

Engineering Division of the Public Works Department

To: Chairperson Arnett and Commission Members

From: Andrew Beyer P.E., Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Date: March 19, 2026

Subject: Public Works Commission Meeting of March 24, 2026

[Review and discuss: Fire Suppression Lateral Services for 2028 Main Street Reconstruction Project](#)

Background

The Public Works Department, with the assistance of Robert E. Lee & Associates (REL), investigated the potential scope of work associated with water lateral upsizing along the Main Street corridor. The intent of the lateral upsizing project is to plan for future redevelopment of downtown properties reducing restoration costs associated with lateral improvements within the public right-of-way, and reducing associated roadway pavement replacement within the Downtown Main Street Corridor. REL is the water systems designer for the 2028 Main Street Reconstruction Project, and leveraged their expertise in the downtown area to develop their recommendation.

Staff is bringing forward a plan to evaluate water service laterals along the Downtown Main Street corridor in advance of the 2028 reconstruction project. The intent is to identify locations where upsizing may be appropriate to accommodate future redevelopment, using a measured approach.

The consultant completed a corridor-level review of parcels and existing lateral connections, evaluating each for potential upsizing based on building size, occupancy, and anticipated redevelopment potential.

The proposed approach focuses on upsizing laterals in areas where redevelopment is likely, while recognizing that full block redevelopment could require additional improvements at that time. Large scale redevelopment, which is largely unknown at this time, may necessitate additional system modifications beyond what is currently proposed, and associated cost.

As part of the reconstruction project, existing water service laterals will be replaced from the water main to the curb stop to the minimum standard size, or in-kind size. If warranted, upsizing may be considered where appropriate. As currently proposed, property owners would be responsible for private side modifications between the curb stop and building face at the time of redevelopment.

Budget Goal

1. Proactively maintains and improves our parks and infrastructure to ensure safety, quality, and equity
4. Maintains a safe and healthy community, with an eye toward future needs and trends

Financial Impact

The Water Utility is responsible for costs associated with replacing water main and laterals from the main to the curb stop. Additional costs associated with upsizing would need to be evaluated separately and may require alternative funding sources due to Public Service Commission (PSC) funding restrictions.

Generally, the Water Utility replaces the public side service lateral between the main and curb stop to the minimum standard size, or in-kind size. The Utility cannot fund upsizing, and alternative funding sources would need to be considered should this proposal move forward. Potential funding sources include, but are not limited to, special assessments to the benefitting properties, TID funds, or general funds.

Recommendation

From a planning perspective, the measured approach proposed by the consultant strikes a balance between thoughtful long-term planning and cost effectiveness as part of the 2028 project. The approach positions the corridor to support incremental redevelopment while avoiding overbuilding based on uncertain future conditions. Staff is seeking feedback and general direction from the Commission on this approach prior to advancing final design.

Attachments:

- Project Corridor Layout
- Lateral Sizing – Parcel – Watertown Main St – Updated