



## Public Forum – Wastewater Collection System Capacity Improvements

The City of St. Helens invites all community members to attend a Public Forum to learn more about the City's Wastewater Collection System Capacity Improvements Project.

**Date:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Location:** St. Helens City Hall, Council Chambers, 265 Strand Street, St. Helens, OR

This important infrastructure project will upsize key segments of the public sanitary sewer system in the following high-priority areas:

- Basin 6 (South Trunk): Approximately 10,000 feet of sewer main on Sykes Rd, Port Ave, Gable Rd, and Old Portland at Kaster Rd will be upsized.
- Basin 5 (The Interceptor): Approximately 3,500 feet of mainline on 4th Street between Columbia Blvd and the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant will be upsized.
- Basin 4 (Middle Trunk): Approximately 4,700 feet of mainline to be upsized and rerouted along Tualatin Street between S 17<sup>th</sup> Street and S 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

These sewer improvements are essential for the safe conveyance of peak hourly flows, and to reduce the risk of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), enhance system capacity and reliability, and support future development within the City's urban growth boundary.

### Why This Project Matters

An update to the City's Wastewater Master Plan (WWMP), adopted in November 2021, was the first comprehensive evaluation of the City's sanitary sewer system since 1989 when the City's population was just 7,500. The study found that much of the current sewer infrastructure was now significantly undersized for the increased flows observed, mainly due to population growth and the inflow and infiltration (I/I) of stormwater into the

sewer system. Without capacity upgrades, the risk of SSOs and related public health and environmental hazards will continue to rise.

The proposed improvements are critical for maintaining safe, effective, and environmentally responsible wastewater service across the community.

## **Project Funding**

The project design and permitting is being funded by a \$2.5 million dollar grant from Oregon's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

The construction of the project will be funded through Oregon's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), a low-interest loan program administered by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. The CWSRF allows communities like St. Helens to finance essential sewer infrastructure improvement projects at below-market interest rates.

## **You're Invited to Learn More**

We encourage all residents, business owners, and stakeholders to attend this public forum. City staff and project engineers will be available to:

- Provide a project overview
- Explain the anticipated construction schedule
- Discuss the status of design and funding
- Answer your questions

Your input and understanding are vital as we move forward with this essential investment in St. Helens' future. Please join us to learn more about how this project will improve sewer service, reduce risk, and prepare our city for continued growth.

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