



# What's with all the Construction?

Summer in Maine means beaches, ice cream, tourists, and yes.... Construction. Our summers here are short, which means all of that aging utility infrastructure underground needs to be repaired or replaced during the same season that our roads are at their busiest. Hundreds of miles of pipes providing reliable water, sewer, storm drain, heating fuel, communication, and electric services to our homes and businesses lie beneath our roadways. While this may not be a recipe for happiness, but rather frustration, many people work behind the scenes to limit this frustration.

The trick for us here at DPW is to minimize this impact to residents and visitors. We do this through:

- Coordination with local utility companies on construction projects.
- Maximizing the use of April/May and September/October construction in our busy summer areas, and scheduling around local events.
- Providing advanced notice of the construction activities and adequate alternative routes for traffic flow.

For example, quarterly project planning and collaboration meetings with Maine Water Company and Unitil Gas have allowed us to streamline construction schedules, divide roadway restoration costs, and lessen the duration of traffic impacts, while still accomplishing the much needed replacement of these buried pipe systems. System replacements and funding through each organization is aligned, whenever possible, to allow for system replacements one to two years ahead of road and sidewalk reconstruction. This lessens the likelihood of a utility company digging up a newly built road, allowing the road to remain patch free for longer periods of time.



In the end, we all must remember that this construction is enhancing services that are beneficial to our daily lives. 2017 will be a busy year on and under our roads, with Maine Water investing in replacing miles of their aging water mains, and Unitil expanding gas service lines to hundreds of new customers in the downtown. The City will be following many of these projects with new road surface pavement and pedestrian accommodation enhancements. We thank you in advance for your patience, as we look to invest in the assets that keep our City running every day.