
Republican

City releases construction schedule

St. Charles staff and the city's contractor, Bartlett-based Benchmark Construction Co. Inc., have announced the construction schedule for the First Street work.

The city entered into a contract with Benchmark for work on the project's underground utilities -- sanitary sewer, water and electrical lines -- for about \$2.9 million in August. Work is primarily on First Street from Prairie Street north to Main Street (Route 64) in downtown St. Charles.

There will be no road closures before Monday, Oct. 9. It was decided to allow staging and preparatory work to start Monday, Oct. 2, but to postpone road closures until after the Scarecrow Festival, which is Friday, Oct. 6, to Sunday, Oct. 8, in the downtown. Additionally, Nicor has a small section of gas main to relocate prior to Oct. 9.

Work will begin at the south end of the project on Prairie Street with water main and electric work. The Prairie Street Bridge will be closed for two weeks with a detour in place.

Once work on Prairie is completed, the contractor will move on First north to Indiana Street. The contractor expects this phase to be completed by the end of November.

In December, the intersection of First and Indiana will be closed as the contractor begins working west on Indiana toward Route 31. Once the contractor moves out of the intersection of First and Indiana it will be opened up. The contractor expects this phase to be completed by the end of December or early January.

In January, the contractor will begin installation of a water main on First north of Indiana and will continue through the Illinois Street intersection all the way to Main Street. Each street block will be closed as the contractor moves northward. The contractor expects this phase to be complete by the end of January.

In February, the contractor will then go back to First Street between Indiana and Illinois streets and install sanitary sewers and electric duct. The contractor expects this phase to be complete toward the end of February.

In March, the contractor will continue northward with sanitary sewer and electric duct installation from Illinois to Main. The contractor expects this phase to be completed in mid-March.

In April, the next phase begins with work on Illinois at the west abutment to the Fox River Bridge. Significant sanitary sewer work is scheduled that will close the bridge from mid-March until early May. A detour route will be posted during the closure. Additional water main and sanitary sewer work will continue on Illinois working towards Route 31. The contractor expects this phase to be completed in early May.

The last phase includes work on Route 31 from Illinois Street working north toward Walnut Street. This will include a closure of Route 31 with a detour. Work is contemplated to continue during extended hours possibly even 24 hours/seven days until completion. This last phase is expected to be completed by the end of April or early May.

The city's required completion date is mid-June 2007 and therefore allows for weather and field conditions to have a potential impact on the schedule noted above.

This schedule, along with regular construction and project updates, is also available on the city's First Street Web site at www.1stStreetSTC.org.