



PRESS RELEASE

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BWL to upgrade water and steam systems at Lansing Community College

LANSING, MI - The Lansing Board of Water & Light is set to begin extensive infrastructure upgrades to the water and steam distribution system on the Lansing Community College downtown campus.

The replacement of an aging, 1,000-foot steam line and 1,300-foot water main and pipeline begins on Monday April 11, with project completion scheduled for mid-September.

The costs for the \$2 million project – the most significant infrastructure update since the college opened in 1957 – will be paid by the Board of Water & Light. The project will affect pedestrian traffic on the LCC campus' Washington Mall between Shiawassee Street and Saginaw Street. The water main replacement phase of the project will also create multiple lane closures on eastbound Saginaw Street, from April 11 to May 15.

LCC and BWL officials are working in close consultation to minimize the project's impact on students, faculty, employees and campus visitors.

The infrastructure upgrades are long overdue and have been planned by the BWL for several years. The project is being done now because another delay would further add to the future cost.

The water main scheduled for replacement was installed in the 1890s (when the American Flag included only 45 stars). The steam line, which has experienced several leaks in recent years as it shows its age, was installed approximately 90 years ago.

Pedestrians will have access to the Washington Mall throughout the project's duration. However, pedestrian detours are to be expected. Construction and excavation sites will be barricaded as a public safety precaution. Signage will be erected to steer people safely around the construction zone. Approved barriers will provide safety buffers for those persons with disabilities.

All LCC classrooms and parking lots will remain open. But temporary inconveniences the public may experience include:

- A portion of the playground at the newly opened Early Learning Children's Community will be closed for four to six weeks during construction. Orange barrels, fencing and other safety barriers will be installed between the work site and the center. The child-care center itself will remain open throughout the duration of the Spring-Summer project.
- LCC's outdoor amphitheater, used for a variety of warm-weather entertainment venues, will be closed. LCC has made arrangements to shift programs to another, nearby site. The popular "Summer Stage Under the Stars" series will continue with five different performances (each showing multiple times) moved to an indoor setting at Dart Auditorium.
- There will be brief interruptions to water and steam utilities as the BWL re-routes services to alternate lines. LCC and the BWL are coordinating these outages to cause minimal impact on LCC operations by performing the work at night and on weekends.
- The two, northern-most lanes of eastbound Saginaw Street will be closed for several blocks near the intersection of Saginaw and Washington Avenue – leaving at least two lanes open at all times. Washington Avenue will be closed during the project from Saginaw to Madison Avenue. Lane and street closures are scheduled to begin on April 11 and last through May 15.
- The exterior of the aging steam line contains insulation made of asbestos. A certified contractor has been hired to encapsulate the asbestos prior to removal, to prevent asbestos contamination of the soil and air. Regular testing will be conducted on the project site to ensure that all asbestos is safely removed. While the precautions are considered necessary, there is no cause for public alarm.
- In order to minimize excavation for the water main replacement, the BWL will use a fairly new technique called "pipe-bursting" and involves pulling the new water main through the existing pipe. The technique allows a water main to be replaced without digging a trench the entire length of the new water main.
- However, replacing the steam line will require excavation and six-foot deep trenching along the entire length of the steam line. Contractors will make certain

that police, fire and other emergency vehicles have easy access at all times on campus despite open excavations.

Members of the public with questions about the steam and water system infrastructure upgrades can contact the BWL's Water and Steam departments at (517) 702-6490.

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