

Northwest Interceptor to Oakwood Combined Sewer Overflow Relief Sewer Tunnel Project



Project Description:

- The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) is building a new relief sewer tunnel between its Northwest Interceptor Sewer (NWI) and its Oakwood Retention Treatment Basin (RTB).
- The NWI is a 10-foot diameter sewer pipe that operates on all days, and fills rapidly during large storms, sometimes resulting in excess wet weather overflows into the Rouge River.
- During large storms, the new 14.5-foot diameter relief sewer tunnel, which is buried 35-feet underground, will redirect flow from the NWI to the Oakwood RTB.
 - The tunnel, when completed, will be large enough to drive a semi-truck through.
- The tunnel, which will be two-thirds of a mile in length, will be dug using an Earth Balance Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM).
 - The TBM is more than 17 feet in diameter, approximately 450 feet long and weighs more than 600,000 pounds.
 - Approximately 50,000 tons of soil will be excavated to construct the tunnel.
- Tunneling is expected to begin in spring 2026 and be completed in early 2027, with the full project (including site restoration) expected to be wrapped up in mid-2028.
- The project cost is approximately \$87 million and is partially funded with Clean Water State Revolving Fund dollars (\$20 million w/principal forgiveness) and federal grants (\$959,752).

Project Benefits:

- Increased system efficiency by lowering sewer levels in the NWI during wet weather and allowing for better control of flow in large rainstorms.
- Improved environmental health for communities on the west side of the regional conveyance system by reducing the potential for wet weather overflows into the Rouge River.
- Increased system resiliency by providing an additional option for sewage treatment should a problem occur at GLWA's Water Resource Recovery Facility

Construction Impacts:

- Tunnel construction will be entirely under the road right-of-way, under property with GLWA permanent easements, and on property owned or leased by GLWA.
- Access will be maintained to all residents and commercial properties during construction.

Neighborhood Impacts:

- Given that this is a tunneling project, the ground will be monitored for vibrations and movement. If vibrations or movement reach action limits, GLWA's contractor will be required to make adjustments.
- While odors are not anticipated, GLWA's contractor is required to monitor for odors throughout construction in the vicinity of the project.

Contact Information:

Questions?

- Email: Oakwood.Tunnel@glwater.org
- Phone: (313) 297-6400

