

Old Town Sewer Condition Assessment - Sewers Investigation Project

The City's Sanitary Infrastructure Division of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services is embarking on a program to inspect the sanitary and combined sewers in the Old Town area. This program is being implemented to determine the condition of individual sewers and sewer structures in order to perform needed repairs to extend the useful life of the sewer system. The City has hired an engineering firm, Greeley and Hansen LLC, and its contractor, Mobile Dredging and Video Pipe Inc., to assist in the implementation of this program by inspecting all public sewers (sanitary, storm, and combined) and City-owned laterals in the northern half of the Old Town sewer service area. This work is part of a greater ongoing citywide initiative to renew and improve the performance of the existing sewer system.

The Old Town area sewers are primarily located in a combined sewer system, in which both stormwater runoff and sanitary sewage are collected into the same pipe. This infrastructure is a relic of the 19th and early 20th centuries, and the implementation of this program will help to preserve the integrity of the sewer system and provide long-lasting service into the future. This work is separate from the planned combined sewer tunnel infrastructure project that is being implemented by Alexandria Renew Enterprises. For more information about the tunnel project, please visit RiverRenew.com.



What to Expect

As part of the sewers investigation project, contractor crews will be inspecting all public sanitary, storm, and combined sewers and City-owned laterals in the northern half of the Old Town area. Assessing the condition of these sewers is vital for the proper operation and maintenance of the sewer system. Most of these sewers are in the public right-of-way and may require short-term changes to traffic patterns or parking in the City while the inspections are being conducted. Inspection of individual sewer segments typically takes 2-4 hours. These inspections will consist of opening the structures at either end of the sewer, inserting a crawling, CCTV camera unit at one end and a jetting hose with a cleaning nozzle and root cutter at the other. The sewer will first be cleaned with the jetting hose and root cutter, then once the sewer has been confirmed to be appropriately cleaned the CCTV camera inspection will be performed which will identify the location of defects in the structure of the sewer and any sanitary laterals that enter the sewer from surrounding buildings. Once the sewer inspection is completed an inspection of the City-owned laterals will commence immediately. A different type of CCTV camera will be inserted in the sewer and will inspect each of the laterals individually.



Example of typical CCTV inspection truck setup. In order to conduct CCTV inspections two trucks are needed, one at either end of the sewer.

Some City sewers are located on private property and the contractor may need access to corresponding sewer structures on these properties to perform inspections. Residents will be notified if crews need access to private property and arrangements will be planned with residents accordingly. There should be minimal disturbance to private property during this work, and sewer service will not be interrupted during the sewer inspection.

The sewers investigation project is expected to begin on or around March 2020 and will take approximately two years to complete. The next phase of the program will consist of CCTV (closed circuit television) inspections of all individual sewers in the southern half of the Old Town area.

We appreciate your cooperation as we work to improve and maintain our City's sewer infrastructure. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Lu Zhang, Sanitary Infrastructure Division, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703.746.4289 or by email at Lu.Zhang@alexandriava.gov. For more information about the City's Sanitary Infrastructure Division, please visit alexandriava.gov/sewers.