



Detroit Water and Sewerage Department

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TO: Ms. Norell Hemphill, Esq.
We The People of Detroit
P.O. Box 7033
Detroit, MI 48207

CC: Honorable Board of Water Commissioners

FROM: Sonali Patel, Public Affairs Director

DATE: March 12, 2026

RE: Lead Service Line Replacement, Asset Management and Capital Improvement Program

Dear Ms. Norrell Hemphill,

Thank you for your questions during the Board of Water Commissioners on February 18 regarding determining locations for the Lead Service Line Replacement Program and Capital Improvement Program, which are used to develop State Revolving Fund project plans.

DWSD Prioritization for Lead Service Line Replacement:

Since 2018, DWSD has replaced nearly 16,000 lead service lines through water main replacement projects and individual lead service line projects throughout the city. DWSD continues to replace the existing lead service lines – the pipe providing water to a home from the water main – while on the same block as the water main replacement project.

In May 2023, DWSD started a neighborhood-by-neighborhood approach to replace lead service lines. Neighborhoods are prioritized based on density of housing built prior to 1945, significant number of children and seniors in the area, and likely high number of low-income households based on Census tracts.

For a list of completed and in-progress neighborhoods, please visit www.detroitmi.gov/lslr.

DWSD Asset Management Model for Capital Improvement Program:

DWSD has a comprehensive asset management model to guide its Capital Improvement Program. DWSD conducts water system and sewer system condition assessments by neighborhood to determine the strength of water mains, sewer pipes, hydrants, valves, catch basins, manholes, and other system assets. Once completed, the data feeds into a risk assessment which calculates the probability of failure along with the consequence of failure for an asset. The condition assessment and risk assessment are used to determine which assets to replace short-term and long-term. Since 2019, more than 50% of Detroit neighborhoods have been assessed for both water and sewer systems. To see completed, in-progress, and future Capital Improvement Program projects, please visit www.detroitmi.gov/dwsdmap.

We appreciate your questions and interest in our project planning. Please reach out if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sonali Patel'.

Sonali Patel
Public Affairs Director