

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jessica Sizemore

Municipal Authority Manager

The Municipal Authority of the Borough of Somerset (MABS) and the Council of the Borough of Somerset are continuing significant infrastructure upgrades to replace outdated utilities and reduce costs for the future. These projects are ongoing throughout the Borough and will ultimately result in water, sewer, stormwater infrastructure upgrades in Somerset Borough. To maximize the work done to make these necessary improvements, Somerset Borough has overseen a coordinated effort with the aim of reducing the time and cost of construction for the public. This coordinated effort includes Columbia Gas's gas line replacement Projects and PennDOT Paving Projects. As a reminder, four projects were started in 2023, three of which are still in construction and to be completed this year. A description of each project and its status will be listed below. It is also the intention of this update to provide MABS customers and the Borough Residents with additional information on what's been happening and what's to come.

Church Street Culvert Rehabilitation Project is complete. Thank you for your patience during that project.

MABS is continuing its \$20 million dollar Waterline Replacement Project with a scope that includes replacing approximately 35,500 feet of underground piping and service lines. There are approximately 490 customers that will receive new service lines as well as their meters relocated from inside their home to the outside newly installed meter pits. This project also includes improvements to the Water Treatment Facilities and Operations. The funding for this project is a combination of grants and low interest loans through Penn VEST. In the project areas of mainline and service line installation, temporary restoration is placed as soon as the mainline and service lines are placed

in service. This will be removed and restored with final restoration to return the area back to its preconstruction condition. Final restoration started the week of March 11th and will continue through June 2024. There is additional information including project scope on this project located on the Borough's website. For the contractors weekly schedule, please check out the website at: www.somersetborough.com and/or their Facebook page at: [Borough of Somerset | Somerset PA | Facebook](#) or call the Borough at 814-443-2661. At the conclusion of this project, the customers that have received outside meter pits will be contacted to schedule an appointment so that a Borough Employee can activate the outside meter and remove the meters that are inside the buildings.

Borough of Somerset Website QR Code:



Columbia Gas Pipeline Replacement Project includes replacing approximately 14,650 linear feet of underground piping and service lines has been completed. Please check the Borough's website for additional information regarding the streets affected and additional information on that project. The final restoration has started back up and will continue through summer of 2024.

The Center Ave Sidewalk Replacement Project is a partially grant funded project that will update the utilities and provide a much-needed replacement of sidewalks to the portion of the 100 blocks of North and South Center Ave from Patriot Street to Union Street. This entire project is expected to be complete by the end of June of 2024. This project is in alignment with the West Main Street Improvement Project completed in 2019 and its aim is to preserve the character of Uptown Somerset, making necessary utility upgrades, and improve economic opportunity for the long term.

MABS is in the planning and permitting stages of a \$100 million Sewer & Stormwater Rehabilitation and Replacement Project. This project is in coordination with a

Corrective Action Plan agreed by The Department of Environmental Protection Agency (DEP) to eliminate the occurrences of hydraulic overflow at the Sewage Treatment Plant. The funding for this project is a combination of grants and low interest loans. The proposed project consists of the replacement or rehabilitation of approximately 100,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer piping, replacement or rehabilitation of approximately 500 sanitary sewer manholes, installation or replacement of approximately 50,000 linear feet of stormwater pipe, installation or replacement of approximately 250 stormwater drainage basins (inlets), replacement of approximately 12,000 linear feet of interceptor sewer pipe, rehabilitation or replacement of two (2) sewage pumping stations, and improvement to the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). Due to the planning and construction of this project, Somerset Borough has made the decision to complete limited full width paving to the borough streets in the current waterline and gas line replacement project areas. The Borough's crews will be making their way through the borough to perform the necessary repairs of the roadways to prepare them for future full width paving at the completion of the sewer project. Your patience and cooperation during these necessary construction projects is greatly appreciated.

These projects are a necessary investment for the community and the customers of MABS. Somerset Borough and MABS is committed to providing its residents and customers with reliable high quality drinking water and fire protection and safe and efficient wastewater removal and treatment for current and future generations. Effective January 1, 2024, MABS approved a new rate structure for water and sewer rates. This rate structure is designed to charge every customer an equitable base rate. This base rate is designed to cover the fixed costs associated with providing the services to each individual customer. These fixed costs include the repair, replacement and maintenance of the infrastructure needed to provide these services including the debt services, treatment of water and wastewater, and administrative fees.