

High Zone Transmission Main Project Nearing Completion

As residents of Horseshoe Bay may know, the City's Utilities Department, along with Nelson Lewis, Inc. (the contractor hired by the City), has been working to improve water distribution and supply between the Central Water Plant and West Water Plant service areas.

The High Zone Transmission Main, as the project is known, is a pipeline measuring 16 inches in diameter that will be used in the City's water distribution system to transport water from the Central Low Zone to the Summit Rock Elevated Storage Tank, which is connected to the Horseshoe Bay West Water Plant.

The transmission main will stretch from the City's High Storage site on Pawnee (just below the airport runway)—where two large water tanks storing approximately 2 million gallons of water are located—up Clayton Nolen Drive to Hi Mesa, where it will then connect to the Summit Rock golf course and over to the Summit Rock Water Tower.

Why this project is important

In 2023, the City identified the need to increase the capacity of water available for use from the City's Summit Rock elevated storage tank. This addition will improve the reliability of the City's West water system in phase one and support the City's growth, providing the infrastructure necessary to ensure future developments in Horseshoe Bay will have efficient access to water for homes and emergency services, and to maintain the reliable water service that all current residences and businesses have come to rely upon.

The project will also improve water system redundancy and increase capacity to meet peak irrigation demands during Horseshoe Bay's hot and dry summers. This improvement will ensure adequate pressure and supply in the fast-growing HSB West area.

Joel Green, Plant Operations Supervisor for the Central and West Water Plants, says, "this project will help ensure the long-term viability of our water system."

To fund the project, the City collects utility impact fees from future developments to offset some infrastructure costs. This innovative growth funding mechanism allows the City to make much-needed infrastructure improvements while leveraging growth to keep current residents from bearing the entire cost.

Though water can be transported from the Central Water Plant over to Summit Water Tower currently, the task takes approximately 8 hours to complete. The new pipeline will increase the volume of water supplied to the western areas of our City and greatly improve delivery time for adequate citizen use and fire protection demands. The line will more than double

the capacity of the existing 12-inch water transmission line. This will be especially effective during water-related emergencies, allowing for minimal water disruptions.

Project progress and future timeline

Earlier this month, Nelson Lewis, Inc. finished laying the pipeline under the aforementioned streets. Currently, Nelson Lewis, Inc. is tasked with testing the pipeline to ensure pressure consistency and check for any issues that may necessitate repairs. Once the integrity of the pipeline is verified and any needed repairs are made, the contractor will then lay the infrastructure to tie the pipeline into the pump room at the high storage building on Pawnee. The installation of the tie-in is a key task that will require unique and precise engineering and is projected to occur in February 2026.

Once the pipeline project is complete, remediation is needed to clean the construction zones, repave impacted streets, and replace ribbon curbs and street signs. The impacted streets include Clayton Nolen, Pawnee, and Hi Mesa, as well as several neighborhood streets connected to them. Specific homes along the construction path will also need driveway repairs, and those homeowners will be contacted in person in advance of these repairs. The street repairs will be performed by Nelson Lewis, Inc., with oversight from the Horseshoe Bay Utilities and Public Works departments.

Until the rehabilitation of the streets is completed, the City will continue to monitor the temporary road modifications for acceptable surfaces for our citizens' use and mitigate any issues as necessary. Pending inclement weather, the full remediation is expected to be completed by the end of March 2026.

Many residents living in or traveling in construction areas have experienced traffic delays and diversions, noise, damaged streets, and other complications such as temporary water loss that have been, understandably, frustrating. The light at the end of the tunnel is near, however, and all Horseshoe Bay residents will soon benefit from this infrastructure enhancement. We thank our residents for their patience as we proceed with the project's completion and invite anyone with questions to contact the City's Utilities Department at 830.598.8741, option 2.

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