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Bidding for interceptor rehabilitation project on track for spring

Work on the Heart of the Valley Metropolitan Sewerage District's Interceptor Rehabilitation Project has entered the final stages of design work. The project is expected to go out to bid this spring with construction following contractor selection.

"We are pleased with the progress we've made so far," said HOVMSD Director Brian Helminger. "We're busy working with our municipal partners and taking great care to perform the due diligence necessary to have the bidding process and the project proceed smoothly."

The project involves the installation of a liner inside the concrete interceptor pipe that carries wastewater to the district's treatment plant along the bed of the Fox River. A routine video inspection of the pipe found extensive surface corrosion.

"The new liner is resistant to acid,

which has caused the corrosion," Helminger said. "The corrosion threatens the longevity of the pipe; without action now, there will be more extensive damage over time which will be more costly to repair." The 5.5-mile interceptor system, which was originally installed in 1977, remains structurally sound and has sufficient capacity to accommodate future growth.

Helminger added, "Since the start of the planning process, we've had clear intentions for the project. We want to protect the public health and safety. We want to be fiscally responsible and address the corrosion before it becomes a larger, more expensive problem to solve. We want to avoid interruption of the essential service we provide to the public."

Strategic Municipal Services of Plymouth is the lead engineer for the project.

Opinion

What to expect from the interceptor rehabilitation project

By Brian Helminger
Heart of the Valley Metropolitan
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Since announcing the Interceptor Rehabilitation Project last year, Heart of the Valley Metropolitan Sewerage District has been working with an engineering firm and community partners on project design and performing the due diligence necessary for the project to proceed smoothly.

During a video inspection in 2019, surface corrosion was discovered in a 5.5-mile concrete pipe that carries wastewater from nearly 60,000 residents to the HOVMSD treatment plant located in Kaukauna along the Fox River. The pipe was origi-

nally installed in 1977. By addressing the corrosion of the pipe now, the district will avoid a more costly repair or replacement at a later date and will prolong the useful life of the pipe by an estimated 50 years.

The project is expected to go out to bid this spring with construction following contractor selection. Once awarded, the contractor will install an acid-resistant liner inside the 5.5-mile concrete pipe. After the liner is installed, heat is applied in order to harden or "cure" the liner. The process is referred to as cured-in-place pipe lining.

While cured-in-place lining is relatively commonplace in the world of municipal infrastructure, this proj-

ect is somewhat unique because a large portion of the pipe is located under water on the bed of the Fox River. A barge will be used to access manholes on the pipe where the liner will be inserted.

Residents living along the north shore of the Fox River between Island Park in Little Chute and the wastewater treatment facility in Kaukauna, along with nearby park patrons, can expect to see activity related to the project in late spring or early summer of this year.

Most of the work will take place from a barge on the river with a contractor accessing the river through public parks along the northern shoreline. After a contrac-

tor is selected, that contractor will determine which of the public parks will provide the safest and most efficient access to the river.

Parks along this section of the Fox River include Island Park, Doyle Park, Heesakker Park, Riverside Park and Central Park. Residents can also expect to see some staging of equipment in one or more of the selected parks throughout the active periods of the project. Work will take place during periods of good weather and is expected to be complete during 2024.

More details will be available after a contractor has been selected and they have completed their logistical assessment prior to beginning

work. HOVMSD is planning community outreach efforts in the areas directly affected by the project as the start of work approaches. Efforts may include media outreach, social media, door hangers in impacted neighborhoods and community meetings. Our goal is to share as much information as possible, so residents are prepared and know what is happening and when. More information about the project is available at <https://hvmsd.org/>. If you have questions regarding the project, feel free to email me at: brian.helminger@hvmsd.org or call 920-766-5731.