

Waterline Finished; Paving Beginning

Work on the rebuild of First Avenue South shifted into a new phase recently: the waterline was completed and preparation of the sub-grade (the earth below the paved surfaces) began in earnest. Crews are now taking advantage of the dry weather and installing curbs, driveways, paving and sidewalk along the east side.

Revised East Side Construction Sequence

Originally the contractor planned on following the waterline installation with replacement of curbs, then sidewalks, and then paving the street. Now the sequence has changed and the roadway paving work will be done before most of the sidewalk work in an effort to protect the sub-grade from any future rain. The completion of the east side will generally proceed as follows:

- Any remaining curb will be removed and the soils in the roadway and sidewalk compacted to prevent unnecessary settling in the future.
- The new concrete curbs (and curb cuts for driveway entrances) will be formed, poured and cured.
- A base layer of asphalt will be placed in the roadway, providing a weatherproof surface (covered in the section below).
- A pedestrian pathway will be designated on the newly paved roadway.
- The contractor will contact individual businesses regarding their schedule and plans for providing access as the sidewalk is replaced.
- The remaining strip of existing sidewalk adjacent to the building face will be removed.
- New sidewalks will be poured between the curb and the building face.
- Pedestrian access will be returned to the sidewalks.

Sidewalk sections may be poured before the street paving begins in a few areas where pedestrian access is not required.

East Side Paving Planned Next Week

Base paving on the east side of First Avenue South is scheduled to take early next week (6/8 - 6/10) except for

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the Lander Street intersection, which will likely be done the following weekend (6/12 - 6/14).

The existing pavement at the intersections of Horton, Forest and Stacy will be removed and the sub-grade prepared just before the paving begins. This work and the paving itself will require a temporary closure of these intersections to east-west traffic. Uniformed police officers will be on hand to help direct traffic.

Replacing the pavement at the Lander Street intersection will take the entire weekend, but one lane of traffic to and from the east side of First will be kept open except when the crews are actually placing the new asphalt.

Business Access

The contractor is required to maintain access to businesses during their usual hours of operation. Pedestrian access will typically be maintained by timing the pours to avoid interfering with normal hours of operation and/or providing "bridges" to the street. When available, alternate entrances may also be used.

The contractor will coordinate with individual businesses in advance of their work regarding their location-specific approach to providing access as they pour sections of sidewalk.

Plans for the West Side

Once sidewalks on the east side have been completed, vehicular traffic will be shifted to the east side of the street along the full length of the project area so that demolition can begin on the west side. This shift of traffic is tentatively scheduled to take place near the end of June and will be followed by paving demolition and removal operations.

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