



City of Tarpon Springs, Florida

324 East Pine Street
Post Office Box 5004
Tarpon Springs, Florida 34689-5004
(727) 942-5638
www.ctsfl.us

Bayshore Drive Sanitary Sewer Project Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of this project? Why is this project necessary?

The purpose of the project is to provide sanitary sewer (wastewater) collection service to sections of Bayshore Drive that currently do not have this service available. The Public Services Department has been systematically working to replace septic treatment systems with municipal wastewater service in important areas of Tarpon Springs to protect surface water quality. Projects have been completed in areas that drain to Lake Tarpon, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Anclote River. Furthermore, aging home septic systems can become costly for homeowners to maintain over time.

2. What is the estimated start date? And completion date?

Construction activities are expected to begin in May 2024. Estimated completion is by November 2024.

3. How much does this project cost?

The City will pay over \$1,200,000 for the design and construction of the pipeline.

4. Where will the pipe be located?

The new sanitary sewer pipeline will be generally located near the northern edge Bayshore Drive roadway. The project will also include the milling and re-paving of the roadway from edge of pavement to edge of pavement within the project limits.

5. Will the roadway be closed?

Roadways are expected to remain open, but residents may experience temporary delays near the construction areas. The contractor has been instructed to maintain access for residents. If you run into issues, please contact the City at 727-942-5638 and we'll address them as quickly as possible. We appreciate your patience.

6. How much does it cost to connect?

Residents will be responsible for paying a sewer impact fee (currently \$1,616 for each dwelling unit), a sewer tap-in fee (currently \$350 for each dwelling unit), and a \$40 deposit in order to connect.

7. Is there a payment plan available? If so, is there interest?

For those who do not plan to make payment in full, the City is offering three (3) financing options (please note: applicable recording fees may apply):

a. Option #1: Available only if the property is your legal homestead.

The impact fee but not the tap-in fee may be financed in equal monthly installments over a period of five years plus interest at the rate of 8% per year on the unpaid balance with no penalty for pre-payment.

b. Option #2:

The impact fee and tap-in fee may be financed without interest in equal monthly principal installments over a period of time not to exceed two years from the date of the required connection or of the date of the actual connection, whichever is first.

c. Option #3: Available only if Financial Hardship is demonstrated. A separate Certificate of Financial Hardship must be completed and notarized.

The impact fee and tap-in fee may be financed without interest in equal monthly principal installments over a period of time not to exceed five years from the date of required connection or the date of actual connection whichever is sooner, if the owner has demonstrated a financial hardship. The criteria for financial hardship shall be established by resolution of the city commission and shall take into account the owner's net worth, income and financial needs.

8. Will each resident be required to hire their own plumber to hook-up to the main line? Any additional costs that the homeowner is responsible for?

Yes, each resident is responsible for making the physical connection between your home and the City's pipeline. This is typically accomplished by hiring a licensed plumbing contractor (who will be responsible for applying for a Building Permit from the City). Alternatively, homeowners do have the option to complete the connection from their home to the City's system on their own. The homeowner can apply for a City Building Permit themselves and would be obligated to complete the work. With this option, the homeowner is acting as the contractor and assuming the liability associated with the project work. Additionally, each home will need to have a dedicated grinder pump installed that will pump the sewage generated at each residence into the City's new pressurized sanitary sewer system. These are small, buried pumping units that use less power than a typical in-sink garbage disposal unit. Local hardware stores sell them for under \$400. Plumbers can furnish and install them as well.

9. Does the city have a list of recommended plumbers that offer group rates?

No, the City does not keep a list of recommended plumbers. However, you may coordinate with your neighbors in hiring a plumber.

10. Where will the connection be located? Will my landscaping be torn up?

Wastewater from your home is typically discharged from your house to the septic tank on one side of your house. Your small grinder pump station will need to be installed such that the pressurized pipe can connect to the new City pipeline in the street. The City or the City's contractor will ask you which side of your driveway you would like the point of connection to be and to sign a document approving that location. The City connection will be in the right of way and is unlikely to affect your landscaping. You will be able to dictate the location of your pump station and pipeline on your property with your plumber to minimize landscaping impact.

11. Is it mandatory to hook-up? If so, what is the timeline?

Yes, connection to the sanitary sewer system is mandatory in accordance the City Ordinance 20-22 and State Statute Chapter 381.00655. The connection must be made 365 days from the date of the official notice to connect to the City sewer after the pipeline is completely installed and cleared for service by the FDEP (estimated November 2024). In this estimation, you would have until November of 2025 to connect (estimated). However, if your septic system is in a state of failure the law requires you to connect within 90 days of project completion.

12. Can I hook-up to my current septic tank to this system or maybe just keep using our septic tank?

No, as part of connecting to the new sewer system, all existing septic tanks must be properly abandoned in accordance with the Florida Department of Health (DOH).

13. How will this impact our utility bills?

By becoming a City sanitary sewer customer, the homeowner will be responsible for a base monthly fee plus sewer charges corresponding to the volume of water usage recorded on the home's potable water meter. Please keep in mind, the extension of sanitary sewer services to an area generally increases property values and, with this project, will help to provide a positive environmental impact to the water quality in this sensitive coastal area.

14. This is all rather confusing. Will there be additional information available?

Yes, the City will distribute a detailed information packet with instructions for connecting to the City's system as we get closer to project completion later this year. Feel free to call us anytime with concerns or questions at 727- 942-5638