
South end of 1st Street open to through traffic

1st Street Road Reconstruction

Stage 2 of this project is complete. The south end of 1st Street is now open to through-traffic. Striping still needs to be completed and will most likely occur after the cracked panels south of Cobblestone have been replaced.

The cracked panels on 1st Street south of Cobblestone will be replaced next week. The panels span both sides of the street, so 1st Street will be closed, once again, at the south end. The replacements and curing should be completed by Sept. 17.

Storm sewer work on 1st Street will occur at the north truck entrance to the Blue Goose Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. 1st Street will be closed between Illinois and Walnut during working hours, but it will be opened

at the end of each work day.

Patrons of Main Street businesses can turn right onto 1st Street from Route 64/Main Street to access on-street and parking behind the former Manor building.

Patrons of the Blue Goose may access their parking lot from Illinois. Patrons of Fox Island Square may access their parking lots from Illinois.

The temporary access on Limestone will remain through the end of September. This temporary access will be needed while the cracked panels are being replaced. It will remain through Sept. 29, when the Downtown St. Charles Partnership has planned their Block Party to celebrate completion of the south end of 1st Street. The tempo-

See 1st Street, pg. 24

1st Street

Continued from page 6

rery access will be removed after Sept. 29.

Parking Deck Construction

Delivery of the pre-cast panels is now scheduled to begin the week of Sept. 10. Power Construction will set up the crane the first couple of days that week. Setting the pre-cast panels in place will begin by the middle of that week. They plan to set 12 to 15 pre-cast panels each day. The contractor who will be setting them will try to time the deliveries as the erector needs them. They plan to contact the fairgrounds about possibly staging the trucks there, if needed. At this point, we believe they plan to bring in the trucks off of Walnut.

Electric and Sewer Work

The storm sewer work behind the businesses in the 100 block of West Main Street is complete. The critical portion of the underground electric work is also complete. The St. Charles Electric Utility plans to fill the trench and re-open the access drive for the long weekend. Some underground electric work still needs to be completed, and they will be opening up a hole at the north end of the existing trench to finish the rest of their work. This will occur late next week at the earliest. They plan to push the Power Construction fence south far enough during that time to allow traffic to pass through while the hole is opened up. The final phase of the underground electric work will involve digging a trench from the Vi's transformers east to 1st Street, just north of the new sewer. This will occur in late September. The final schedule for this work will be announced as it gets closer. Doc Morgan and Private Bank will be converted over to the new underground electric service on Saturday, Sept. 1. Pending removal of AT&T and Comcast utilities from the poles, the poles are scheduled to be removed on Tuesday, Sept. 4. Removal of these poles is required to allow for delivery and setting of the pre-cast panels for the parking deck.

Route 31 Road Widening

The low bid for this project, from Alliance, was presented to the City Council for their approval on Tuesday, Sept. 4. Alliance would like to begin work on this road widening immediately following completion of the replacement panels on 1st Street, the week of Sept. 17. Several utility poles will need to be moved prior to the start of this project. Some work at the new Blue Goose location will be required in order for the utility poles to be moved. The City Engineering Office, Electric office, and contractors for the Blue Goose are working to coordinate this so the work on Route 31 can begin as soon as possible.

Milestone Row

The streetscape and sidewalk area work at Milestone Row is well underway and should be completed in the next couple of weeks. The streetscape in front of Milestone Row was designed in connection with the rest of the 1st Street area and will be indicative of the streetscape for the rest of the street.

Parking & Signage

IDOT just granted approval this week for the City to place 10 small signs along the east side of Route 31 to direct pedestrians from the 1st Street project toward Main Street. The signs will include an arrow, a walking stick figure, and the words "Main Street." The signs are being made now and should be installed sometime next week.

The City Engineering Office has not forgotten about the possibility of parking in the lot at the corner of Route 31 and Illinois. This lot was being used by Alliance for staging some materials for the 1st Street reconstruction project. A portion of this lot will be needed by Power Construction as they construct the helix for the parking deck. As Alliance finishes up the last of their work and moves their equipment and materials out, the Engineering Office will look at the needs for this lot and consider making some parking, possibly up to 10 to 12 spaces, available for public parking. At this point, there is no schedule as to when this might happen.

Public Space Design Committee

The next 1st Street Public Space Design Committee meeting will be on Monday, Sept. 17, 8 a.m. at City Hall. Their discussion of the design for the public plaza will continue. The meetings are open to the public—everyone is welcome to attend.

Time Table Summary Week of Sept. 3

- Overhead electric lines and poles from Illinois to Walnut behind Doc Morgan will be removed.
- Cracked street panels on 1st Street south of Cobblestone will be replaced (they will cure until Sept. 17).
- Presentation of low bid for Route 31 Road Widening to City Council, 7 p.m., Council Chambers.
- Underground Electric Utility work behind the 100 block of West Main Street continues (north side of access drive by transformer).

Week of Sept. 10

- Crane for Parking Deck will be set up.
- Delivery of pre-cast panels for parking deck begins.

Week of Sept. 17

- Public Space Design Committee Meeting, 8 a.m., City Hall, 2nd Floor (will discuss public plaza design).
- Route 31 road widening project is projected to begin.

October 2007

- The City Electric Utility will be converting to a new transformer to service the new parking deck and other businesses in the area bounded by 1st St., Main, Route 31, and Walnut (including Doc Morgan).

January 2008

- Blue Goose Supermarket moves into and opens their new store.

February/March 2008

- Demolition/site work for Buildings 1/2/3 (along the river where the current Blue Goose is located) begins.

Spring 2008

- Phases 3 to 5 1st Street Reconstruction, from Illinois/1st Street intersection to Route 64, begins.

Summer 2008

- Parking deck is completed and open!
- Questions or comments about the 1st Street may be directed to the 1st Street hotline at 762-7097 or e-mail at 1stStreet@stcharlesil.gov.