



News Release
City Hall
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MICROTUNNELING UNDER HUDSON BAYOU BEGINS

Sarasota, FL: The Lift Station 87 contractor began microtunneling under Hudson Bayou this week. This much-anticipated work installs segments of a 36-inch wastewater main under Hudson Bayou and Luke Wood Park and is critical to the success of the Lift Station 87 project.

“This is where the rubber meets the road,” said Sarasota Utility Director Mitt Tidwell. “We scheduled this work first to protect the City’s investment and minimize risks. Our microtunneling expert, Staheli Trenchless, is on site, and we look forward to completing this crucial phase of work.”

Microtunneling is a specialized trenchless construction technique for installing pipelines under waterways, wetlands and roadways. Crews launched the microtunnel boring machine from a 30-foot deep shaft on the south side of the Osprey Bridge. The contractor uses a control room to guide the boring machine to a tunnel shaft north of the bridge and to monitor all facets of the operation. Once microtunneling under Hudson Bayou is completed, the machine will be placed in a 30-foot deep shaft on the Lift Station 87 site and be guided westward to the shaft on the north side of the bridge.

The heads on the end of the boring machine cut through the earth, which is removed as the tunnel is created. The microtunnel boring machine advances 20-40 feet per day, depending on underground conditions. As the tunnel is created, a 60-inch diameter protective steel casing is put in place. The new wastewater main will be installed after the tunnel, which is approximately 8 feet below the bottom of Hudson Bayou, is created.

The microtunnel operation under Hudson Bayou is expected to last four weeks. The contractor will work 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Microtunneling under Hudson Bayou and Luke Wood Park is scheduled to be completed in June. Work on Lift Station 87 is scheduled to begin in July. Lift Station 87 will replace Lift Station 7, located at 935 Pomelo Avenue. Once the entire project is completed, wastewater flow will be redirected from Lift Station 7 to Lift Station 87.

For more information about the Lift Station 87 project, go to www.liftstation87.com or call our project information line at 941-356-8071. Interested parties can also subscribe to

email updates at www.egovlink.com/sarasota/subscriptions/subscribe.asp. Also, follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram -- search "City of Sarasota".

Media requests should be directed to Michelle Klase Robinson, Dialogue Public Relations: 727-580-9013 or MRobinson@Dialogue-PR.com

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About the City of Sarasota: Distinguished by Google as a Digital Capital in the U.S., the City of Sarasota is a diverse community located on Florida's Suncoast with 53,000 year round residents, several internationally recognized cultural arts venues, stunning sunsets along Lido Beach, a 45-hole municipal golf course at the historic Bobby Jones Golf Club, and Major League spring training baseball with the Baltimore Orioles. Learn more about us at www.SarasotaGov.com

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