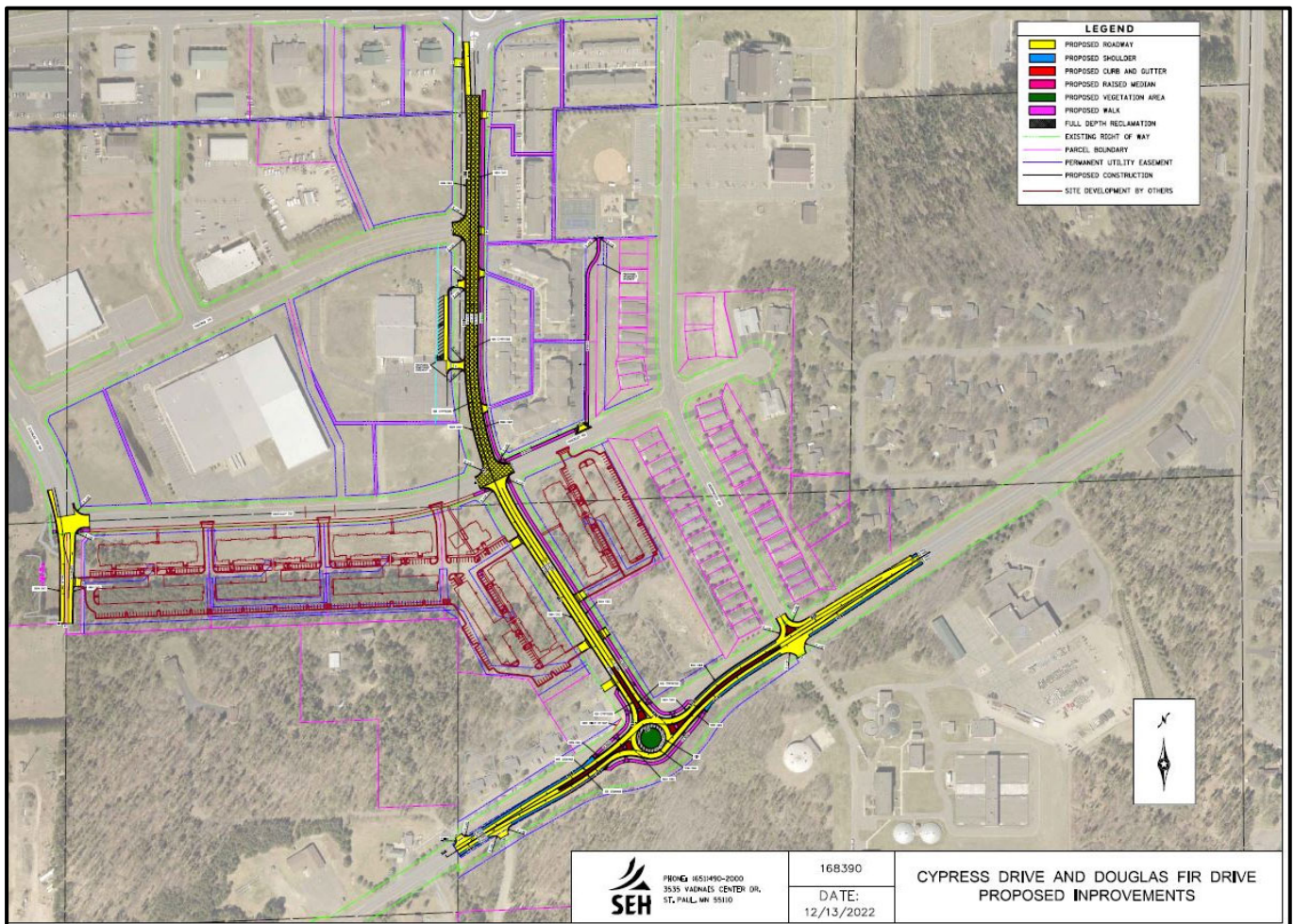
Utility relocation work is anticipated to begin the week of May 8th and is expected to continue into June. Any service interruption will be communicated by them. Note, the City and Kraemer Trucking & Excavating do not direct or control the operations for these private utilities

To assist with the utility relocation activities, KTE plans to have a crew on site beginning May 8th to perform some miscellaneous removals including targeted trees, stumps, portions of driveways and parking lots along existing Cypress Drive, and narrow width crossings of Hastings and Hinckley Roads. The main road construction work is planned to begin on May 30th, focusing on Douglas Fir Drive south of Hinckley Road and Cypress Drive north of Hinckley. Note, all construction activity and schedule is subject to change and the weather.

Description of Project

The project consists of the construction and expansion of Cypress Drive from College Road to Highland Scenic Road (CSAH 48), the construction of a roundabout on Highland Scenic Road, the expansion of Douglas Fir Drive from Hinckley Road to approximately 350 south, and the construction of a multi-use bituminous trail along Cypress Drive and from the intersection of Cypress Drive and Hinckley Road to Berrywood Park. Municipal sewer and water mains as well as storm sewer system improvements are also included. See the Figure below for the project location.

Project Location



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *What kind of activity can I expect during construction?*

A: Construction is tedious, and we understand it can get old quickly. At times, it may even seem like not much is getting done. Remember, patience is the biggest asset that each of you bring to the job. If you keep in mind the fact that this project will be completed, hopefully construction will seem to go faster for you!

In addition to the General Contractor, there will be several subcontractors working at various times on site. There will also be private utility companies (gas, cable television, telephone, and electric) on the site locating, moving, and or replacing existing lines. Please bear with us, the General Contractor has a fixed amount of time to get the work done, and we will be working with all parties involved to help see that this time commitment is met.

Q: *What will be done about construction dust?*

A: The contract provides for the Contractor to spread water on the road to help keep dust from creating an unsafe environment. However, this is an imperfect solution and will not solve the problem completely.

Q: *What will happen to the landscaping, fences, or planters that are on the boulevards?*

A: The Contractor will generally salvage any special landscaping located within the right-of-way and will place it on your property. If you wish to have material placed in a certain area, please let us know in advance and we will try to accommodate you. The Contractor will not reinstall any landscaping removed from the right-of-way or easement areas.

Q: *What will happen to my irrigation/sprinkler system during construction?*

A: Due to nature of the project, it is anticipated there may be impacts to irrigation systems adjacent to project streets and trails. **Property owners who have an irrigation system are encouraged to contact Alex Bitter to inquire on potential impacts.** It may be necessary to temporarily remove a portion of your irrigation system within the public right-of-way or public easement area. In most cases, the City and Contractor will restore any damaged components to irrigation systems in conjunction with turf restoration work near the end of the project.

Q: *How will the turf areas disturbed by construction be restored?*

A: The Contractor will repair the disturbed areas of your yard/property with topsoil and seed or in some cases sod. It is essential that you water the new seed/sod regularly to help it establish. The Contractor is required to water and maintain the seed/sod for a short period of time after it has been placed to ensure growth. Most Contractors do this with a tanker truck and hose, which means water is applied quickly in one or two passes every few days. The Contractor will give you a product that will grow, but it will not be perfect. It is essential that you water the new seed/sod regularly if you want a lush, green, well established lawn.

Q: *What about my garbage and recycling during construction?*

A: You will continue to place your garbage and recycling containers at the usual location as normal until further notice. The General Contractor will collect and get them as necessary to a location the garbage and recycling company can dispose of the items. If moved, Contractor will then bring your container back to your regular location.

Q: *How will I receive my mail during construction (not applicable for PO boxes)?*

A: At this time, we are not anticipating any changes in your mail service during construction since there aren't mailboxes by the streets in the project area.

URGENT

**IMMEDIATE
ATTENTION NEEDED**

Special Information

It is very important that anyone with special needs or disabilities contact us as soon as possible. We are in the process of working with emergency response organizations to locate any properties that may have a special need, so we are fully aware of the issues throughout construction and if quick response is needed to any specific property(s), there is a plan in place. Contact Alex Bitter with WiDSETH at 218.316.3627.



Preservation of Construction Stakes and Utility Flags We need your help!

Please do not remove any wooden stakes you will see temporarily placed on the boulevards. These stakes are used by the Contractor to construct the project and are expensive to replace.

Also, please do not remove or relocate the colored utility location flags. These flags, in conjunction with the spray paint markings on the ground, are necessary for the Contractor to locate buried utilities. We understand these flags may be unsightly and difficult to mow around, but we need your help to protect the construction crews and residents/employees/patrons in your neighborhood.

Your help in keeping bystanders away from the construction area will ensure the project will progress safely.

Construction Zone

Detour, barricade, road closure signs will be installed throughout the project area to protect motorists during construction. Please pay careful attention to these construction signs. "Road Closed" and "Detour" signs are used where the road is impassable and closed to all traffic except for the Contractor's equipment or officially authorized vehicles. "Road Closed to Thru Traffic" signs are used where through traffic must detour to avoid a closure some distance beyond the sign, but where local traffic can move up to the point of closure. In this instance, local traffic would be defined as residential/business traffic from the particular street under construction.

There will also be times during construction that direct access to your driveway will be limited, particularly when underground utilities and storm sewer is being installed, the road is being subcut, when concrete is being placed and is curing, and when fresh, hot bituminous is being constructed. Access to your property is important to us, and the Contractor will work to minimize those times that access must be limited.

As the Contractor's operations move during the course of construction, you may observe that signs and barricades move as well. We understand this may be frustrating! Please allow extra time in your schedule as you drive through the construction zone. Please advise your family and guests to exercise caution and safe driving speeds. Be sure workers and heavy equipment operators see you before driving around them.

Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.
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«NAME_1»
«NAME_2»
«ADDRESS»
«CSZ»

Project Update

**2023 Cypress Drive & Douglas Fir Drive Improvements
Baxter, Minnesota**

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