

Question & Answer Matrix
October 21, 2025 - City Council Meeting

Log #	AB No.	Received From	Question	Staff Response
1	6790	Weinberg	What is the approximate ratio of feet of water pipe proactively replaced in 2025 (including both the water main replacements and the AC pipe replacements) to the feet of water pipe replaced due to a water main break in 2025?	The 2024 Water System Improvement Project replaced over 6,300 LF of water mains. The 2024 AC main project replaced over 5,200 LF of water main. Both projects were constructed in 2025. There is a 2025 AC main replacement project in final design (bid expected later this year) where 6,160 LF of water main will be replaced. By comparison, the emergency repair recently completed on East Mercer Way replaced approximately 250 LF. While significantly less LF, it should be noted that most main breaks require “band repairs.” Catastrophic failures require pipe replacement, but it is usually much smaller in length – usually 10-25’ in length. To date, the City has responded to 15 water main breaks in 2025, of which 6 were on AC pipe.
2	6795	Weinberg	Will the new water main between E Mercer Way and the top of Gallagher Hill Road need to have periodic manholes? I presume the engineers are factoring in their design how manhole covers can get slippery in the rain, especially for bicycles, motorcycles, and wheelchairs. I’m also curious as to whether it’s best practice to run the new water main following the centerline of the road, the centerline of one of the two lanes, the new uphill-direction bike lane, or none of the above. I presume, as pipe segments are long and straight while the road is curved, the pipe wouldn’t follow the curve of the road precisely.	Water mains do not have manholes as the lines are pressurized. The design does include other water system components such as valves and pressure reducing valves. The specific location and number of these is determined by the engineering team, however, consideration for placement within the line of travel for all modes of transportation is a factor in the design process. Placement and location of the main includes a number of factors such as size of pipe, length of run, available ROW, topography and impacts of other utilities. This project includes not only the water supply line installation, but also replacement of an existing AC water main. The ROW is congested with many other competing utilities and WSDOT ROW and features. The water pipes are being designed to fit within the available space without the acquisition of easements or additional ROW.