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## Street paving to start

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ST. CHARLES – Another season of big construction is set to begin downtown along First Street.

On Monday, the St. Charles City Council heard the bid for street paving in concrete along First Street for the more than \$100 million project. Alliance Contractors Inc. submitted the lowest bid of about \$2.5 million for the paving.

This paving bid is a continuation of more than \$30 million designated for infrastructure and utility improvements. City officials authorized a \$3 million utility project last fall.

Mark Koenen, director of Public Works, said the road construction should begin in the next one to two months and would be tied with building construction. Starting from Prairie Street and working north, sections of First Street will be completed with each building.

The paving will not include sections of plazas included with plans, Koenen said. It likely would be completed about 2008.

"It [is] the curbs and everything in between," he said.

Work already has begun on the new Harris Bank, near the intersection of First and Indiana streets, and the new Blue Goose supermarket just to the north of it.

Construction on a new 19,500-square-foot retail and residential building further to the north along First Street also has started.

The second phase of development includes the building of a 54,000-square-foot retail and office building and a 433-space parking deck. Construction on those buildings is expected to start this spring.

When finished, First Street will grow to more than 7.4 acres of retail, residential and commercial properties, almost 1,000 parking spaces and new streets, sidewalks, and landscaping.

The board could vote on the paving bid again at next month's City Council meeting.