

Office of the City Engineer

July 19, 2019

RE: Milwaukee Avenue Improvements (9th to 13th) Update

Dear Business Owner, Property Owner, or other interested party,

The City of South Milwaukee is moving ahead with a streetscaping project to enhance the look and feel of Milwaukee Avenue. The work will transform our Main Street, with new sidewalks, street lighting, planters, bike racks, trees, traffic signals, benches, and other decorative features. There will also be some pavement replacement, and the addition of bicycle lanes to create a spur of the Oak Leaf Trail through downtown.

While this is a significant and positive investment in our city center, the work will bring disruptions to businesses, residents and others who frequent our downtown area. We are committed to reducing those disruptions as much as we can. Open lines of communication will be key. With that in mind, here is an update on the project plans.

Project Timing

Based on a variety of factors, including special events, We Energies work, equipment fabrication, and limited construction season, the Milwaukee Avenue Improvement project has been divided into two phases. The phases will include work in 2019 with multiple sub-phases occurring August thru mid-November, with a second phase of work to be completed in the spring of 2020.

Phase 1

The Common Council has awarded a contract to J&A Pohl, Inc. for phase 1 which will include the following major categories with work by their subcontractors, We Energies, or City forces.

- Removal of existing banner poles and footings. (Starting on or about August 1st.)
- We Energies removal of existing lighting and installation of new conduit and lighting (starting late August or early September).
- Install storm sewer and inlets at 9th & Milwaukee intersection.
- Remove and replace areas of designated curb and gutter, and install curb for new curb ramps, new curb on west side of 9th, south of Milwaukee Avenue. (Angle parking removed.)
- Remove and replace areas of designated curb and concrete pavement. Install new curb ramps at specified intersections.
- Install temporary traffic signals at 10th and Milwaukee intersection, remove existing traffic signal and install new equipment.
- Modification of traffic signals at the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and 13th Avenue to remove and install new signal heads and poles (to replace banner poles).
- Install pavement marking for new signals and crosswalks, and bike lane on each side.

Various phases of work will be done on a block-by-block basis (i.e. 9th to 10th), to avoid total disruption of Milwaukee Avenue.

Phase 2

Phase 2 in 2020 will include:

- Sidewalk and concrete replacement between back of curb and buildings with 4 ft. wide terrace area (2' x 2') picture frame concrete and 16" paver band at street trees.
- Structural soil, non-pressurized irrigation system (fill pipe), and street trees installed.
- Install streetscaping amenities (planters, benches, bike racks).

Parking and Access

We realize business owners and residents especially are concerned with impacts to parking and access to their buildings. While we expect the street itself will remain open to two-way traffic throughout the project, parking on one or both sides will be impacted at various times. We have worked to expand and better mark parking options in and around downtown, working with existing city lots and private owners to offer parking at certain times. We will share a map of those options soon. There will also be a time, especially during Phase 2, when sidewalk access to Milwaukee Avenue buildings will not be possible. We will do our best to limit those times, and communicate times when parking and access are limited as we know them.

Communication Platforms

We are committed to keeping the lines of communications open on this project, and regularly communicating updates as best we can.

- On July 29, we will launch a Milwaukee Avenue Streetscaping page on our website with regularly updated information on construction progress, timelines, and other tools like parking maps.
 - <https://smwi.org/2019-milwaukee-ave-streetscaping-project>
- We will also be sharing project updates on the city Facebook page, and starting a Facebook group to share information. Look for more information soon.
- We will also be sharing updates on the SM Works app. If you have not downloaded it yet, please do from the Apple App Store and Google Play.
- If you would like to receive email updates, please contact Assistant City Administrator Patrick Brever at brever@smwi.org.
- You can also contact Patrick (414-768-8051) or City Engineer Kyle Vandercar (contact information below) with any questions about the improvements.

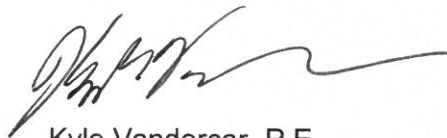
Your patience during construction is appreciated.

One other important note: As a separate project, the Union Pacific Railroad is updating their crossing on Milwaukee Avenue between 11th & 12th, with Milwaukee Avenue closed to thru traffic on Monday and Tuesday, July 22 and 23.

Sincerely,



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