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## MEMO

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CITY OF BLAINE ■ PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ■ 763-785-6165

**Date:** January 28, 2020

**To:** Mayor Tom Ryan and City Council  
Michelle A. Wolfe, City Manager

**From:** Jon Haukaas, Director of Public Works

**Subject:** Update on Utility Break on 35W Service Dr at 93<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

At 8pm on Saturday night January 25, Anoka County Dispatch received a call about a sinkhole and water coming up at the intersection of the 35W Service Drive and 93<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

The Blaine Public Works On-Call employee responded and found an apparent watermain break. Staff also discovered that the soil from the break was pulled into the sewer causing a blockage. There was already a significant sinkhole formed and so a contractor was called in to assist with the repairs.

The watermain was isolated which put several businesses along the 35W Service Dr out of water on Sunday while our contractor worked to repair the break.

The sewer main in question serves a large portion of the city including the following areas: Legacy Creek, The Lakes, Club West and TPC, Sanctuary West, and the industrial areas between Radisson Road and I-35W down to 95<sup>th</sup> Ave. It was critical to bypass pump the entire area. This volume of flow required us to rent six vacuum trucks from various companies to pump the sewage into the trucks and drive it over a mile south to a downstream manhole. Staff worked to clear the blocked sewer throughout Sunday and into Monday morning.

The watermain was repaired and all water service was restored by late Sunday night. However it was determined that the sanitary sewer was actually broken and

continued to pull dirt into the pipe. The biggest problem is that the sewer is 35 feet deep in this location. We needed to move to "Plan B".

Monday we were able to install bypass pumps to manage the sewer without the use of the vacuum trucks. These pumps will need to be monitored 24/7 until the repairs are completed.

We are getting quotes from our emergency repair contractors to perform the necessary repairs. The Scope of Work for the total repair consists of:

- Installing a tee connection to the 20" ductile iron pipe sewer forcemain
- Install approximately 600 feet of fusible PVC pipe from this new tee to a manhole downstream of the break area as a forcemain extension
- Install a line stop and two new 16in water valves to isolate the segment of watermain so we can keep all businesses supplied with water during the repairs.
- Remove approximately 100 feet of 16in watermain and the 8in water connection to 93<sup>rd</sup> Ave. This needs to be removed as it would be in the excavation for the sewer manhole repair
- Set up dewatering to allow for deep excavation at the site.
- Excavate 35 feet down to find and repair the break on the 27in diameter sewer pipe.
- Replace the deteriorated sewer manhole
- Truck in select granular material to backfill the excavation
- Replace the sections of removed watermain
- Repave the roadway.

We are collecting information on lead times and estimated costs for all aspects of the work. An action item will be brought before the City Council to approve the emergency repair work.