



Water Distribution System Immediate Action Report

March 2026

Executive Summary

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) has recently experienced an increased rate of failure among its medium-large-diameter transmission mains (TM) that have resulted in broad precautionary boil water advisories, extensive repair costs, potential claims, and economic impacts on our customers. SWBNO has developed a near-term approach to address these challenges as quickly as possible, as well as next steps to develop a more comprehensive long-term plan, which are detailed in this report.

Our Approach

SWBNO proposes a layered, multi-pronged approach that balances urgency with strategic planning.

1. The immediate goal is to **address transmission mains with a known urgent risk profile** as quickly as possible.
 - SWBNO has identified a list of 8 repairs of varying criticality and four remaining JIRR TM replacement projects for immediate action as funding is available.
 - Repair projects are expected to take several months to complete due to required project sequencing, while JIRR projects require additional funding before they can be put out to bid and begin work.
2. Concurrently, SWBNO will **conduct a pilot test** to assess the condition of some of the oldest mains in the system near the Carrollton Water Treatment Plant, which will offer insight into the remaining 33.8 miles of main that are 100+ years old.
 - Pilot test can be initiated within two months, utilizing in-line technology, with approval for use of IAB funds. An initial funding ask of \$1M is estimated to inspect about half of the 33.8 miles of oldest main, using free-swimming acoustic tools.
 - Additionally, existing acoustic leak detection contracts will be utilized to review the remaining sections of water mains that recently experienced major breaks.
3. The utility will also quickly **issue an RFI to gather information on emerging technologies** that could be used in further condition assessments, predictive technologies, and for pipe repair and replacement technologies.
 - SWBNO plans to advertise the RFI by the end of April 2026.
 - SWBNO aims to review results and develop a list of preferred, viable technology options within three months of submission receipt.
4. Based on the data captured through Steps 2-3, SWBNO will **develop a list of near-term priorities** for design and implementation.
 - SWBNO will develop a first draft of projects and preliminary cost estimates in Q4, 2026.
 - Full replacement of 33.8 miles of older TM's could be up to \$680M. A smaller subset of initial investment will be identified to prioritize any funds that may be available
 - RFP(s) for priority replacements design will be advertised for work to begin in early 2027.
 - Expansion of condition assessment can be done when additional funding is available.
5. The utility will also **develop an updated hydraulic model for a targeted area** in New Orleans East, which will eventually inform a citywide hydraulic model as part of a future system-wide conditions assessment—SWBNO's ultimate goal.
 - Proposals are currently under review, and selection is anticipated in March 2026.

6. Once a **citywide conditions assessment** is completed, SWBNO aims to implement an ongoing water main replacement program that will allow the utility to replace 60% of water mains in the next 20-30 years (a 2-3% annual replacement rate), to catch up on previous years without major investment. This will exceed the typical industry standard of a 1-2% replacement rate yearly, but SWBNO believes this to be necessary at this point due to condition of the system and consequences of failure.
 - o SWBNO aims to advertise an RFP in Q1 2027 for work to start by the end of 2027.

The dates included above are subject to change based on available funding and resources as well as the successful completion of previous steps.

Funding Needed

To implement the approach outlined in this plan, SWBNO will require additional resources, which break down as follows:

PHASE	ACTIVITY	ESTIMATED COST*
Immediate Term (2026)	Fully fund urgent risk TM repairs	\$3M (min)
	Begin pilot test and subsequently expanding initial condition assessment efforts; develop cost estimates for near-term projects	\$1M (min)
	TOTAL	\$4M
Near-Term (2026/2027)	Cover difference for remaining JIRR projects after anticipated earmark (\$27.5M needed in total)	\$17.5M
	Initial replacement projects (cost estimates to be updated based on condition assessment and design) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full replacement of 33.8 miles of older TM's could be up to \$680M. A smaller subset of initial investment will be identified to prioritize any funds that may be available 	\$100M (placeholder)
	RFP for larger condition assessment and strategic plan	\$3M
	Replace remaining water main along Panola St and Claiborne Ave (immediate priority project given recent three breaks)**	\$40M
	TOTAL	\$160.5M
Long-Term (2027+)	Sustainable funding source for annual water main replacement program to replace 60% in 20-30 years	TBD

**Costs estimated in 2026 dollars*

***Estimate based on alternative project delivery models*

Updating our drinking water distribution system replacement plans, following the work completed by the JIRR program, and developing a long-term maintenance and replacement plan has been identified as a priority for SWBNO in both our capital improvement plan (CIP) as well as our Strategic Plan. SWBNO looks forward to continued partnership as the utility addresses historic infrastructure needs.

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Purpose of Document

This document outlines the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans’ plan to stabilize its drinking water distribution system in the short-term as well as the proposed process for developing a long-term replacement and maintenance plan.

Progress to Date

Post-Katrina Projects

In the years following Hurricane Katrina, three major programs were initiated to stabilize the water distribution system:

- Water Line Replacement Program (2005 initiated) – about \$120 for initial water line replacements and point repairs of smaller water lines
- Water Hammer Mitigation Program (2011 initiated) – \$110M to construct water towers at the Carrollton Water Plant and pump station rehabilitation for water hammer mitigation

Building on the Water Line Replacement Program, the current JIRR Program was developed and initiated in 2012.

JIRR Program Drinking Water Main Replacements

The FEMA-funded Joint Infrastructure Recovery Roads (JIRR) program, which began construction in 2012, enabled SWBNO and DPW to replace 115 miles of our aging water mains (25.5 miles remain under construction), including over three miles of major transmission mains. These completed and underway projects are depicted in the map and detailed in the table below.

FEMA prioritized these specific water main replacement projects based on various criteria, including main age, size, and material as well as the number, type, and frequency of repairs. However, these JIRR projects **only comprise seven percent of the distribution system**.

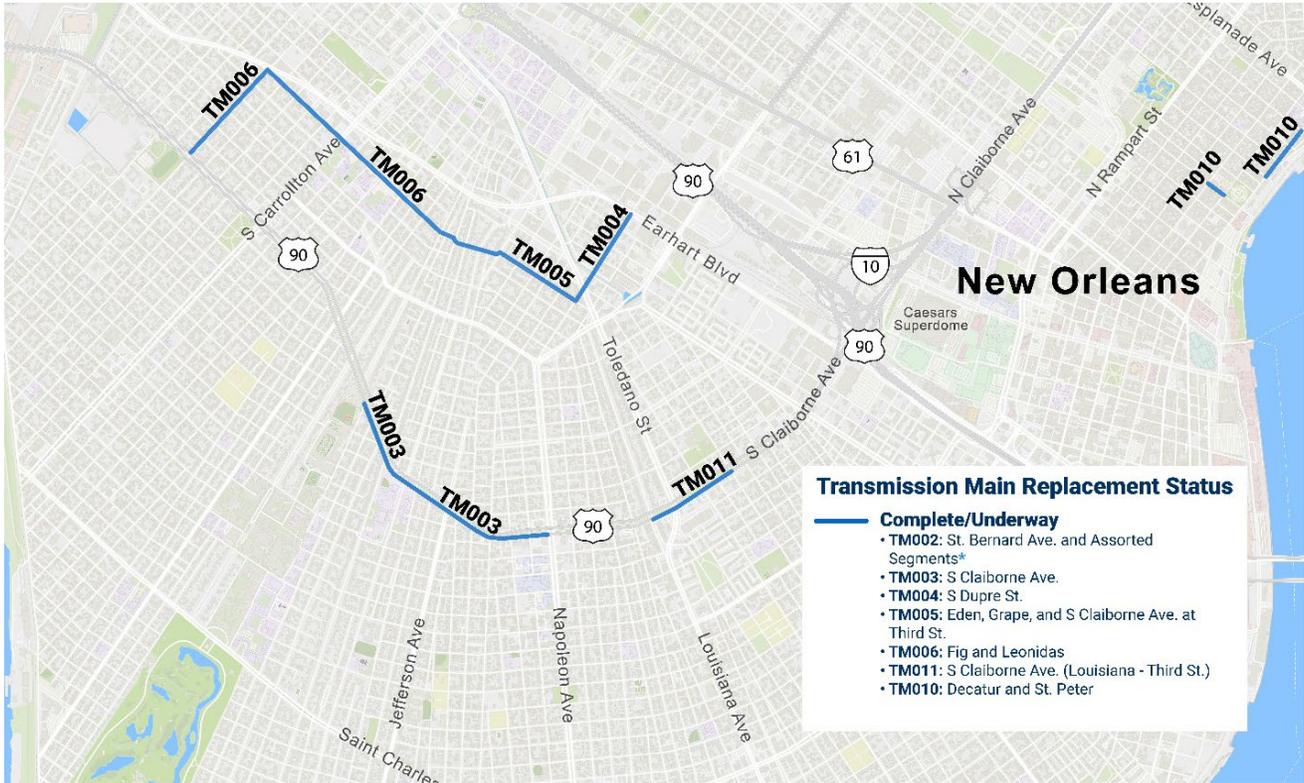
An additional approximately 80 miles of mains have been identified in recent projects developed by the City’s JIRR program at a cost of \$32M (including associated sewer replacement costs); however, these are unfunded at this time.

Completed	
St. Bernard Ave. Transmission Main Project (TM002) Completed: December 2023	Eden, Grape, and Dupre Transmission Main Project (TM005) Completed: August 2023
South Claiborne Transmission Main Project (TM003) Completed: March 2024	Fig and Leonidas Transmission Main Project (TM006) Completed: January 2024
South Dupre Transmission Main Project (TM004) Completed: January 2023	South Claiborne at Third Street Transmission Main Project (TM011) Completed: October 2024

In Progress

Decatur & St Peter Transmission Main Project (TM010)

Anticipated Completion: Late Spring 2026



*TM002 not shown in map – TM002 is located at St. Bernard Ave. near the Seventh Ward.

Other SWBNO Projects

In addition to these large transmission main replacement projects, SWBNO has recently completed other work to improve and maintain the drinking water distribution system. The table below describes recent projects completed by SWBNO that addressed long-standing issues and improved quality of life for residents and visitors.

Location	Description	Date Completed
HOV Lane at Earhart	Lined a section of pipe to eliminate persistent leak at this location	2025
I-10W on-ramp at Poydras and Claiborne	Fixed persistent water leak at	2025
Elysian Fields	Repaired valve that was contributing to low water pressures in New Orleans East	2025
Magnolia Line from Caliope to Superdome	Installed compression fit lining on the 30" water main	2024

Remaining Needs

Despite the extensive work completed to date, the drinking water distribution system still contains 33.8 miles of large distribution mains (20+ inches) that are over 100 years old that are in critical need of replacement. A 2003 report recommended that we replace 60% of remaining mains over 20-30 years to make up for previous years without major investment. However, SWBNO has been unable to fund a program of this magnitude, leading to yearly maintenance consisting of fixing major leaks.

On average, it costs **\$20M to replace one mile of transmission water main. This cost is based on recent 'all-in' costs for the JIRR program, which replaced transmission mains primarily 30" and above, including their branch offs and distribution mains, as well as small sections of sewer lines, within the project area (pipes between 4" – 20" diameter).** This cost encompasses all work to complete the repair including:

- excavation
- shoring
- new backfill material or disposal of undesirable backfill material
- disposal of waste removed from water mains
- valve replacement or assessment, asphalt or concrete replacement
- permitting
- traffic control
- surveying
- milling and overlay requirements
- road re-striping
- traffic signal wiring replacement
- required handicap ramp additions
- storm inlet protection
- bypassing
- temporary metering or water
- service connections
- any state or city fees

Replacing one mile of large transmission main costs around \$20M.
Replacing all the remaining 100+ year old water mains larger than 20" would require nearly \$680M.

Not all every mile of water main replacements will cost this much, but based on these averages, replacing all the remaining 100+ year old water mains larger than 20" would require nearly \$680M.

Costs to replace 60% of the system is upwards of \$2B (based on a 2003 CIP document). Knowing this is a prohibitive dollar amount, optimization of funding is clearly needed.

The next section describes the utility's approach to leverage existing data to develop a short-term and long-term plan for addressing the challenges of this aging infrastructure, especially considering the resources available.

The Path Forward

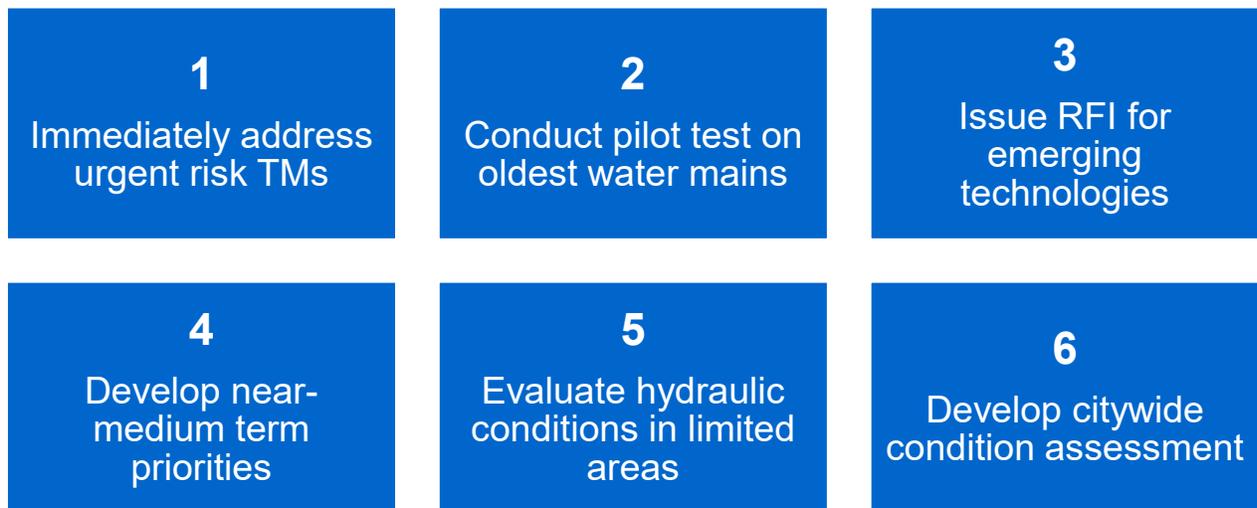
SWBNO's approach for stabilizing the drinking water distribution system and developing a prioritization methodology for future maintenance and replacement involves a six-step process that leverages existing water main condition data, builds upon efforts already underway, and expedites much-needed work. This proposed plan balances urgency with efficiency and cost-effectiveness to offer both immediate and long-term solutions for our customers.

Objectives

The overall objectives of this approach include:

1. Reduce break frequency, leak volume, and damage severity.
2. Lower total life-cycle cost, including claims and social costs.
3. Increase eligibility and competitiveness for public funding by demonstrating risk-based planning and measurable outcomes.
4. Improve customer satisfaction and transparency.

The Process



1. Address TMs with a known urgent risk profile immediately.

Given the need for urgency and immediate action amid the recent influx of water main breaks, SWBNO has defined a list of nine critical projects necessary to stabilize the drinking water system in the short term. This is a mix of already planned and designed (but unfunded) transmission main replacement projects as well as high-priority repair projects.

High-Priority Repair Projects

Location	Pipe Size	Status	Date Identified / Work Order Issued	Cost Estimate	Estimate Time to Complete
S. Claiborne / Third (District B)	48-in WM leak	Work requires additional coordination with DOTD. Additional significant work is required on the drainage canal box. Pricing for drainage repairs and restoration TBD (\$1M total estimate)	January 2026	\$1M	High priority; Planning to commence in conjunction with DOTD after 30" emergency repairs.
Filmore / Cartier (District D)	48-in WM leak	Need to replace section of pipe and also replace 48" valve. Significant work is also required on the canal box. Costs reflect two linestops. Work had to be sequenced to occur after valve on Elysian Fields was repaired in Q3 2025, and has since been delayed due to other emergent items.	6/18/2025	\$800,000	Summer 2026
4801 Florida (District E)	48" MW Leak	Cost estimate based on recent 48" main work; specific cost at this location still to be determined. 12" repair recently in this area and identified a leak on the 48" main	2/4/2026	\$4M	Summer 2026
Downman / Dwyer (District D)	50" valve	Confirmed that valve is leaking. Valve may be able to be exercised to stop leak, rather than full replacement required.	2/23/2026	\$600,000	After other leaks are completed; can complete sooner with additional funding
Burgundy / Deslonde (District E)	24" Water Main Leak	Multiple attempts made to repair by SWBNO crews. When work on Willow is done, then another closure will be made for next attempt to avoid cutting the section of pipe. Mitigation is in place to reduce spraying water for the nearby residents	Late 2025/ Early 2026	NA (internal crews)	Pending completion of Uptown work

Location	Pipe Size	Status	Date Identified / Work Order Issued	Cost Estimate	Estimate Time to Complete
S. Dupre / Howard Ave (District B)	24" WM leak surfacing next to I-10 but might be within the casing under I-10	The leak is surfacing next to I-10 but might be within the casing under I-10. Requires additional investigation to confirm costs (estimate based on previous costs for lining)	4/21/2025	\$1.7M	Planning to commence after 30" emergency repairs
Chef Menteur / Industrial (District E)	20" WM Leak (possibly with casing under Chef)	Estimate requested from a contractor. Work may also require the need to line the water main that runs perpendicular under Chef. Heavy traffic area that will require an extensive temporary road/routing. Water is not actively flowing into the street unless it rains.	Late 2025/ Early 2026	TBD	TBD
S Carrollton / Birch (District A)	20" WM Leak	High traffic area; work required on weekend.	2/20/2026	NA	3/23/2026

(based on known information at this time; expected to increase when final quotes are available)

Total Cost Estimate \$4,500,000.00

2026 Funding Available for Capital Water Repairs \$3,600,000.00

Spent / Committed to Date \$2,210,000.00

(including emergency contracts)

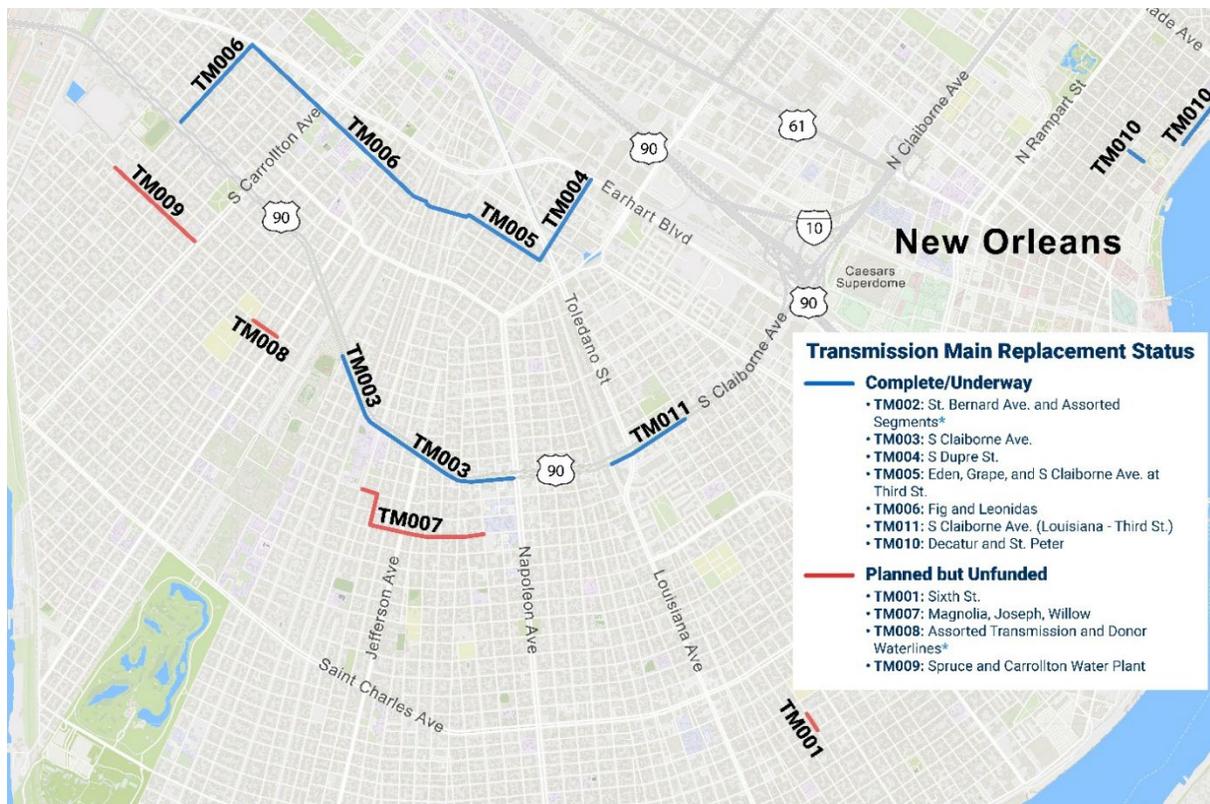
2026 Budget Remaining \$1,390,000.00

Funding Deficit **\$3,110,000.00**

Planned Transmission Main Replacement Projects

Below are four high-priority transmission main projects for which SWBNO is currently seeking funding. These projects remain after JIRR funding has been expended. The following map depicts the location of these projects in reference to JIRR projects already completed or underway. FEMA prioritized these specific water main replacement projects based on various criteria, including main age, size, and material as well as the number, type, and frequency of repairs.

Project	Feet of transmission mains replaced (>=20" diameter)	Feet of distribution mains replaced (< 20" diameter)	Estimated Cost*
Transmission Main 001 (6 th St.)	487 ft	0 ft	\$2M
Transmission Main 007 (Magnolia, Joseph, and Willow St.)	3281 ft	293 ft	\$6.5M
Transmission Main 008 (Cohn St.)	1275 ft	1764 ft	\$8M
Transmission Main 009 (Spruce St. and Various Locations)	2217 ft	3200 ft	\$11M
Total =			\$27.5M
*Based on 2024/2025 Construction Estimates; and includes remaining soft costs			



Earmarked Funds Requested for Remaining TM Replacements

The total estimated cost to replace these mains is \$27.5M (based on 2024/2025 construction costs). SWBNO made a formal request to the Louisiana delegation in Washington DC on March 9th, 2026, for \$10M in earmarked funds to go toward these projects, which were identified and designed through the JIRR program. These projects were also prioritized by FEMA as part of the JIRR program based on various criteria, including main age, size, and material as well as the number, type, and frequency of repairs. Once funding is received, these projects are ready to be bid and for construction to commence.

If granted, these request funds would not fully support all four projects, and additional funding will be required.

Step 1 Timeline and Resource Needs

Timeline: Existing projects will likely take several months to complete, based on project sequencing required.

Funding Needs:

- **High-Priority Repairs:** Additional funding of approximately \$3M is needed to address all known current transmission main issues.
- **TM Replacements:** \$17.5M minimally, to cover the difference after Earmarked funds request

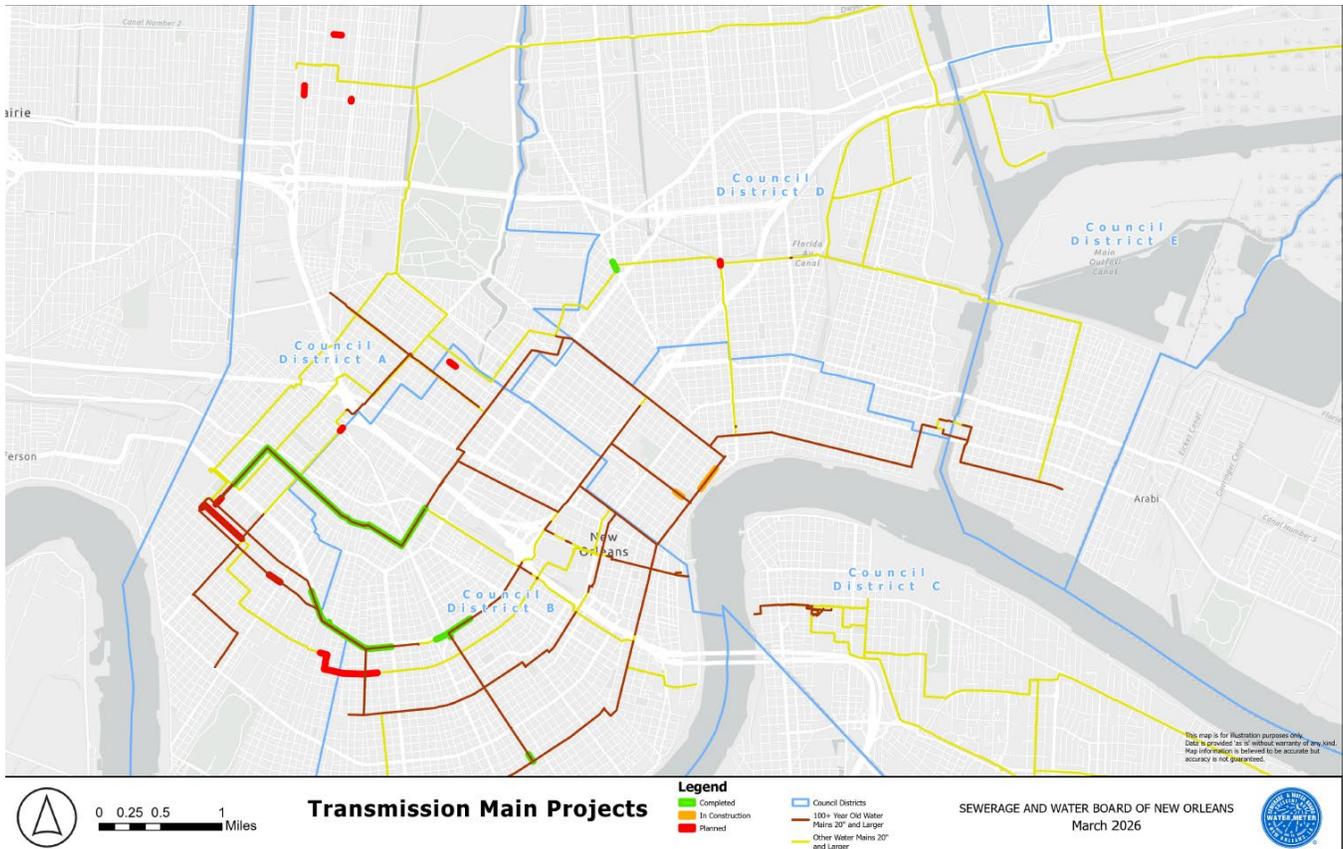
2. Conduct a pilot test for conditions assessment of the oldest water mains (33.8 miles)

While SWBNO works to implement the urgent risk projects listed in Step 1, the utility will also conduct a pilot test to analyze some of the oldest water transmission mains in the system. For this pilot test, SWBNO will focus transmission mains that are over 100 years old originating from the Carrollton Water Treatment Plant. The utility will employ two different types of assessments:

- 1) **Acoustic leak detection:** Uses sound waves to locate underground water main leaks; SWBNO is already leveraging an existing acoustic leak detection contract to initiate this work.
 - a. **Pros:** A cost-efficient way to identify at-risk water mains
 - b. **Cons:** Does not provide a detailed visual assessment of mains, cannot always determine differences between leaks in parallel pipes
- 2) **In-pipe assessment:** Various technology options are available for in-pipe assessments; SWBNO will utilize technology available through existing vendors (Xylem) to determine areas of risk based on pipe condition. Options being considered at free-swimming and tethered acoustic tools. Free swimming tools are more cost effective but have inherent risk of loss of equipment.

An initial investment of \$1M will allow us to conducting these assessments on about half of the oldest mains and can be expanded at any point with additional funding. Based on the inspection results from this pilot test, SWBNO will develop a near-term repair project list for the oldest water mains in the system.

The map below shows the location of water transmission lines for the majority of the Eastbank of Orleans Parish, and part of the Westbank. As shown, a higher concentration of main is located near the Carrollton Water Plant, which was first constructed in the early 1900's. These are the oldest mains that served the original parts of the city, with water mains being added as the City expanded.



Step 2 Timeline and Resource Needs

Timeline: Pilot test can be initiated within two months, utilizing in-line technology, with approval for use of IAB funds.

Funding Needs:

- An initial funding ask of \$1M is estimated to inspect about half of the 33.8 miles of oldest main, using free-swimming acoustic tools.
- IAB funds will be necessary to move forward.
- **Funding availability will determine how much of the 33.8 miles of oldest mains can be initially assessed.**
- Emergency Declaration(s) will expedite acquisition of contractor resources as needed.

3. Issue Request for Information (RFI) to evaluate new condition assessment tools to support condition assessment.

SWBNO will advertise an RFI to collect information and quotes for new leak detection technologies and options for inline inspections and condition assessments of water mains, as well as predictive analytics. Results will be reviewed by SWBNO staff, who will develop a menu of preferred and viable technology

options to address areas of risk identified by pilot condition assessment. Information from this RFI will also be incorporated into longer-term system planning.

Technologies could include but are not limited to the following.

- Leak Detection Technologies:
- Condition Assessment Technologies, including assessment of:
- Predictive Analytics & Data-Driven Tools
- Trenchless Rehabilitation Technologies
- Point Repairs and Localized Rehabilitation
- Full Replacement Technologies
- Operational and deployment considerations

By nature, RFI submittals do not include detailed cost estimates for specific individual projects.

Step 3 Timeline and Resource Needs

Timeline:

- Advertise RFI by end of April 2026.
- Review results and develop menu of technology options within three months of submission receipt.

Funding Needs: N/A

4. Develop suite of near-term priorities for water line replacement or rehabilitation.

By reviewing previous water distribution system assessments (pre- and post-Katrina) and utilizing results from the pilot test conducted in Step 2, SWBNO will develop list of near-term priorities for pipe repair or replacement.

Armed with a list of preferred viable assessment technologies from the RFI, SWBNO will conduct condition assessments of remaining priority water mains. After the 33.8 miles of oldest miles are completed, SWBNO will expand to the next oldest and highest risk water mains, pending available funding.

As stated earlier in this report, SWBNO would need roughly \$680M (in 2026 dollars) to replace the nearly 34 miles of large distribution main (>20”) remaining in the system. Knowing this is a prohibitive dollar amount, SWBNO’s updated condition assessment will likely place projects into three different “buckets,” including:

1. **High-priority replacements:** This would include near-failure water mains for which we would seek funding to fully replace.
2. **Repairs possible to extend life:** In some instances, modern repair technologies could be available to help extend the life of some older mains. This would allow for cost savings in the short term and allow SWBNO to cycle replacements for those mains into a longer-term plan.

- 3. Operable condition:** As SWBNO audits the system, SWBNO may identify some water mains that are in operable condition and do not need an immediate replacement or repair. However, the utility would work these into a maintenance/repair/replacement rotation as part of a larger maintenance plan.

Cost estimates for these items will need to be developed individually to determine the next appropriate funding ask. Based on anticipated limitations on funding, we do not expect to be able to perform sewer or drainage upgrades at the same time, as was done with the FEMA JIRR program.

Step 4 Timeline and Resource Needs

Timeline:

- Review existing reports to develop first draft of projects and preliminary cost estimates in Q4 2026.
- Advertise RFP(s) for priority replacement design, with intent to begin work in early 2027
 - Proposed timeline based on lead time for design, contracting, and acquisition of funding.
- Expansion of existing condition assessment can be done with additional funding is available

Funding Needs: Individual project costs to be determined. Full replacement of 33.8 miles of older TM's could be up to \$680M. A smaller subset of initial investment will be identified to prioritize any funds that may be available. An initial placeholder of \$100M is included here.

5. Evaluate hydraulic conditions in medium-large diameter TMs.

In 2025, SWBNO acknowledged the need to address chronic boil water advisories in the Little Woods neighborhood of New Orleans East. In December 2025, the utility issued an RFP to update the existing hydraulic model for the water distribution system, initially created in 2003, focusing on the Little Woods neighborhood to better understand hydraulic conditions in this area.

An accurate hydraulic model allowed our staff and consultants to accurately determine expansions and upgrades to the system that would best benefit our customers. This model, combined with a leak detection assessment, can help us prioritize the weak spots in our system to best utilize our limited funds.

Proposals are currently under review, and a selection is anticipated in March 2026. The updated hydraulic Little Woods model for this program will inform and be part of a future hydraulic model of system-wide conditions as part of a larger water main condition assessment.

SWBNO is open to expanding this work to better understand the hydraulic conditions in other priority areas, such as Uptown.

Step 5 Timeline and Resource Needs

Timeline:

- Proposals currently under review
- Selection anticipated in March 2026

Funding Needs: Budgetary needs will be assessed once a vendor is selected, although SWBNO anticipates being able to utilize available O&M funds.

6. Develop and implement citywide condition assessment and long-term replacement plan

SWBNO's ultimate goal is to conduct a citywide condition assessment and develop a long-term replacement plan. The previous steps will allow the utility to address urgent risk assets and collect the necessary information and data to inform a broader plan. This layered approach will balance the need for immediacy with strategic planning and cost-efficiency.

For the citywide condition assessment, SWBNO will utilize additional engineering consulting support to integrate all previous and new condition assessment information into an updated capital improvement plan (CIP). This will be the basis for a long-term funding strategy to support a water main replacement rate of 2-3% per year, to allow us to replace 60% of the system in 20-30 years. This will exceed the typical industry standard of a 1-2% replacement rate yearly, but SWBNO believes this to be necessary at this point due to condition of the system and consequences of failure. Costs to replace water mains vary by size and complexity, so an updated cost estimate will need to be developed as part of this assessment and the resulting CIP.

Costs to replace 60% of the system is upwards of \$2B (based on a 2003 CIP document). Knowing this is a prohibitive dollar amount, SWBNO's updated condition assessment will likely place projects into three different "buckets," including:

- 1. High-priority replacements:** This would include near-failure water mains for which we would seek funding to fully replace.
- 2. Repairs possible to extend life:** In some instances, modern repair technologies could be available to help extend the life of some older mains. This would allow for cost savings in the short term and allow SWBNO to cycle replacements for those mains into a longer-term plan.
- 3. Operable condition:** As SWBNO audits the system, SWBNO may identify some water mains that are in operable condition and do not need an immediate replacement or repair. However, the utility would work these into a maintenance/repair/replacement rotation as part of a larger maintenance plan.

While SWBNO will explore options to be the best stewards of available resources, funding is still a critical obstacle for implementing the findings of the Conditions Assessment once its complete. As part of that assessment and the resulting plan, SWBNO will incorporate repair/replacement timelines as well as estimated costs to formally request the funding necessary to move forward.

Given the large scale of work to be done, alternative procurement delivery methods will be considered such as CMAR and design build, and leverage lessons learned from the JIRR program regarding disruption to customers during these large-scale projects.

Step 6 Timeline and Resource Needs

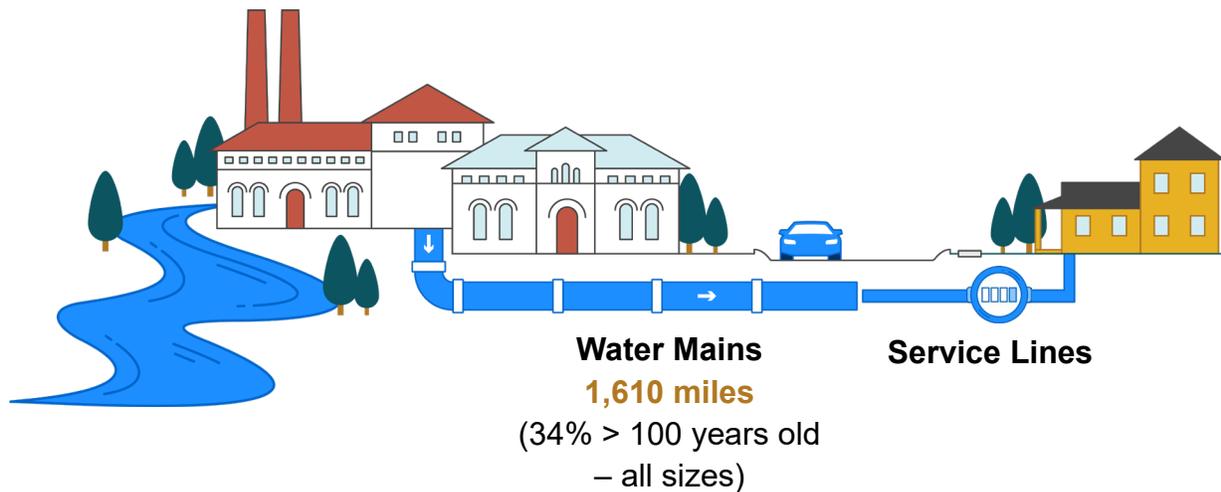
Timeline:

- Aim to advertise RFP in Q1 2027, with the goal of work starting by the end of 2027
 - Dependent upon staffing, pilot test results, and near- and medium-term projects mentioned in previous steps

Funding Needs: Will be determined as the condition assessment is completed.

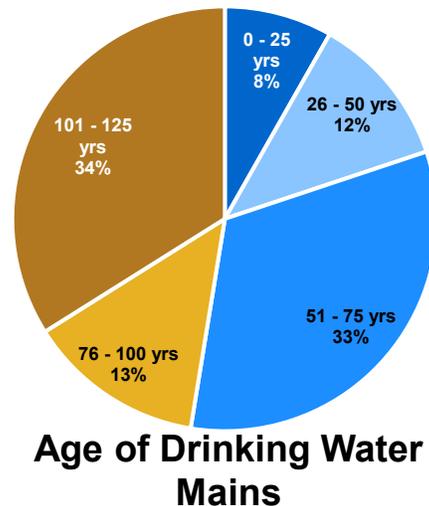
Appendix A: About the Drinking Water Distribution System

As the drinking water for New Orleans, the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) is proud to provide essential drinking water services to 140,000 accounts and millions of visitors each year. However, SWBNO's drinking water infrastructure is equally as historic as the city it serves. The utility was formed in 1899 and has since grown to include roughly 1,600 miles of drinking water mains.



Drinking water mains (also called transmission mains) are big underground pipes that convey large amounts of treated drinking water throughout the city. Transmission mains carry water to smaller distribution pipes that take it to individual properties through service lines.

More than one-third of SWBNO's drinking water mains of all sizes are over 100 years old, putting them well beyond their useful life. The life span of a water main varies based on its material, the soil content, and the conditions under which it's used (freezing temps, subsidence, etc.). In New Orleans, it is critical to replace water mains 100+ years old.



Water Main Breaks & Their Impacts

Water main breaks are a major disruption for New Orleanians. When a water main breaks, water is released from the system, sometimes at a rapid rate. This can result in localized flooding, a drop in water pressure, and, as a result, boil water advisories.

Repairing Water Mains

If SWBNO cannot proactively replace or repair aging water mains due to budgetary constraints or lack of resources, the utility ends up reactively repairing water main breaks after they've already negatively impacted the community.

SWBNO's drinking water system was built starting in 1899 as a continuous loop, meaning the entire system is connected.

A continuous loop system leads to the following challenges:

- Difficult to isolate or contain issues
- Issues impact large area



Unique Challenges

New Orleans' water system is a continuous loop, so water is always moving through connected pipes. To isolate a water main break, SWBNO must close valves over a wider area and must sometimes reroute water from large transmission mains into smaller distribution mains. This reduces overall water pressure in the system.

Because of that drop, crews may need to pause work in other parts of the system—including other ongoing main repairs—to prevent pressure from falling too low in other areas of the city and to protect public health.