

# Southside Road water main project starts soon

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YORK -- The York Water District is embarking on a major water main project on Southside Road that will affect traffic patterns throughout the fall.

Starting Sept. 5, the district is laying water main from Jeffrey Drive to Route 1 - an area now served by wells. Currently, mains begin at Seabury Road and end at Jeffrey Drive.

“We’ve always had a need for fire protection” in the Route 1 area of South Side Road, said Superintendent Don Neumann, a need that was first identified in a 2004 master plan.

At the same time that YWD is undertaking this work, the Kittery Water District is replacing mains on Beech Ridge Road, also to tie into Route 1. Neumann said as early as next spring, the KWD is going to be rebuilding its treatment plant and during that construction period, YWD will be supplying water to the town of Kittery. The Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells Water District will be helping to supply water to York residents, as well.

The Southside Road project, once it’s connected on Route 1 will “help us to provide enough volume to the Kittery system and it’s a backup for us. Having a good solid pipe from Organug Road out to Route 1 is key,” said Neumann.

About 900 feet of the 3,000-foot section of Southside Road where the main will be laid is ledge, said Neumann. He said the district “opted not to blast” because of the potential impact to around 30 homes along that stretch of the road. Rather, starting Sept. 10, a drilling contractor will “pre-drill” the ledge - “like making Swiss cheese out of it,” said Neumann - so that the ledge will break up when a hammer comes in behind the driller.

“We’re paying a premium to do it this way, but it’s the least disruptive to the residents,” said Neumann.

Construction is expected to begin Sept. 5 and continue through early November, he said. Most of the pipe will be laid on the river side of the road, he said. One lane will be open to traffic except for one or two short periods. During construction, signage will state that the road is open to local traffic only. All motorists can expect significant delays and are asked to seek alternate routes.

Seacoastonline link: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/news/20180828/southside-road-water-main-project-starts-soon>