

11/10/2021

Dear Battle Creek neighbor:

I'd like to take this opportunity to share an exciting new project the Department of Public Works is working on – the relocation of our winter maintenance salt storage facility. You are receiving this letter because your home or business is near the Helmer Road property where we plan to relocate.

If you are not familiar with it, our existing facility is on River Road W, at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. We are testing a new biosolids/composting project at the WWTP, one of the factors for this move. This will also provide a more centralized location once complete.

Here's a summary of where we're currently at as well as the next steps in the review and approval process for this project.

We have an option to purchase agreement on a new 12-acre site on Helmer Road, South, across the street from Meijer. We've already completed an environmental site assessment on the property, and received a favorable report.

Our next steps include generating a conceptual site plan to submit to the city's Planning Commission for consideration of a Special Use Permit. This permit process includes public notification, and at least one public meeting. Once approved by the Planning Commission, the plan goes to the City Commission for consideration.

With approval, we will create full site and building plans for bidding. We are planning a fully enclosed building, with capacity to hold at least 5,000 tons of salt and our liquid de-icer system. We may also include a storage building for the Field Services Division along with a cold storage and workspace building for our Traffic Division.

We hope to bid the project next spring, with construction beginning in late 2022, and our first facility use during the 2023-2024 winter season.

Overall, we estimate the project cost at \$1.5 million. We will use fund balance from our major and local street funds for this project.

If you would like to watch/participate in the Planning or City Commission meeting where this is discussed, we currently hold public meetings virtually. You can give public comment by calling in, or watch the meeting live on the city's Facebook page. For more information on this, visit

battlecreekmi.gov or call us at (269) 966-3311. Our project FAQ is available online at battlecreekmi.gov/faq. See "Helmer Salt Storage Facility Project."

Attached you will find a short question and answer document for this project.

Please feel free to reach out to me at (269) 966-3507 or email at tjgerber@battlecreekmi.gov or publicinput@battlecreekmi.gov with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Todd Gerber
Field Services Superintendent