



NEWS RELEASE

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SEWER REPAIR PROJECT MOVES TOWARD AURARIA CAMPUS

DENVER, July 28 — Metro Wastewater Reclamation District is moving westward along Speer from the Auraria Campus to Wewatta Street with a major sewer rehabilitation project that could impact traffic along Speer Boulevard for about the next eight weeks.

The project will include work along Speer from the Auraria Campus by the North Classroom Building west to Wewatta Street near the Pepsi Center, with an anticipated completion date of mid-September.

Up to two lanes of traffic on Speer could be closed periodically between Larimer and Wewatta for the next eight weeks.

A sidewalk closure is also anticipated along southbound Speer between Larimer and Lawrence. Pedestrians will be rerouted around the construction zone.

Metro is using a rehabilitation method called 'cured-in-place' that allows the existing sewer pipes to be repaired by inserting a liner into the pipe while it's in the ground.

The project also requires a bypass pipe to be inserted into the existing interceptor sewer upstream of the section being rehabilitated. For this part of the project, that bypass pipe will go into a manhole next to Speer Blvd. between Lawrence and Larimer. It will be laid along the side of Cherry Creek, and a ramp will be built over the bypass where it crosses the bike trail.

Some noise from generators and other machinery will also be associated with the work. Once the liner insertion process starts on a section of pipe, it must continue until it is finished.

The Metro District regrets this inconvenience, but it is necessary to rehabilitate this vital part of metro Denver's infrastructure in a timely manner to prevent more costly and disruptive repairs later.

The District plans to spend about \$1.3 billion on capital improvements over the next 10 years, with \$128 million going toward sewer improvements. The estimated price tag for this rehabilitation project is \$8.6 million.

The Metro District treats about 140 million gallons of wastewater a day and is the largest wastewater treatment agency in the Rocky Mountain West. It serves 1.6 million people in a 615-square mile service area that includes Denver, Arvada, Aurora, Lakewood, part of Westminster, Wheat Ridge, and Thornton, along with about 40 sanitation and water and sanitation districts in the metropolitan Denver area.

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