

Construction Update

First Avenue S. Rebuild Project: Stacy to Horton

Friday, July 31, 2009

West Side Curbs

Now that the last of the new storm drains and catch basins have been installed, placement of the curbs on the west side of the street is underway and will continue into next week. Crews have been starting at 5AM to allow as much placement as possible before the air temperature reaches 90 degrees – above which the concrete will not cure without risk of failure.

Intersection Closures

Crews will also be busy in the intersections over the next week, removing and replacing the soil in the west half of the intersections to reduce future settling, as has been done along the length of the street. During this work, and during the subsequent paving at these locations, the intersections will be closed to east-west through traffic. Uniformed police officers will be on hand to help direct traffic while this work is in progress.

Base Paving of Street

Next week the contractor will lay down two courses of asphalt along on the west side of First Avenue South, just as was done on the east half of the street in June. This base layer will allow other work to proceed with much less dust (or mud). The final layer, which will be placed on the both the east and the west side at the same time, is currently scheduled for placement early in September.

Sidewalk Construction

The replacement of sidewalks on the west side will take place through the month of August, beginning at Hanford Street and moving north to Stacy and finishing with the block between Hanford and Horton. The sidewalks will typically be poured in full-width segments from the back of the new curb to the face of the buildings. The pours will be arranged to maintain access to businesses during normal hours of operation, using the newly paved street for pedestrian access and temporary “bridges” to front entries wherever needed.

Patience for Final Paving

Once the base paving is installed the street will look nearly complete, but it is not. At this point, the street will be needed for pedestrian access while sidewalks are poured. Crews will also be busy bringing valve covers and vault entries up to finish grade, installing traffic signal control loops, and completing other work prior to final paving. Until the final layer is installed and the street is striped, traffic will continue to be limited to two lanes northbound and one lane southbound, and on-street parking will not be allowed.

Final Completion and Landscaping Plans

SDOT still expects the contractor to complete the project in September, when traffic will return to the configuration that existed prior to the start of the project in February. The landscaping is to be handled by a separate contractor, who will begin placing trees in the mulch-filled pits this fall. If you have questions about the trees to be planted, please contact SDOT's Urban Forester Shane DeWald at shane.dewald@seattle.gov or 684-5041.

Other SODO Area Construction Updates

SDOT provides a weekly update of transportation related construction projects in the SODO area, such as the Spokane Street Widening Project, WSDOT's SR 519 project near the stadiums and the Alaskan Way Viaduct project, among others. If you would like to receive a weekly email with a short summary on the traffic impacts of each of these projects, just send a request to SODOconstruction@seattle.gov

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