

Fourth Ave Reconstruction Project



April 22nd, 2026

City of Ann Arbor – Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
415 North Fifth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Ann Arbor Business Owner or Resident:

The Fourth Avenue Reconstruction Project on S. 4th Avenue between E. William Street and E. Liberty Street is set to begin construction work on Monday, May 4th, 2026.

Included in this letter are key contacts, a schedule overview, operational guidelines with regard to vehicle and pedestrian access, and coordination on water service interruptions.

What work is being done?

The work includes:

- roadway reconstruction
- water main improvements
- sidewalk, crosswalk and pedestrian curb ramp improvements
- stormwater improvements and detention
- road and bus lane pavement marking improvements
- new lighting and landscaping
- new bus shelters

When will work start and for how long?

Construction is scheduled to begin at 7 a.m. on Monday May 4th, 2026. The project is expected to be complete by the end of 2026. Construction activity is planned to occur from May until early December with a pause from July 10 to 26 for events. The DDA is working closely with the contractor to meet the schedule; however, severe weather and other unforeseen events may affect construction.

Roadway and Bikeway Closures

4th Avenue will be completely closed to traffic, from north of the E. William Street intersection to north of and including the E. Liberty Street intersection. The following road segments will remain open to local traffic but will be closed to through traffic:

- eastbound from the intersection of E. Liberty Street and S. Main Street
- westbound from the intersection of E. Liberty Street and S. Fifth Avenue
- northbound from the intersection of S. Fourth Avenue and E. William Street
- southbound from the intersection S. Fourth Avenue and E. Washington Street

There will be a period of time when cyclists using the William St bikeway will be shifted slightly into a closed vehicular lane. After July 20th, a temporary, short-term closure of the bikeway will occur with a detour provided for both directions via shared lanes along E. William Street between S. Main Street and S. Fifth Avenue.

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Starting May 3, the Blake Transit Center will be temporarily closed for the duration of the project. Please visit www.theride.org/btc for more information regarding impacts to bus routes and bus stop locations.

Any impacted loading, delivery, and alleyway access to local businesses will be coordinated with each business owner prior to the start of construction. Alternate loading zones outside of the work zone will be provided and marked with temporary signage by the DDA. Parking spaces will be closed as necessary to allow for construction and loading.

Road closure details will be made available via the City's road and lane closure page, website updates, and email. Please visit www.a2gov.org/roads for the latest closure information and to sign up for email and text alerts.

Other General Information

Normal work hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The contractor may request to work outside of these hours and to work on Sundays to meet project deadlines. The City will evaluate such requests on a case by case basis.

Construction will unavoidably generate dust and noise and many other inconveniences. In addition, utility flags, surveyor stakes, and protection fences may be seen along the roadway which are important to construction and should not be disturbed. Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation during the project.

Locally impacted businesses will receive weekly emails from constructionmanager@a2dda.org with up-to-date construction information. Please reach out if you are not getting these updates and would like to receive the weekly email. If you are interested in receiving general updates from the DDA, please visit engage.a2gov.org/fourth-avenue-street-transit-improvements to subscribe to the monthly newsletter.

Will I still have access to water?

Water service will be maintained during construction, except for brief periods when the new water main is connected, and when service connections are reconnected to the proposed water main. If your service will be impacted, you will receive a notification at least 3 days in advance of the work. The shutoff should not be longer than 1 day.

Debris in Water

After new water main connections are made, it is very likely that you will notice brown water and/or sedimentary debris in your water. This is common and there is no need for alarm. To remedy brown water or debris content, run your cold water at the faucet nearest the main water connection to the building until the system is flushed clean.

When the final connections are made, you may experience debris in the form of particulate matter and brown colored water in the water supplied to your building. This is not harmful and is a normal part of water main construction; however, it is possible that you may experience low water flow due to the aerators in your faucets being clogged with this particulate debris. To prevent this, please remove the aerators from your faucets, then run faucets on cold until all debris is flushed from your system. Once your system runs clear water from all faucets you can reinstall the aerators.

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Sidewalk Access

Pedestrian access will be maintained to local businesses only, but otherwise closed to through movements on 4th Avenue. Pedestrian access along E. Liberty Street and E. William Street will be maintained, but individual crosswalks will be temporarily closed at certain times. Pedestrian crossings will be maintained for three out of four corners of the intersection at all times. The intersections of E. Liberty Street and 4th Avenue and of E. William St. and 4th Avenue will be fully open to pedestrians between July 10th and July 26th for the Ann Arbor Art Fair and other major events. Pedestrian access from the 4th Avenue entrance to Liberty will remain open, with the exception of the dates when the sidewalk is being replaced in this segment.

Key Contacts

Wade Trim's Construction Engineer, Felipe Uribe, will serve as the primary point of contact for any immediate questions or concerns you may have during construction. Our Field Inspector, Brian Scherdt, will also be on-site and available to help with inquiries.

Felipe Uribe can be reached at furibe@wadetrim.com or 734.489.3379.

Brian Scherdt can be reached at bscherdt@wadetrim.com or 734.947.9700.

If you have specific questions for the City of Ann Arbor DDA regarding this project, you can reach out to Nani Wolf, DDA Planning Specialist.

Nani can be reached at nwolf@a2dda.org or 734.794.6000 ext. 49931.

Please also feel free to reach out to me through the contact information below. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in this matter and apologize for the inconvenience this work may cause.

Most Sincerely,

Breanna Anderson, Project Manager
constructionmanager@a2dda.org
734.947.2645