

## Please take note

The majority of the work to be completed will take place between the sidewalks. Please consider the following:

- If you have an irrigation system installed in this area, you will need to have it marked and the irrigation heads located prior to the beginning of construction. Efforts will be made to protect the irrigation systems in place, however, the City and its contractor are not responsible for any damages and it will be up to the property owner to make any repair or replacement.
- If you have flower gardens planted in the area between the sidewalk and curb, you may want to consider not planting this year and/or moving any plants you have in this area. We cannot work around them or try to save them.
- When we are done with construction, we will plant grass. To promote optimum growth of the grass, this area should be watered for 10 minutes every other day if it does not rain. Topsoil naturally has weed seeds in it. They will grow since we are giving them fertilizer and water. When they get to approximately 2 to 3 inches, mow them. Once the grass is established, it will choke out the weed growth.
- There will be vibrations while we work. The size of the machines, the methods of construction, and the need for compaction will all cause vibrations. They are a normal and necessary part of the construction process.
- You will not have access to your drive for extended periods of time. You will need to park on the side streets and walk home. Please take this into consideration.
- Trash will need to be picked up outside the construction zone. Please make arrangements with your trash provider.

## Safety First

A construction site can be a dangerous place. The Alpena Engineering Department and our contractors are looking out for everyone's safety as a first priority during the construction process. Road closures, barricades and caution tape are in place for one reason, to keep you, your neighbors, and our crews safe. Please follow the direction of all notices, personnel, and signage on the projects. Some things to consider:

- We will be digging in and around utilities. We make every effort to ensure we do not cause damage to other utilities. However, sometimes things happen that we cannot see. If you smell gas, see downed lines, or have other concerns, please notify someone after ensuring your immediate safety.
- **PLEASE keep children out of the construction site** even when crews are not present. We know kids love construction sites. Watching from the front yard well behind the sidewalk line keeps them safe. Never let them climb on the equipment. Sometimes equipment is parked as a barricade to a dangerous area of the project.
- As we are replacing underground utilities, we will have open trenches. Because Alpena is surrounded by water, these trenches are often filled with water. Depending on the soil conditions, banks may be unstable. Please stay away from the trenches at all times.
- If the road is closed, please do not drive on it. During the majority of the project your roadway will be sand. It may seem stable, but it is not. Please do not drive across the sand. You will be stuck and we will not pull you out.

## Staying Connected

The City Engineering Department will provide updates to the public via public notices to local news outlets.

We will also be sending out public notices by email. You can be added to the list for your project by sending us an email at [engineer@alpena.mi.us](mailto:engineer@alpena.mi.us). Please include the project name and street that you live on in the subject line. Apartment/rental owners are urged to notify their tenants, as the City issued this notification to property owners only. Tenants may request to be added to the email notification system as directed above.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact us. We are available at the number below.

### Contact Us:

Alpena City Hall  
208 N First Ave  
Alpena, MI 49707  
Phone: 989-354-1730  
Email: [engineer@alpena.mi.us](mailto:engineer@alpena.mi.us)

### Utility Emergency Contact

Suez - City Utility Coordinator  
210 Harbor Drive  
Alpena, MI 49707  
Office Number: 354-1400  
After Hours Number: 464-3409

### Engineering Staff:

City Engineer, Rich Sullenger  
Ass't City Engineer, Steve Shultz  
Engineer Ass't, Shannon Smolinski  
Office Clerk, Cassie Stone



## A Property Owners Guide to City Construction Projects



## What we will be doing

### Getting Started

About a week before our contractor arrives on site, you will see several utility companies on your street marking the utilities. You should also receive a public notice from the City Engineering Department that work is about to start. You may also start seeing materials, equipment and signs being delivered to site.

The first days of the project are typically spent removing the existing hard surfaces from the project. Materials may be distributed throughout the project site at this time. The road will also be closed to traffic and you will need to park on the side streets. This is also the time where you may see some short term disruption in water services and temporary utility services started.



### New Utilities

After the removals are completed, the contractor will begin replacing the underground utilities. On a typical project, we will be installing new water and sanitary mains. These mains are typically six feet and deeper. There will be open trenches on the project, usually with some amount of ground water in them. Please be careful around these trenches and keep yourself, small children and pets away and safe.

As part of the installation, we will be replacing your services from the main to the front of the sidewalk. This is the limit of the City's responsibility. The property owner is responsible for the service line to the house from that point. If you feel



that your service needs to be replaced, you will need to contact an independent contractor to complete that work.

### Under the asphalt

After the utility work has been completed, the contractor will begin shaping the subbase. If there is not already present, the contractor will place a sand base under the road. After shaping the sand, the contractor will then install one foot of gravel. Next, the concrete crews will arrive on site and install the curb and the gravel will start arriving on site.



### Finishing it up

Typically, the next step for our contractors is to install the driveways. All new residential drive approaches are replaced with concrete. Please wait for notification of when you may drive across the approach. We will also be completing any spot sidewalk work that needs to be done at this time.

On the street, our contractor will be finishing the final grading and compaction on the project. Once we have the road to grade and compacted, the first of two courses of asphalt are installed by the paving contractor. Our contractor will bring the utility manholes to the top grade. After that is done, the structures need to harden for one day. If possible, we may allow you to start parking back in your driveways. Please be careful on the street, the manhole covers are sticking up above the asphalt.

Topsoil and seeding will be installed. Please make sure to water your new grass to promote optimum growth. If you have weeds which typically sprout first, mow the area. This will allow the grass to grow and eventually choke out the weeds.

The asphalt contractor will be back on site to finish paving. Any signage removed will be reinstalled if it is still applicable. Construction signage will be removed, and your street will be opened.



### Temporary Utility Services

City construction projects that include the replacement of water and sewer mains will not result in the interruption of these services for customers in the project zone. Temporary water services to all residential and commercial customers will be installed prior to the water main being removed from service.

Generally the utility utilizes a fire hydrant outside the construction zone as the water supply, with temporary lines installed above ground to the users. Water samples from the temporary lines will be collected and analyzed to ensure the safety of the water before being connected to each customer.

We hook to the outside hose bib and shut off water service at the meter. If you don't have a hose bib, we can go through a basement window or crawl space vent and connect direct to service at the meter. If you do not have a hose bib outside your house, please contact our office. This will allow us some additional time to review your situation and develop a good plan in advance.

Temporary water lines laid on the ground are more prone to damage, vandalism and leaks. If you see any of these situations, please contact the Alpena Water/Wastewater Utility at 354-1400 so appropriate repairs can be made.