

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Reading MELS Project to Begin Monday, March 31, 2025

The City of Reading is set to begin the **Michigan/East/Lynn/Strong Street Watermain and Street Renovation/Reconstruction Project (MELS Project)** on Monday, March 31, 2025. This is a major infrastructure improvement initiative designed to enhance the City's water system, upgrade streets, and comply with state regulations.

Project Funding and Scope

This \$4,765,700 project is made possible through multiple funding sources, including:

- **\$950,000** in capital improvement bonds
- **\$1,611,000** in USDA revenue bonds
- **\$250,000** grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- **\$1,750,000** grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)
- **\$257,200** City match

Mead Brothers Construction has been awarded the contract and will begin **full construction on March 31, 2025**, starting with **Michigan Street**. Preliminary work, including the removal of designated trees to accommodate sidewalks and watermain placement, will begin in early March.

Planned Improvements

The project includes comprehensive renovations across multiple streets:

- **Michigan & Strong Streets:** Full reconstruction, including new watermains, hydrants, valves, water service lines (from main to 18 inches inside residences), new curb and gutter, sidewalks, storm sewer upgrades, and a complete street base and asphalt replacement.
- **East Street:** Installation of a new watermain, hydrants, valves, water services (from main to 18 inches inside residences), new sidewalks, edge drains, and a milling and repaving of the street.
- **Lynn Street:** Replacement of water service lines (from main to 18 inches inside residences), new sidewalks, edge drains, and a milling and repaving of the street.

These water service line replacements are being conducted in accordance with the **Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE)** under its updated **Lead and Copper Rules**.

Resident and Business Participation

The City will be sending out **authorization forms** to property owners whose residences will benefit from the upgraded water service lines. Property owners—both residential and commercial—will also receive forms authorizing the replacement or addition of sidewalks.

Communication and Updates

The City is actively updating resident contact information, including phone numbers and emails, to ensure timely updates throughout the project. Residents are encouraged to provide their most current contact details.

For **questions or concerns**, residents can contact **City Hall during normal business hours** or reach out directly to me for assistance at any time.

By strategically managing this project and utilizing available financial resources, the City of Reading continues its commitment to **enhancing infrastructure, maintaining fiscal responsibility, and improving the quality of life for all residents.**

For more information, contact:

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