

# 2015 Excelsior Road Improvements Baxter, Minnesota

# Project Update



BAXTE 128763

## Project Team

### SEH Project Manager

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### SEH Field Representative

Roger Worm  
320.250.1072

### City of Baxter

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### Anderson Brothers Construction Co. of Brainerd, LLC

General Contractor  
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Project Manager  
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### Project Website

[http://www.baxtermn.gov/category/  
street-projects/excelsior-rd-project](http://www.baxtermn.gov/category/street-projects/excelsior-rd-project)

If you wish to receive future Project Updates and other project information via email instead of regular mail, please email Melissa Blommel at [mblommel@sehinc.com](mailto:mblommel@sehinc.com) with your request.

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Hello and welcome to the 2015 Excelsior Road Improvements Project Update.

The project team consists of the City of Baxter, SEH, and Anderson Brothers Construction Co. of Brainerd, LLC. SEH is the engineering firm hired by the City of Baxter for this project and will serve as the contact between the Contractors and property owners/residents. All questions should initially be directed to SEH.

An SEH Field Representative will be on-site during most of the active construction to observe project progress. Please contact Roger Worm, SEH's Field Representative, at 320.250.1072 with any questions you may have. If Roger is unavailable, please contact Scott Hedlund in the SEH office at 218.855.1705.

## Project Status

The project was publicly bid and Anderson Brothers Construction Co. of Brainerd, LLC was the low bidder. The City and Anderson Brothers are in the process of executing contract documents for the work. Anderson Brothers is the General Contractor responsible for the overall project and will construct the aggregate base and bituminous streets and trails. Subcontractors for other elements of the project include:

- Road Reclaimers – Bituminous Milling and Reclaiming
- AAA Striping – Striping
- Geyer Signal – Traffic Control
- Knife Lake – Concrete
- Design Electric – Lighting and Pedestrian Signals
- Douglas-Kerr Excavating – Storm Sewer, Sanitary Sewer, Water Main
- Doucette's Landscaping – Turf Restoration and Erosion Control
- DeChantal Excavating – Grading
- Central Minnesota Seeding – Fencing

You will notice private utility companies (electricity, natural gas, telephone, cable TV, etc.) marking their private utilities in the project area. Relocation of private utilities is necessary to avoid construction conflicts with proposed street and public utility construction. **There are significant private utility relocation efforts underway for this project.** The General Contractor does not direct the construction operations for these private utilities.

**URGENT.....**

**IMMEDIATE**

**ATTENTION NEEDED**

### **Special Information**

It is very important that anyone with special needs or disabilities contact us as soon as possible. We are in the process of working with emergency response organizations to locate any residences that may have a special need so we are fully aware of the issues throughout construction and if quick response is needed to any specific residence(s), there is a plan in place. Contact Roger Worm with SEH at 320.250.1072 or Scott Hedlund with SEH at 218.855.1705.

**Once construction starts, if you have upcoming special events planned, please inform SEH so we can help with your access needs.**

## **Description of Project**

The project limits are from the intersection area of Cypress Drive / Excelsior Road along the Excelsior Road corridor to the east City Limits of Baxter, and along Conservation Drive from approximately 300 feet north of Excelsior Road to Fairview Road. This project consists of reconstruction and resurfacing the existing streets, and construction of trail, sanitary sewer, water main, and storm water management system improvements. Excelsior Road will have two through lanes, a continuous center left turn lane, and right turn lanes, when the project is completed. The planned future roundabout at the Cypress Drive/Excelsior Road intersection will not be constructed with this project, rather it will get constructed in a future year under a different contract. With the installation of the public utilities and street, you will notice the Contractor digging up the street past your property multiple times. Typically the Contractor starts with installation of the deepest utilities first. This project involves mostly storm sewer utility work, so it is anticipated this will be done first. Street construction will include subcutting and removal of upwards of five feet of existing material where the road is being widened, and later installation of sand, gravel, and bituminous surfacing. The sewer, water, and storm sewer is planned to be constructed in phases, initially anticipated to start on Excelsior Road between Baxter Drive and Conservation Drive. This is subject to change.

## **Construction Schedule**

We are anticipating approximately 20 weeks of construction from the time the first section of pavement is milled or reclaimed to when the project is completed, depending on the weather. Anderson Brothers has advised their normal work hours will be Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Anderson Brothers' anticipated start date is Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Their first task will be pulverizing the existing street surfacing and removing concrete curb and gutter, driveways, and conflicting trees within the right of way. The private utility companies are beginning their relocation work the week of April 27<sup>th</sup> and anticipate approximately 2 to 4 weeks to complete. Sanitary sewer, water, and/or storm sewer work is anticipated to start as early as the week of May 18<sup>th</sup>, subject to change.

## **Local Access and Detour During Construction**

Local access will be maintained to residences and properties during construction. There will be periods of time when access may be limited such as when underground construction is underway in front of your property or residence. In order to construct the road and underground utilities, the contractor will need to close off segments of the roads in the project area in stages. So the direction of access to and from your property or residence will change depending on what stage of construction is being worked on.

There will be a posted detour route for Excelsior Road/Jackson Street through traffic, and for access to the Northland Arboretum.

The team will make every effort to minimize disruption and communicate staging changes.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q:** *What kind of activity can I expect during construction?*

**A:** Construction is tedious and we understand it can get old quickly. At times, it may even seem like not much is getting done. Remember, patience is the biggest asset that each of you bring to the job. If you keep in mind the fact that this project will be completed, hopefully construction will seem to go faster for you! Please bear with us, the Contractor has a fixed amount of time to get the work done, and we will be working with all the parties involved to help see that this time commitment is met.

## **Frequently asked questions, cont...**

**Q:** *Who do I call if I have questions?*

**A:** Please first try calling SEH's Field Representative, Roger Worm at 320.250.1072; if Roger is unavailable call SEH's Project Engineer, Scott Hedlund, at 218.855.1705 if you have a question regarding the project.

**Q:** *What will be done about construction dust?*

**A:** The contract provides for the Contractor to spread water on the road to help keep dust from creating an unsafe environment. However, this is an imperfect solution and will not solve the problem completely.

**Q:** *What will happen to my sprinkler system or pet containment system during construction?*

**A:** Property owners who have a sprinkler system or pet containment system are encouraged to remove the portion of the system installed within the public right-of-way or easement areas. The sprinkler distribution pipes should be exposed and pulled up to the easement line (or property line if no easement line) so they are visible to the Contractor. Since the sprinkler heads are often the most expensive component of the system, consider removing them from the distribution pipes. Apply duct tape to the end of the pipes to keep out dirt and debris. The City and Contractor will not be liable for damage to sprinkler systems that are installed within the public right-of-way. Property owners should reinstall the systems after the seeding and restoration work is complete.

**Q:** *What will happen to the landscaping, fences, or planters that are on the boulevards?*

**A:** The Contractor will salvage any special landscaping located within the right-of-way and will place it on your property. If you wish to have material placed in a certain area, please let us know in advance and we will try to accommodate you. The Contractor will not reinstall any landscaping removed from the right-of-way or easement areas. Flowers by mail boxes will be removed and not replaced.

**Q:** *What is dewatering?*

**A:** The Contractor will be "dewatering," or lowering the water table, to provide a dry trench bottom for pipe installation and ditch, pond, and road grading. This procedure may temporarily dry up some of the shallow wells in the area. If you have trouble with your well, let us know right away so that we can arrange for a temporary water hookup.

**Q:** *How will the turf areas disturbed by construction be restored?*

**A:** The Contractor will repair the disturbed areas of your yard with topsoil and seed. It is essential that you water the new seed regularly to help it establish. The Contractor is required to water and maintain the seed for a short period of time after it has been placed to ensure growth. Most Contractors do this with a tanker truck and hose, which means water is applied quickly in one or two passes every few days. The Contractor will give you a product that will grow, but it will not be perfect. It is essential that you water the new seed regularly if you want a lush, green, well established lawn.

**Q:** *How will I receive my mail during construction (not applicable for PO boxes)?*

**A:** At the start of construction, the Contractor will remove your individual mailbox and post and place them near the property line, away from construction activities. If you wish, you may take the mailbox indoors. The Contractor will then install mailbox banks at a location(s) directed by the Postmaster. Your mail will be delivered to the mailbox banks until construction is complete. As the project site is restored, the Contractor will reinstall the mailboxes in accordance with Postmaster requirements. After the mailboxes have been reinstalled, you will receive written notice from the Post Office when your mail service will return to normal.

**Q:** *Will the Contractor install a new mailbox that I furnish?*

**A:** The Contractor will install a new mailbox and post furnished by the homeowner as long as it is similar to the one that was salvaged and is in accordance with Postmaster requirements.

## **Preservation of Construction Stakes and Utility Flags...We need your help!**

Please do not remove any wooden stakes you will see temporarily placed on the boulevards. These stakes are used by the Contractor to construct the project and are expensive to replace.

Also, please do not remove or relocate the colored utility location flags. These flags, in conjunction with the spray paint markings on the ground, are necessary for the Contractor to locate buried utilities. We understand these flags may be unsightly and difficult to mow around, but we need your help to protect the construction crews and residents in your neighborhood.

Your help in keeping bystanders away from the construction area will ensure the project will progress safely.



## Construction Zone

Barricade and road closure signs will be installed in the project area to protect motorists during construction. Please pay careful attention to the warning signs! "Road Closed" signs are used where the road is impassable and closed to all traffic except for the Contractor's equipment or officially authorized vehicles. "Road Closed to Thru Traffic" signs are used where through traffic must detour to avoid a closure some distance beyond the sign, but where local traffic can move up to the point of closure. In this instance, local traffic would be defined as residential and Northland Arboretum traffic from the particular street under construction. For this project, all adjacent business access will be maintained by existing alternate access not fronting project roads.

There will be times during construction that direct access to your driveway will be limited. Access to your property is important to us, and the Contractor will work to minimize those times that access must be limited.

As the Contractor's operations move during the course of construction, you will observe that signs and barricades move as well. We understand this may be frustrating! Please allow extra time in your schedule as you drive through the construction zone. Please advise your family, guests, and customers to exercise caution and safe driving speeds. Be sure workers and heavy equipment operators see you before driving around them.

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