

March 7, 2011

Notice to residents:

Drilling nearing an end, ground freeze to begin

53rd Avenue Northeast and Northeast 195th Street, Lake Forest Park

Surface construction that began here in late 2010 will be entering a new phase this month. The contractor has been installing freeze pipes that will make it possible to connect two Brightwater tunnels more than 300 feet below ground. At this time, phase 1 drilling of the pipes is nearing completion and ground freeze operations will get underway the week of March 14th.

This fall the final connection of the two Brightwater tunnels will be made deep below 53rd. Ground freezing is being used to stabilize the ground around the tunnel machines to create a safe working environment. Chilled salt water will be circulated through the freeze pipes to freeze the ground at the tunnel depth.



Freeze pipe drilling on 53rd is more than 80 percent complete. On Thursday, March 10, drilling is scheduled to stop for about a week to begin freeze operations. During this time, the first phase of freeze pipes will be connected to the chiller units located on the west shoulder of 53rd. Crews will make these connections by installing lateral pipes in the shallow trenches just beneath the steel plates on 53rd.

Questions?

*Sign up for email updates at
Brightwater@kingcounty.gov
or call our 24-hour construction
line at 206-205-5989*

To make the connections, work hours will remain from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and traffic will continue to be detoured around the work area. Detour routes could change slightly to accommodate the work. The automatic traffic signals will continue to operate from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.

When the first phase of ground freezing is underway, crews will return to drilling the final freeze pipes (phase 2). An estimated eight pipes remain and are expected to be completed by mid-April.

King County and its contractors understand this work has impacts to the community, and we appreciate your patience. As drilling comes to an end, we will continue to make efforts to minimize any disturbances and keep you informed about progress and remaining activities.

A schedule of remaining activities on 53rd is on the back of this update

Brightwater drilling nearing end
53rd Avenue Northeast in Lake Forest Park ~ *continued*

Schedule of remaining work on 53rd Avenue Northeast

March 10 to 18	Drilling will stop for about a week while crews connect phase 1 freeze pipes to chiller units located on the west side of 53 rd Avenue. The noise wall around the chiller units will also be completed. The first phase of freeze operations will get underway.
March 21 to mid-April	Crews will drill the remaining freeze holes and connect these pipes to chiller units to begin the full system freeze operations.
Late April to Fall 2011	The drill rig, crane and support equipment will be removed from 53rd, and traffic will be returned to two lanes. Chilled salt water will be circulated to the freeze zone 300 feet below ground to prepare for the tunnel connection. Chilling equipment will run as needed to maintain necessary freeze levels at the tunnel depth. The noise wall surrounding the chiller units will ensure that operations meet all applicable codes.
Late Summer to Winter 2011	When the tunnel boring machine arrives from Ballinger Way, the connection will be made between the two tunnels deep below ground. This work will not involve additional surface activities. When the connection is complete, chiller units, pipes, pumps and related equipment will be decommissioned. The surface area, including pavement, mailboxes, shoulders and private landscaping will be fully restored.
<i>Note: work periods described here may vary depending on ground and other conditions.</i>	

Please sign up for email updates

To sign up for updates, please email us at Brightwater@kingcounty.gov. If you have questions or concerns that you would like to talk with us about, you can also call our 24-hour construction line at 206-205-5989. Additional construction updates will be mailed to the community as work progresses. More information about Brightwater is also available at <http://www.kingcountygov/brightwater>.

Brightwater is a new wastewater treatment system that will serve north King and south Snohomish counties. It is being built in response to continuing growth in our region and has been under construction since 2006.

Alternate formats available
Call TTY Relay: 711 or 206-684-1280