

Somerset Borough Construction Update



Somerset Borough is undergoing significant infrastructure upgrades to replace out-dated utilities and reduce maintenance for the future. These projects are ongoing throughout the Borough and will ultimately result in water, sewer, and gas line upgrades in Somerset Borough. In order to maximize the work done to make these necessary improvements, Somerset Borough has overseen a coordinated effort with the aim of reducing the time and cost of construction for the general public. Currently, there are four construction projects underway and two PennDOT Paving Projects.

According to Borough Manager, Michele Enos, “Most of these improvements have been years in the making, stretching funding and working with private partners like Columbia Gas to make updates in a coordinated effort to reduce the overall costs. We know the crews are continually moving from street to street. The process involves installing new main water lines which are then tested and inspected. During the testing period the crews move on to a new area and when the testing is complete and we receive DEP approval, they move back to finish the project area by connecting the customer’s service line. Because of the limited construction season, they continue to move forward as to not waste time or money and to complete the project as quickly as possible. This is why the construction and traffic patterns can change frequently. We appreciate the public’s patience as we continue to complete as much work as possible with the goal of improving the infrastructure in Somerset Borough for the long term.”

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The first project: Municipal Authority of the Borough of Somerset Waterline Replacement Project with a scope that includes replacing approximately 47,000 feet of underground piping and service lines. There are approximately 468 customers that will receive new service lines as well as their meters relocated from inside their home to the outside newly installed meter pits. There is additional information including project scope on this project located on the Borough’s website. For updated information please check out their website at: www.somersetborough.com and/or their Facebook page at: Borough of Somerset | Somerset PA | Facebook or call the Borough at 814-443-2661. This project is projected to continue through 2024.

The second project: Columbia Gas Pipeline Replacement Project with a scope including replacing approximately 14,650 linear feet of underground piping and service lines. Please check the Borough’s website for additional information regarding the streets affected and additional information on that project. The project mainline and service work is projected to wrap up by the end of 2023 with final restoration to carryover into the Spring/Summer of 2024.

The third project: The South Center Ave Sidewalk Replacement Project is a grant funded project that will update the utilities and provide a much needed replacement of sidewalks to the portion of South Center Ave from Patriot Street to Main Street. Effective immediately, any construction to take place in the northbound travel lane of North Center Ave and the intersection of Main Street will be completed during the evening hours of 7:00 PM to 5:00 AM. This work is scheduled for the week of October 9th, 2023 and is planned to take approximately a week. This entire project, with construction mainly contained to the S. Center block between Main Street and Patriot Street is expected to be

complete by Summer of 2024. The Borough is working on securing grant funding to complete the North Center Avenue Sidewalk Replacement Project between Main Street and Union Street. More will be released on that project once funding is secured. These projects are in alignment with the W. Main Street Improvement project completed in 2019 and aim to preserve the character of Uptown Somerset, making necessary utility upgrades, and improve economic opportunity for the long term.

The fourth project: Church Street Culvert Rehabilitation Project involves the rehabilitation to the existing structure due to advance deterioration. The construction on this project is scheduled to be completed by the end of October 2023.

The PennDOT Resurfacing Projects include Franklin Ave and Edgewood Ave. This paving is to be completed by the end of October 2023. Please check the Borough's website for an updated schedule. There is a map on the Borough's website indicating the paving limits.

These projects are a necessary investment to our community's utility infrastructure. Somerset Borough thanks everyone for their patience and understanding during this construction. Somerset Borough is working on keeping the contractors' weekly schedules updated on their website and Facebook Page.

In an effort to reduce the burden to community visitors and residents, Somerset Borough has committed to provide free parking in uptown Somerset effective immediately and continuing through to February 2024. On their website, you will find a map of all Somerset Borough parking lots. Please note that the two-hour parking is still being enforced.

According to Jessica Sizemore, Municipal Authority Manager, "Somerset Borough is appreciative of all of the extra strides our residents, bus companies, business owners, and visitors are making to support the community through this exciting but tedious improvement project. We are doing the best we can to minimize the inconvenience of the construction and maximize the work completed. We look forward to the completion of Somerset Borough's utility improvement projects and the benefits of this effort to impact decades of Somerset Borough community members."

October 12th, 2023