



City of Yakima

News Release

Subject: Downtown Yakima Water Main Break

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Plan Being Developed to Fix Damage Caused by Water Main Break

City of Yakima engineers now have a better idea of how much damage a water main break that happened this past Saturday did to the section of Yakima Avenue between 1st Street and 2nd Street and what it will likely take to repair the roadway.

“We’ll have to dig up and replace the subbase under most of the two westbound lanes and the parking strip along the north side of Yakima Avenue and repave them,” said Debbie Cook, Director of Utilities & Engineering. “We’ll also replace the subbase under parts of both of the eastbound lanes and repave those sections. We might need to do more than that, but we won’t truly know the full extent of the damage until we start digging into the subbase and can see how stable or unstable it is,” said Cook.

Replacing the entire one-block section of old water pipe with new pipe and fixing part of a sidewalk that collapsed as a result of the break will also be part of the repair project.

The City is working as quickly as possible to line up a contractor to handle the road repairs and is hopeful that the project can get underway by this weekend and be completed within seven to ten days. Because of concerns over the stability of the roadway’s subbase, Yakima Avenue between 1st Street and 2nd Street will remain closed until repairs are completed.

Initial estimates indicate repairs to the roadway could cost up to \$100,000. However, if the subbase damage is more extensive than it now appears to be, repair costs could be higher. Installing a new one-block section of water pipe will add up to \$50,000 to the cost of the project. A capital fund specifically used for projects related to the water system will cover the cost of the road repairs installing the new water pipe.

The break in the 12-inch water main occurred on Saturday under Yakima Avenue in front of Santiago’s Gourmet Mexican Restaurant and Vida Rug & Home Gallery. The break was discovered shortly after 5:00 am. The broken section of pipe was removed and water service was restored to the buildings affected by the break shortly after 2:00 pm on Saturday.