



AB 6930 City Planning Update for the FIFA World Cup

May 19, 2026



Agenda

- FIFA World Cup Overview
- City Planning
 - Public Safety
 - Traffic Management
 - Parking
 - Communications



2026 FIFA World Cup

- Seattle will host six FIFA World Cup (FWC26) matches in June & July 2026.
- Projections show that between 400,000 and 750,000 visitors will attend at least one of the six Seattle matches or participate in ancillary events.



Seattle FIFA World Cup 2026 Match Schedule					
Date	Day	Kick Off	Gates Open	Gates Close	Teams
15-Jun	Mon	12pm	9am	4pm	Belgium VS. Egypt
19-Jun	Fri	12pm	9am	4pm	USA VS. Australia
24-Jun	Wed	12pm	9am	4pm	Qatar VS. Bosnia & Herzegovina
26-Jun	Fri	8pm	5pm	12am	Egypt VS. Iran
1-Jul	Wed	1pm	10am	5pm	Group G Winner vs. Group A/E/H/I/J Third Place
6-Jul	Mon	5pm	2pm	9pm	TBD VS. TBD



*+/- Travel window
for match-goers*



WA State Footprint



Competition Venue

 Lumen Field (Seattle Stadium)

Base Camps

-  Providence Swedish Performance Center & Clubhouse
-  Gonzaga University
-  University of Portland
-  University of British Columbia

Fan Zones

-  Kulshan Brewing / The Den
-  Boxcar Park
-  Quincy Square
-  Puyallup Tribal Headquarters
-  Port Plaza
-  Big Al's
-  Sozo Sports Complex
-  Pasco Sports Complex
-  Gaza Pavilion Riverfront Park

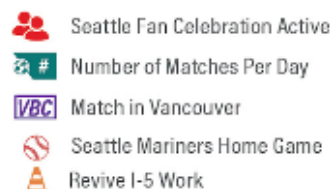
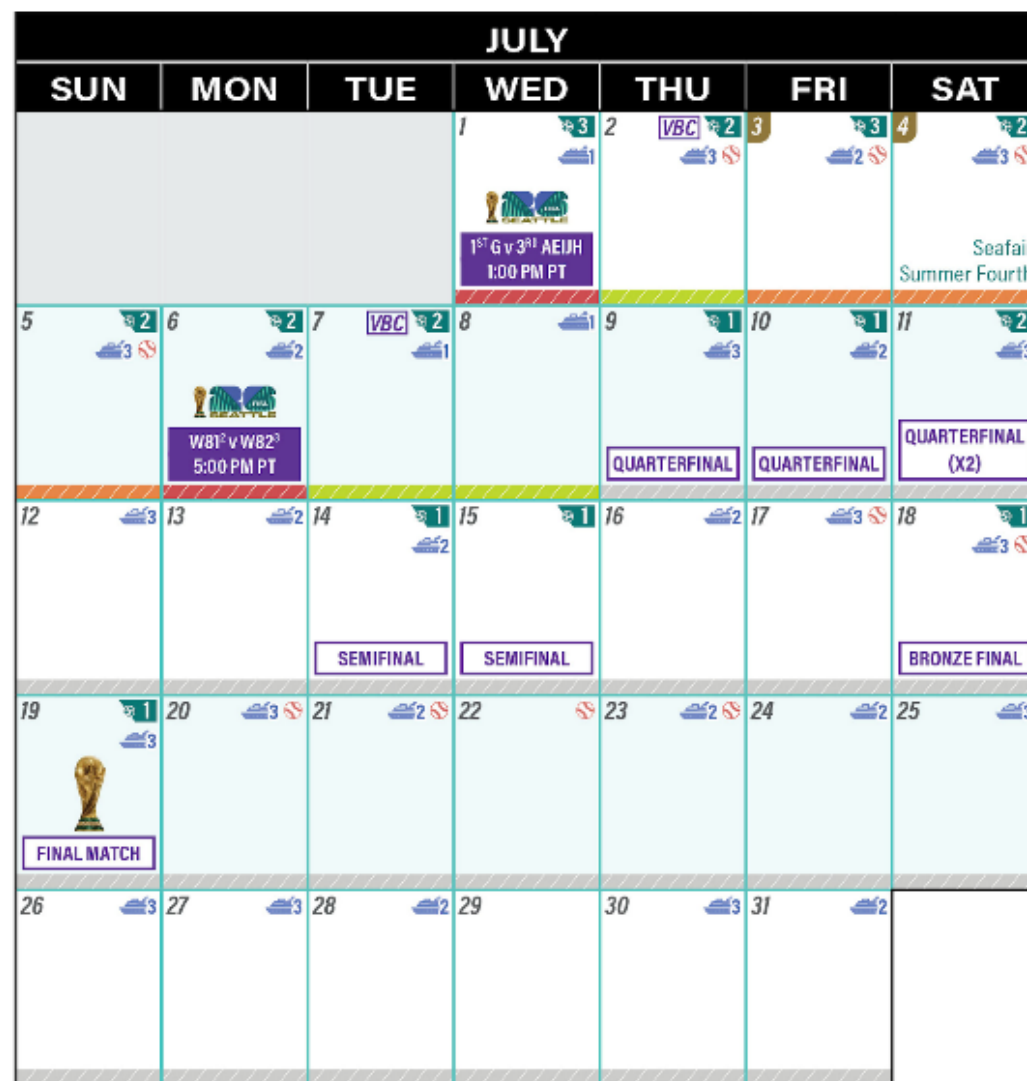
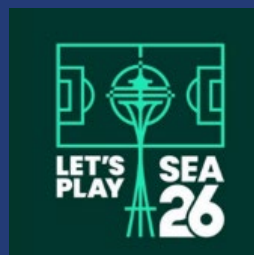
Venue Specific Practice Sites

-  Seattle University
-  University of Washington

Fan Celebrations

Seattle Center
Pacific Place
Waterfront Park
Victory Hall

Anticipated Travel Intensity



Match Notes
¹ Winner of UEFA Path A: ITA / NIR / WAL / BIH
² Match 81: 1st Group D v 3rd Groups B/E/F/I/J
³ Match 82: 1st Group G v 3rd Groups A/E/H/I/J

Mercer Island x FWC26



- Mercer Island is in a unique position relative to FWC26.
 - The City is just 7 miles from Seattle Stadium (Lumen Field).
 - The City is two light rail stops from the International District/Chinatown Station and the center of FWC26 activities.
 - The City is located on the I-90 Corridor, one of the primary entrances/exits from Seattle.
- City staff began preparing for the arrival of the FIFA World Cup tournament in early 2025.
- The purpose of this agenda item is to provide a high-level overview of the City's plans for FWC26.

Public Safety



Mercer Island Police Dept.

MIPD will implement enhanced staffing on match days, that includes:

- The deployment of two Marine Patrol vessels, supporting maritime security on Lake Washington.
- Land-based police presence, led by the Town Center Officers.

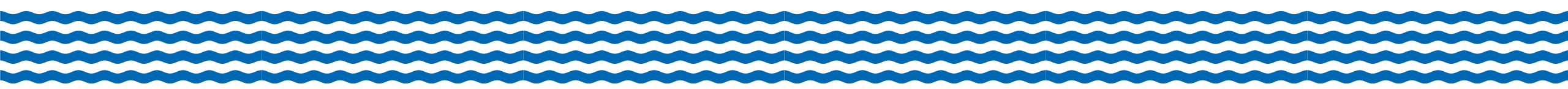


Emergency Management



The Emergency Manager and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) team have been preparing for FWC26 for well over a year. This preparation has included:

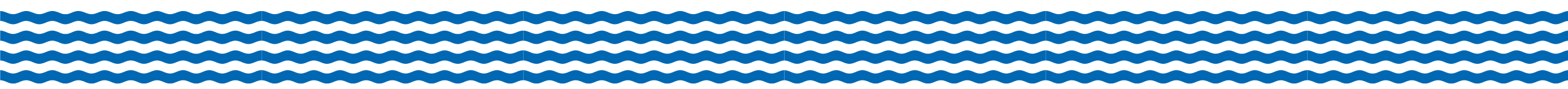
- Participating in regular planning meetings with regional and state partners.
- Attending an Emergency Management FIFA World Cup Planning Symposium.
- Conducting internal trainings with EOC and frontline staff.



Emergency Management



- On game days, the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be activated at an enhanced monitoring capacity.
 - Enhanced monitoring is a proactive measure that creates heightened situational awareness and would allow staff to respond faster if needed.
- The EOC will be ready to expand and coordinate with regional partners as needed.

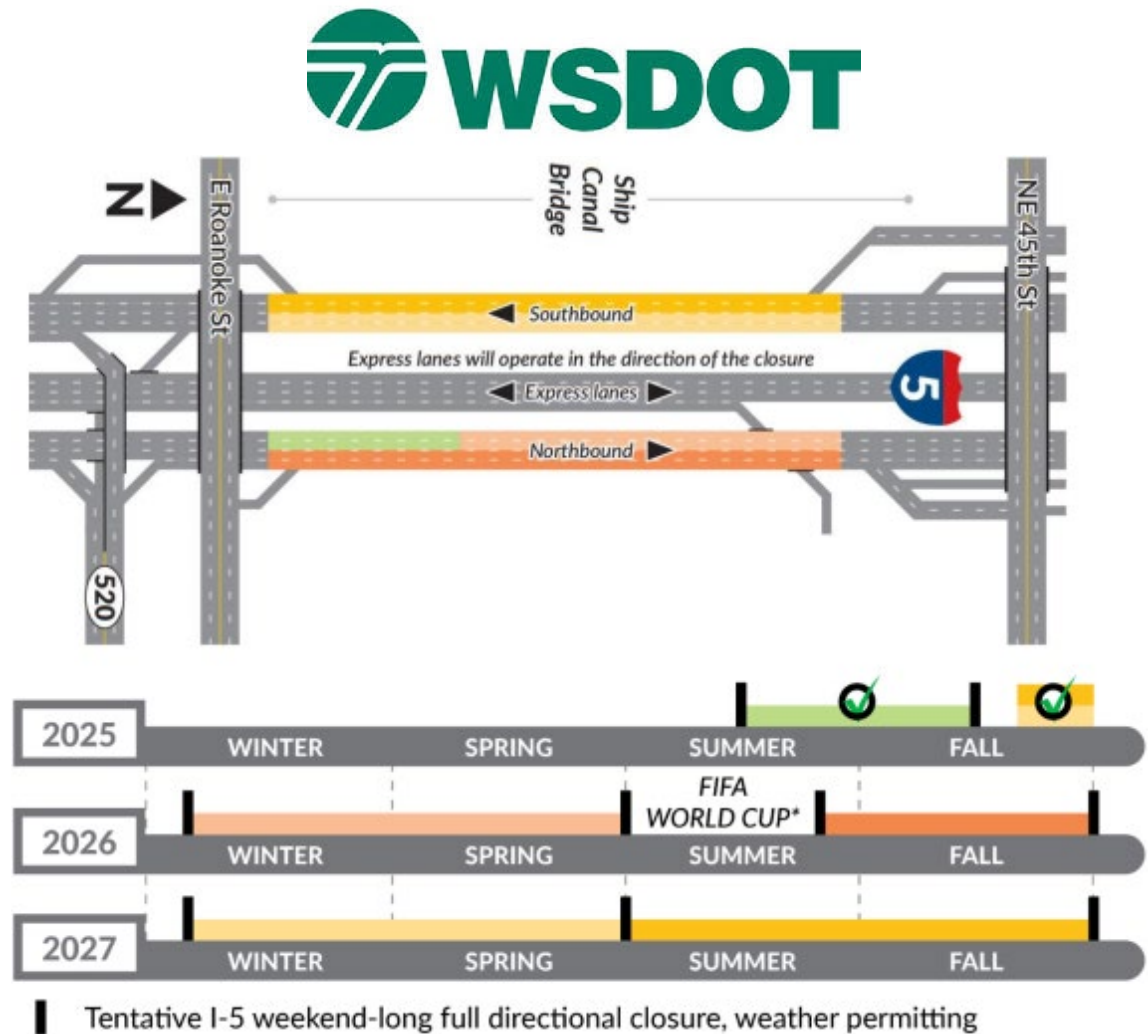


Traffic Management



Revive I-5

- Currently, NB I-5 is reduced to two lanes across the Ship Canal Bridge.
- June 5-8: NB I-5 fully closed to remove the work zone.
- **All I-5 traffic lanes open during FWC26.**
- July 10: NB I-5 fully closed to reestablish the work zone.
- NB lane reductions will run through the end of 2026.



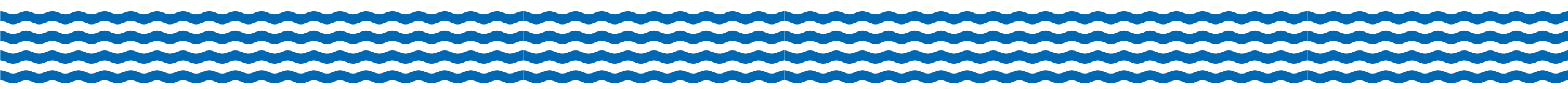
Active Construction Projects

Water Supply Line Replacement (*Gallagher Hill*)

- The City recently awarded a contract to install a new 10 in water main on Gallagher Hill Road.
- Staff are coordinating with the contractor to maintain two-lanes of travel on Gallagher Hill Road during match days.

King County Sewer Project (*SE 36th Street*)

- This sewer upgrade project replaces aging sewer pipes serving North Mercer Island.
- Work on this sewer project recently moved to SE 36th Street, resulting in the closure of the turn lane.
- SE 36th Street is reduced to two-lanes, and this is likely to continue through FWC26.



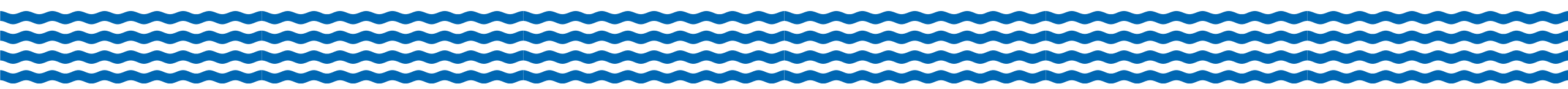
Active Construction Projects

Road Projects

- Work on sidewalk curb ramp replacements and the 76th Ave Mid-Block Crossing will be paused on match days to mitigate the disruptions to traffic.

Xing Hua Mixed Use Development (*7750 SE 29th Street*)

- The Xing Hua mixed-use development project is currently under construction with intermittent one-lane traffic reductions in place along SE 29th Street, 77th Ave SE, and 78th Ave SE .
- The existing lane reductions may remain during FWC26 however Xing Hua is not permitted to expand its current traffic impact footprint.

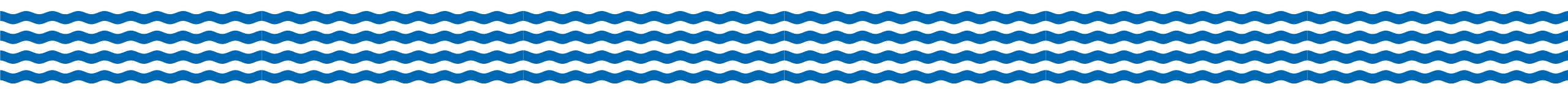


Parking



Parking In & Around Town Center

- Staff anticipate the Sound Transit Park & Ride will reach 100% occupancy on weekdays throughout FWC26.
- Staff anticipate increased demand for parking in and around Town Center on match days.
- Staff have been working on solutions that balance the parking needs of commuters and match-goers and provide flexibility in the City's response.
- Staff will conduct a post-match review after first match (6/15) and adjust parking strategy, enforcement, and pricing for future matches.



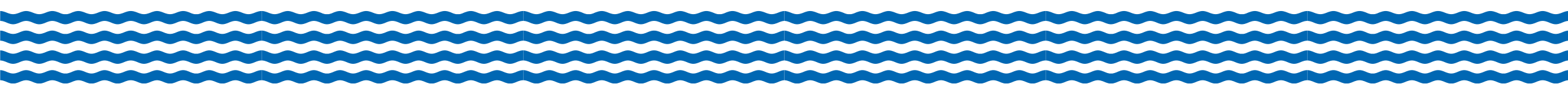
Town Center Parking Area

- On match days, staff will offer the first two hours of parking for free with registration and then charge a \$25 daily rate for all parking over two hours at the Town Center Parking Area.
- Staff will monitor usage of Town Center Parking Area and adjust rates based on demand.



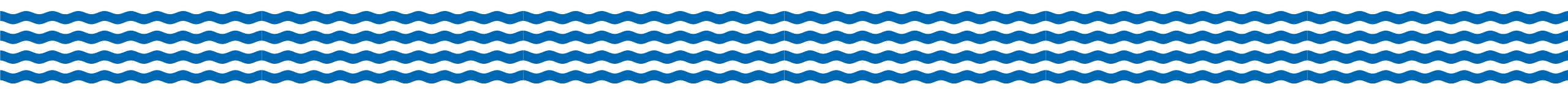
Mercer Island Community & Event Center

- On match days, MICEC will be open in a limited capacity for restroom access and summer camp offerings.
- Rentals and drop-in programs at the MICEC, and park permits at Luther Burbank Park, will not be permitted.



Mercer Island Community & Event Center

- A portion of the MICEC parking lot will be open on match days on a first come-first served basis.
 - **Parking will be free for Mercer Island residents.**
 - Non-residents will pay a fee of \$25 per game using ParkMobile.
- Staff will verify the residency of vehicles as they enter the parking lot using driver's license verification.
- Revenue generated from parking fees will be used to offset the expenses incurred by the City during FWC26, namely police and EOC operations expenses.





Communications



Key Messaging

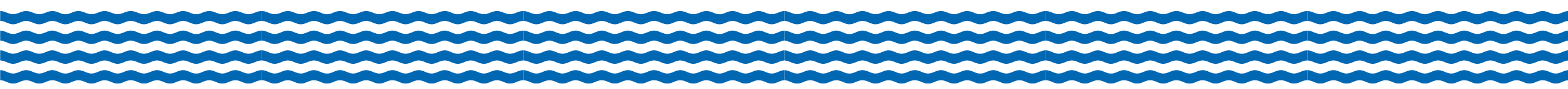
- **Transit-First:** Promote the Light Rail Station as the primary way to reach matches at Seattle Stadium or to travel to off-Island destinations.
- **Local Impact:** Warn residents of traffic impacts. Inform the community about potential Park & Ride capacity issues and increased foot traffic in Town Center.
- **Preparation:** Encourage residents to plan accordingly – delay/reschedule appointments, work from home on match days, allow more time for travel, etc.



Communications Campaign

The FWC26 Communications Campaign is already underway and includes:

- Social media posts on all City channels.
- A dedicated section in the MI Weekly, called the World Cup Corner, providing information and updates on a regular basis.
- A landing page on the City website with match dates and links to transit and parking resources.



Next Steps

- Staff will continue preparations for FWC26 and provide City Council with periodic updates.
- Staff will distribute information about the games across all City channels.
- The City remains engaged with the region on emergency management planning work and that will continue through the conclusion of the event.



Questions?

