

**City of Oakland  
Public Works Agency  
Department of Infrastructure & Operations  
Electrical Services Division  
Update 5 – June 2006**

**UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT No. 233,  
“MacArthur Boulevard Underground Project”  
from 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to the San Leandro Border**

**and**

**MacArthur Streetscape Improvements Project  
Portions of the area from 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to the San Leandro Border**

## **PROJECT UPDATE 5**

### **THE MACARTHUR UNDERGROUND PROJECT & THE MACARTHUR STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

The MacArthur Underground Project broke ground on December 19, 2005 and as of today, June 5, 2006, in just six months of construction, the Contractor has completed the major joint trenches throughout the 13 city blocks that constitute Area 1 of the project. The project is divided into three areas as follows:

1. Area 1 - MacArthur Blvd. from San Leandro Line to 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue (District 7)
2. Area 2 - MacArthur Blvd. from 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (District 7)
3. Area 3 - MacArthur Blvd. from 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (District 6)

The substructure work in Area 1 is more than 85% complete. The remaining works are not as visible from the street: they consist mostly of panel conversions and other work in the properties on MacArthur Blvd and in the side streets. The City, PG&E and AT&T (formerly SBC) and Comcast are funding this project. The Contractor and its sub-contractors on this project will attempt to complete the substructure facet of this Area 1 in the next few weeks. Once the substructure in the area is complete, City forces will begin to install the streetlights, and PG&E and AT&T will begin to install their electrical power distribution system and telephone system respectively. Comcast will wait till the entire substructure is completed before its fiber pull. Starting this week, two joint

trenching groups of the Contractor has moved into Area 2 (District 7) and Area 3 (District 6). These groups will begin their underground survey work and started to drill for streetlight foundations. They will be working in both Area 2 and Area 3 simultaneously.

The MacArthur Streetscape Improvements Project is still planned to follow the undergrounding.

The projects span two council districts as follows:

- District 7  
Councilmember Larry Reid  
Phone 510 238 7007  
One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Oakland, CA 94612
- District 6  
Councilmember Desley Brooks  
Phone 510 238 7006  
One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Oakland, CA 94612

#### **WHAT IS THE CONTRACTOR WORKING ON NOW**

Underground Construction Company is the Contractor and they are responsible for the entire work, including but not limited to the main line trenches and the surface restoration. Their most difficult task is to follow the requirements of the City, PG&E, AT&T and Comcast. These intents and requirements are embodied into distinctly different sets of design and construction plans. And the documents were designed under the auspices and purviews of different groups of technical specialists from the respective organizations. The City initially compiled a set of composite plans based on all these requirements. However, it is the Contractor who has the means of underground survey that will have to verify the feasibility of the design and make adjustments to accommodate all the facilities that the parties need to install. Thus, the Underground Construction Company has to identify the underground obstruction in a detail and comprehensive survey, aided by the City and its partners, and verifies its findings by potholing and other means. The objective is to place the joint trenches and boxes in well suited areas.

One of Underground Construction Company's subcontractors is AJW Construction. AJW is a local subcontractor and as such is one of the largest native sons and daughters. Their role is to provide asphalt and concrete for surface restoration. It should be noted that AJW is a crucial player in its role. Their ability to keep up with the Contractor and finish the work by providing the material for surface restoration in real time will enable the project to meet its requirements of 300-lf of open trench at any one time. Clearly, this lofty target may not be maintained at all time. In a project this complex and with such decision making spread over several entities there would be times when trenches are held open awaiting some decision making. In these instances, thousands

of dollars are hanging in the balance as the responsive individuals steadfastly make up their choices.

### **SAFETY CONCERN**

So far, in six months of construction, we have not heard of any major injury due to the project. We like to keep up this record. However, the rain is petering out and there is likelihood that the good weather will enable the contractor to pick up its pace of construction. So, there will be more intense construction effort and therefore more need to be careful in this stretch of the roadway. Also, there were instances of residents crossing the yellow caution tapes. Please be patience with the heavy construction activities and continue to obey the yellow caution sign, and the traffic signs, until the end of construction. We like to see no one hurt or injured. Above all, please obey the traffic detour and speed caution signs. The police will give you a ticket if you are caught with any violation. We are most concerned that there would be no mishap during the project.

### **TIMELINE FOR THE PROJECT (12/2005 – 10/2008)**

The Contractor has updated its schedule, and it appears the construction of the substructure is pretty much on track and will finish a bit sooner than originally planned. The work by the City and its partners - PG&E, AT&T (SBC) and Comcast - will follow the work by the Contractor. So, the construction activities in this stretch of MacArthur Blvd. will not abate when the contractor and their subs finish their work. They will be replaced by the construction arms from PG&E, AT&T, Comcast and the City.

Quite a bit of preparation of material and labor goes into the making of a construction project like this. Each of the partners, as well as the contractor, spent a huge amount of time procuring the necessary materials and arranging the equipment and the expertise needed to implement each facet of this work. The residents and businesses would be helpful if they allow us to do this work expeditiously. Where inconveniences occur, please note that our objective is to minimize them as much as possible. All the constructors have no other intention than to do their work safely and quickly. As the saying goes, "If it has to happen to better our lives, let it happen. Because the sooner it is done, the better we can kick back and enjoy the fruit of this labor."

See the expanded schedule below, which would be updated without notice:

- (1) Area No. 1: From the San Leandro border to 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 12/2005 – 9/2008.
  - Work by Contractor to build the substructure 12/2005 – 6/2006
  - Work by City to install streetlight 6/2006 – 8/2006
  - Work by PG&E to install electric power 7/2006 – 12/2006
  - Work by AT&T (SBC) to install telephone 7/2006 – 12/2006
  - Work by Comcast to install cable 1/2008 – 6/2008
  - Pole Removal by AT&T (SBC) 7/2008 – 9/2008
  
- (2) Area No. 2: From 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, 5/2006 – 9/2008.
  - Work by Contractor to build the substructure 5/2006 – 12/2006
  - Work by City to install streetlight 1/2007 – 3/2007

- Work by PG&E to install electric power 1/2007 – 6/2007
- Work by AT&T (SBC) to install telephone 7/2007 – 12/2007
- Work by Comcast to install cable 1/2007 – 6/2007
- Pole Removal by AT&T (SBC) 7/2008 – 9/2008

(3) Area No. 3: From 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, 6/2006 – 9/2008.

- Work by Contractor to build the substructure 6/2006– 12/2006
- Work by City to install streetlight 4/2007 – 6/2007
- Work by PG&E to install electric power 7/2007 – 12/2007
- Work by AT&T (SBC) to install telephone 1/2007 – 6/2007
- Work by Comcast to install cable 7/2007 – 12/2007
- Pole Removal by PG&E 7/2008 – 9/2008

The schedule is tentative and can change without notice.

The next four Project Updates will each be written with collaboration among the four partners to the project: City, PG&E, AT&T and Comcast. All Project Updates will be posted on the web.

**For more information on the MacArthur Underground Utility Project, please contact Paul Chan, Project Manager at 510-615-5427, email [pchan@oaklandnet.com](mailto:pchan@oaklandnet.com).**

**For information on the MacArthur Streetscape Project, please contact Mr. Emad Mirsaeidi at 510-238-6603, email [efmirsaeidi@oaklandnet.com](mailto:efmirsaeidi@oaklandnet.com).**