



Understanding Water Transmission Mains

Transmission mains move large amounts of treated water from the treatment plant through the system, improving reliability, fire protection and service for neighborhoods today and in the future.

East Transmission Main – Frequently Asked Questions

What are water transmission mains?

A water transmission main is a large underground pipe that moves large volumes of treated drinking water from the water treatment plant to different parts of the city's water distribution system. It functions like an interstate highway, carrying water in large volumes and quickly to areas where it's needed to support neighborhoods, businesses, and fire protection.

Where does the water in a transmission main come from?

The water comes from City Utilities' Three Rivers Filtration Plant, where it is treated to drinking water standards before entering the distribution system. A transmission main does not introduce a new water source; it simply moves treated water that is already part of the public system.

Where can I find information on the Three Rivers Filtration Plant?

Information on the Three Rivers Filtration Plant can be found on the City Utilities website at <https://utilities.cityoffortwayne.org/about/facilities/three-rivers-water-filtration-plant>.

How are transmission mains different from neighborhood water pipes?

Transmission mains are designed to transport large volumes of water over long distances within the system, not to deliver water directly to homes. They feed into smaller distribution mains, which then supply water to homes, businesses, and fire hydrants. This separation allows water to move efficiently through the system while maintaining steady pressure and reliable local service.

Why are transmission mains so large?

Transmission mains are larger in diameter because they must carry high volumes of water over long distances. The large diameter helps City Utilities deliver water efficiently, minimize pressure loss and maintain capacity throughout its entire system. This capacity is essential for:

- Meeting peak daily demands
- Supporting firefighting needs
- Maintaining pressure and reliability across large areas of the service area, even if smaller or local water main pipes are out of service for maintenance or repair

How do transmission mains improve system reliability?

Transmission mains are connected to each other in a grid-like framework and add redundancy to the system by creating multiple pathways for water to flow. If a water main breaks or a section of pipe needs maintenance, water can be rerouted through other mains, helping maintain service and reduce disruptions.

How does this transmission main help with fire protection?

Firefighting requires large amounts of water delivered quickly. Transmission mains help ensure the system has sufficient volume and pressure to support strong fire flows when hydrants are in use, particularly during emergencies or peak demand.

How will neighborhoods along the route of the East Transmission Main benefit?

As the transmission main travels through an area, it includes periodic connection points that strengthen service to nearby neighborhoods. These connections can:

- Improve water pressure and reliability
- Provide additional supply during peak demand
- Offer backup service during main breaks
- Support future neighborhood infrastructure improvements

Will customers along the route receive water directly from the East Transmission Main?

No. Homes and businesses are served by distribution mains, not the transmission main itself. However, the transmission main feeds those neighborhood pipes, providing an additional source of water. Along its route—including areas such as Memorial Park, East Side and Harvester—it offers added reliability if a local main breaks. As part of construction, fire hydrants will also be upgraded, further improving service and fire protection.

How do transmission mains support future growth?

Transmission mains provide the capacity needed to support new development, while also improving service for existing customers. By strengthening the backbone of the water system, they allow growth to occur without compromising reliability or pressure in established neighborhoods.

Why is much of the East Transmission Main installed under or along roads?

Roadways provide clear, accessible corridors for large infrastructure. Installing transmission mains under and along roads allows for safer construction and easier future maintenance, in addition to minimizing impacts on private property.

Does adding a new transmission main increase water use?

No. A transmission main does not increase how much water is produced or used. It improves how water is moved and managed within the system. Water use is based solely on customer consumption.

Who is paying for the construction of the East Transmission Main?

Google is paying 100 percent of the \$14 million in construction costs for the East Transmission Main. Once completed, the transmission main becomes a public asset owned and operated by City Utilities, benefiting existing customers and providing capacity to serve future customers in the area.

How are the ongoing operations and maintenance costs of the transmission main paid for?

This transmission main is a major long-term public investment. It will help serve thousands of customers and is expected to last about 75 to 100 years, benefiting generations of residents. These investments help keep the water system reliable, safe, and sustainable over time.

This water tank represents a major long-term public asset valued at more than \$12 million. It will serve (*thousands of*) customers throughout the Central Pressure Zone and is expected to have a lifespan of approximately 75 to 100 years, benefiting generations of residents. While City Utilities will own, operate, and maintain the tank as part of the public water system, the tank is being constructed at no cost to existing ratepayers, creating tremendous long-term value for customers.

City Utilities uses revenue from customer water rates to pay for the daily costs of treating water and operating, maintaining, and replacing public water system infrastructure. Much of the revenue collected by City Utilities is based on each customer's water use, so customers who use large amounts of water pay significantly more toward the operational costs of infrastructure needed to serve them.

Who pays for the water delivered from the East Transmission Main?

There is no special fee or additional charge associated with water delivered through the transmission main, just as there is no special charge for other transmission mains operated by City Utilities. Customers continue to pay only for the water they use, based on standard water rates and charges.

Where can I find information on Fort Wayne City Utilities water rates?

Information on the Three Rivers Filtration Plant can be found on the City Utilities website at <https://utilities.cityoffortwayne.org/rates/>