



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

Rely on us.

TO: Commissioners Brown, Mital, Helgeson, Manning and Simpson
FROM: Mel Damewood, Engineering Manager, Jon Thomas, Planner III
DATE: July 28, 2014
SUBJECT: LTD EmX Project Update
OBJECTIVE: Information Only

Issue

On August 5th, 2014, staff will be presenting a project update to the Board on the West Eugene EmX Extension (WEEE). EWEB has partnered with Lane Transit District (LTD) to evaluate conflicts, produce relocation designs, and relocate EWEB utilities that are in conflict with the WEEE. The relocation effort has required a significant investment of EWEB Engineering and Operations resources. The project is complex and continues to strain internal resources needed for the success of the project without compromising service to all other EWEB customers.

Background

EWEB and LTD have an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for the relocation of EWEB facilities in conflict with the WEEE project. Under the terms of the IGA, the transit district is to reimburse EWEB for all facility-relocation costs. Throughout the design process, Scope of Work and associated cost estimates are developed for each phase of the project, which support Purchase Orders from LTD. To date, LTD has issued EWEB purchase orders for the design and relocations of EWEB utilities totaling \$2,197,051. Further relocation designs, Scope of Work and Purchase Order requests are forthcoming. Based on estimates of LTD's 30% design, EWEB's relocation costs could exceed \$9.2 million.

LTD's design for the WEEE was divided into Volumes 1 & 2. Volume 1 contains all of West 11th Avenue from Commerce Street to Garfield Street, and the south portion of Garfield Street. Volume 2 completes the remainder of Garfield Street, all of West Sixth and West Seventh avenues (Garfield to Charnelton), and Charnelton ending at the existing bus station near West 11th. LTD released a 60% construction design for Volume 1 on June 27 and a 90% design for Volume 2 on May 29. LTD's final design for Volume 2 is due August 8.

EWEB identified locations where existing underground utilities need to be further studied via exploratory excavation (*also referred to as potholes*) to verify the original utility installation depths. LTD's design team chose to limit the locations where such excavations would occur to reduce costs. On July 11, EWEB received the last of the pothole results that were agreed to by LTD's design team. These results confirmed approximately 3,000 linear feet of water main conflicts in Volume 2 alone. Exploratory potholes in Volume 1 are still needed to confirm the extent of EWEB's underground facilities conflicts.

EWEB's Water Operations staff began fire hydrant relocations within Volume 2 on May 12 ,before starting water service relocations in early June on West Seventh. After just a few weeks, EWEB staff had resolved all water facility conflicts that were designed and available in Volume 2. While EWEB crews relocated water services, water mains were exposed and found to be in conflict with LTD's improvements. This resulted in crews pulling off the project sooner than expected to avoid re-work around shallow water mains that would need to be addressed when designs for their relocation were completed.

EWEB Electric Distribution Engineering is working toward a final relocation design in Volume 1. A 30% electric relocation design was submitted to LTD in February. A 90% electric relocation design is due the first week of August by EWEB's engineering consultant, Elcon Associates.

Discussion

Water Operations is waiting for additional relocation designs from LTD before remobilizing. Most activities require a shift change of EWEB staff to accommodate the nighttime lane closures required by ODOT and the City of Eugene. Current plans are to resume work by Aug. 11.

LTD is aware that waiting to identify the remaining conflicts during the construction phase may be more costly to resolve and is likely to impact the project's schedule. Other critically scheduled EWEB work unrelated to WEEE may not allow EWEB Operations staff to respond in a timeframe to avoid delay to LTD's project.

LTD also continues to acquire easements for EWEB's utilities displaced from the right-of-way, which will also impact the electric-relocation schedule. There are limited work areas available for Electric Operations to complete relocations efficiently until all easements are acquired.

All EWEB costs incurred to resolve conflicts with LTD's project are reimbursed. Invoices are sent monthly for all costs of the previous month. Limited system improvements at EWEB's expense are being made as a result of LTD's project. These projects are reviewed by both Engineering and Operations staff. For example, an 8-inch steel water main installed in 1935 is scheduled for replacement to avoid being left under the new EmX bus lane.

Communications

Because this is an LTD project, LTD staff has taken the lead in communication efforts. These efforts include phone calls to affected residents and businesses, an "opt-in" email alert service, a blog, news releases and letters. EWEB, as directed by LTD, have taken a secondary communications role but is actively involved in working with LTD's public information staff and others as needed. EWEB Public Affairs staff also is helping LTD to create messaging and is often answering inquiries from customers.

In order to supplement LTD efforts, EWEB has sent more than 4,200 informational postcards to utility customers since mid-May. Additional EWEB involvement includes crew leads visiting with impact customers, and attendance by both Operations and Public Affairs staff at LTD-led attending neighborhood meetings. EWEB staff will continue to supplement LTD communications efforts on an as-needed basis.

Recommendation

None. This is an information item only

Requested Board Action

None. This is an information item only. Staff will be available to answer questions at the August 5, 2014 Board meeting. If you have any questions, please call Mel Damewood at 541-685-7145 or email mel.damewood@eweb.org