

Foundation for the Future: Laying the Groundwork Today for a Sound Tomorrow

By Mayor Susan Sample

Over the past few months, I have written about exciting developments throughout West U, from the City's first ever Sustainability Task Force and the development of a Citywide Facilities Master Plan, to the design and construction of the new Edloe Street Pathway. As part of this Council's commitment to making West U a great place to live for generations, Council, staff and the community worked together to create the Foundation for the Future initiative, which will make important investments in our community's infrastructure.

At our July 25th meeting, Council directed staff to begin the process of issuing bonds to fund a variety of capital improvement projects. The City is doing its part to get the information out residents through social media, City newsletter, email alerts, local news, website and a citywide mailing, and City Council and staff encourage everyone to continue following the process for the Foundation for the Future as the Council prepares to issue the sale of bonds on September 26.

I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the projects that are part of this program.

Buffalo Speedway Construction

I'm sure all of our residents are familiar with the current reconstruction of Buffalo Speedway, which involves replacing the entire 65 year old road surface over its course through West U. In addition to the road surface, this project includes major drainage system improvements that will reduce the impacts of severe weather on residents throughout its drainage area. The bond revenue from this year's issuance will allow us to continue our quick progress, and help to complete the project on time in early 2023.

City Wide Street & Drainage Improvements

The City Wide Street & Drainage project will encompass drainage improvements and street reconstruction throughout West U. These improvements will serve our community for decades, and meet at minimum the demands of a 10-year storm event. After this project is complete, residents and their families can expect to see less water in the streets and threatening their homes during severe storm events.

Public Works Maintenance Facility

As laid out in the recently adopted Facilities Master Plan, the City has begun designing a new Public Works Maintenance Facility to be located on City-owned property located in Houston. This bond issuance will fund the construction of the Public Works facility, the first step in the multi-year implementation of the Facilities Master Plan. Construction of this facility will provide operational efficiencies for our hard-working Public Works staff, as well as free up space in the City center for a more pedestrian-friendly community hub, including a new Community Building/Library.

Wastewater Reclamation Project

In line with the City's sustainability goals, this project will reduce West U's impact on the Braes Bayou watershed while increasing revenue by selling treated effluent for non-potable use to a third-party user outside of the city limits. The Foundation for the Future will help to fund the construction of necessary infrastructure for this ambitious project.

Utility Improvements

In addition, this initiative will fund the construction of an improved wastewater treatment plant, ensuring continuity of service during severe weather, as well as the replacement of water line pipes throughout the City. These projects will ensure that our community has resilient infrastructure we can depend on; now, and for the future.

For more information on the Foundation for the Future, please visit www.westutx.gov/foundation