



South I-35 Water/Wastewater Program

Environmental Benefits of the South I-35 Water/Wastewater Program

The South I-35 Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements (S. I-35 W/WW) Program takes a comprehensive regional approach to providing service to the Southeast area, one of Austin's fastest growing areas. The program relieves aging wastewater infrastructure in an existing neighborhood, and serves the public interest by focusing on system planning, cost effectiveness, public involvement, and environmental protection.

Here are just a few ways that the program benefits Austin's environment:

- The program relieves pressure on the Edward's Aquifer by providing residents drinking water from the City's surface water source, the Colorado River. Because of the lack of rainfall in 2008 and 2009, the Edward's Aquifer is in a critical stage drought. An

extensive water conservation program also guards against water waste. For more information, go to <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/taskforce.htm>.

- The program will enable the Austin Water Utility (AWU) to abandon the Onion Creek lift station to meet AWU's goal of modernizing wastewater infrastructure to reduce mechanical failures.
- The new interceptor system will provide a direct sludge tie-in from the plant in the Onion Creek area, eliminating the need to truck treatment plant solids through the neighborhood, which means less truck traffic and greater safety for residents.
- The new wastewater lines prevent sewage overflows into creeks and rivers.

PROJECT UPDATES

Zachary Scott Wastewater Interceptor

Work by Southland Corporation on the Zachary Scott wastewater interceptor is about 45 percent complete overall, according to project manager Larry Mendez. Construction began in August 2008 and will last a year. Two public meetings were held to discuss construction plans and to answer questions from the public.

Installation of the 3,100 feet of wastewater tunnel (which is 54 inches in diameter with a 36-inch wastewater carrier pipe) continues. The tunnel is between 25 and 41 feet deep, depending on the elevation of the natural ground. Ongoing work to be finished soon includes open-cut trench construction in the parking lot of the Onion Creek Golf Course maintenance yard. The purpose of the trench is to install about 150 feet of new wastewater line to connect existing lines at the Pinehurst Lift Station to the Onion Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. The parking lot will be restored to similar or better condition once the construction is complete.



Underground tunnel will carry wastewater when completed (photo by Phillip Preslar).



Manhole construction is underway.

The Zachary Scott wastewater interceptor, which will divert wastewater to the existing South Austin Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, will eliminate the current wastewater pumping and hauling activity in the Bradshaw Crossing neighborhood. It will provide wastewater infrastructure to serve the entire Rinard Creek Basin.

Tunnel construction began at the existing Onion Creek Lift Station off River Plantation Drive and will end at Bradshaw Road. (Project Updates continue on page 2.)

PROJECT UPDATES CONTINUED:

Geotechnical Borings Completed

The preliminary engineering geotechnical borings on the golf course at the Onion Creek Country Club and the Parkside at Slaughter Creek greenbelt have been completed. Boring is the process of removing deep, 2-1/4-inch-diameter soil cores from the ground to determine the underground conditions in preparation for tunnel engineering design and construction. The information provided by the soil samples is being incorporated into the design of the wastewater interceptor. The excavated holes were filled in one of two ways: 1) with a piezometer, which is a well into which a water level indicator is inserted to measure the depth to groundwater or 2) with bentonite (a type of clay). If a piezometer is used, the hole was covered with a 4x4-foot concrete pad that is slightly above the ground surface. A removable cap in the pad will provide access for monthly water level readings used to guide the tunneling process. The readings will continue for about one to one and a half years.



A piezometer pad is shown here in the Onion Creek golf course.

Water Transmission Main

The Program team is pleased to report that the water transmission main is more than 50 percent through the design phase. The 68,000 linear feet of water transmission main is divided into 18 segments so design and construction work can be done concurrently to speed up the work. One project, Segment 15, will be advertised for bid in early March, and construction will begin this summer.

Pilot Knob Pump Station

Upon completion, the Pilot Knob Pump Station will be a key element of the South I-35 W/WW Program. The station will pump potable water throughout the 14 miles of transmission main to feed future developments and into the existing distribution system. Preliminary engineering is complete and MWH Americas, Inc. has been selected to design the pump station. Design will be complete by end of 2009, and construction will begin as early as Spring 2010.



A pump station will be constructed at the Pilot Knob Reservoir site to provide water to current and future customers.

Slaughter Lane East Extension Project

An Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of Austin and Travis County was executed in January 2009 to coordinate location of the water transmission main with the future extension of E. Slaughter Lane. Under this Agreement, the City will acquire street right-of-way for the future extension using City and County funds. The water transmission main will be constructed within the right-of-way as part of the South I-35 W/WW Program and prior to construction of the Slaughter Lane East Extension.

Wastewater Interceptors

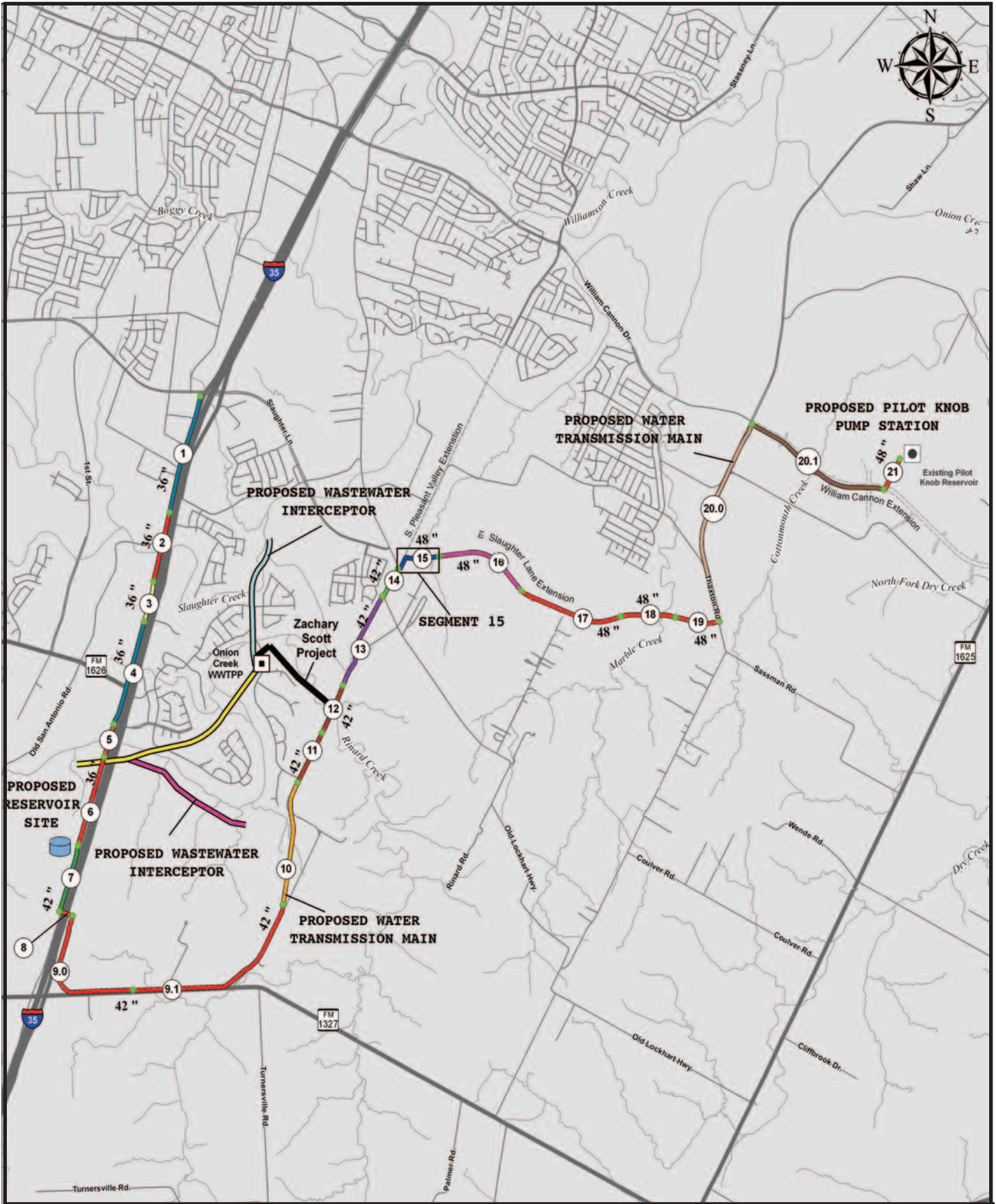
Design of the three Onion Creek wastewater interceptors will begin this spring, and construction will begin in 2010. A limited amount of fieldwork for topographic survey and geotechnical study will be required during the design phase. To minimize disruption to the public and the environment, a majority of the interceptors will be constructed via tunneling.



City of Austin employee Frankie Andrada with Watershed Protection Department airlifts dead brush and logs from the Onion Creek greenbelt behind Wild Dunes Drive. Crews removed the brush after geotechnical investigations in this area were done for preliminary engineering of the wastewater interceptors.

April 16 Open House

Please mark your calendar for the next Open House, which will be held on Thursday, April 16, 6 to 8 pm at Akins High School, 10701 South First Street. More details will be provided in the weeks ahead.



South I-35 Water/Wastewater Program Map



South I-35 Water/Wastewater Program

Public Involvement Office
8401 Shoal Creek Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78757

PRESORTED
First Class Mail
US POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTIN, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 2537

PEOPLE IN THE KNOW



Lizan Gilbert
Deputy Project Manager, Program Management Consultant (PMC) for the S. I-35 W/WW Program
URS, Austin, TX

URS is the PMC for the S. I-35 W/WW Program and Lizan serves as the URS deputy project manager. In this role, she coordinates project activities with various City of Austin departments and is responsible for her project team meeting their goals and objectives. A civil engineer

by training, Lizan also leads the URS team's technical activities including coordination of the tunnel design group, the project geotechnical engineer, and the Austin Water Utility staff as they develop sound technical approaches for the tunnels that are a key part of the project. Lizan is a registered Professional Engineer and learned many of her management skills as the mother of four energetic children.



Marisol Claudio-Ehalt
Program Consultant, Program Management Office
Contracts and Land Management Dept.
City of Austin

Marisol, who has a civil/environmental engineering degree, is a Program Consultant with the City's Contract and Land Management Department. She manages the South I-35 Program Management Consultant (PMC) and Public Involvement contracts. She provides support and

direction to help maintain/control the program's budget and schedule, and ensure quality of each individual project. In addition, Marisol plays a vital role in the program's public outreach, attending neighborhood meetings and responding to questions and concerns on behalf of the City and the project team. When she goes home at the end of the day, she answers many questions from her beautiful 5-year-old daughter.



Robena Jackson
Public Involvement Consultant
for the S. I-35 W/WW Program
President & CEO, Group Solutions RJW, Austin, TX

Robena's role is to foster two-way communication between neighborhoods impacted by the S. I-35 W/WW Program and the project team. Communications include one-to-one discussions, neighborhood meetings, a hotline, and newsletters to make sure that

residents receive the information they need. Robena is a trained mediator and facilitator and is a former fellow of the University of Texas School of Law Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution. In her spare time, Robena is learning ceramic sculpture so that she can create a deer-proof work-of-art for her garden.

CONTACT US

We Want to Hear From You!

Public involvement is a crucial component of the S. I-35 W/WW Program. The program team is committed to informing you of project activities and schedules, answering questions, and addressing concerns. This newsletter is one of several planned to update interested persons on project developments. To help conserve natural resources, the Austin Water Utility encourages you to sign up for the electronic version of this newsletter instead of receiving the mailed version. To sign up to receive the newsletter electronically, please go to: <http://www.cityofaustin.org/water/si35ww.htm>.

PROGRAM HOTLINE

A program hotline is answered during normal business hours (8 am - 5 pm) Monday through Friday. The number is (512) 314-9000. If you call after business hours or on weekends and need immediate assistance, please call 311.

PROGRAM WEBSITE

To read about the latest program developments, visit the S. I-35 W/WW Program web page at <http://www.cityofaustin.org/water/si35ww.htm>.