



City of Highland Park

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(Updates denoted by red font)

North and Summit Avenues /Marl Oak Drive Construction Project Overview and Q&A

December 7, 2018

The purpose of this report is to give an overview of the Construction Project on North and Summit Avenues as well as on Marl Oak Drive. The Project has led to unacceptable delays and inconveniences to the public. We are working with the City's Corporation Counsel to consider all legal remedies and options available to us. An overview of the City's capital projects with emphasis on the North Avenue Construction Project will be presented at the December 10, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting at City Hall. The agenda for the meeting will be posted by 5PM on Thursday, December 6 and will list the estimated start time of the discussion. Once posted, the meeting agenda can be found on the [City's website](#).

The City apologizes for the negative impact that the construction has had on the quality of life for the impacted area. The delays of this project are unacceptable. The City has been pressuring the contractor to complete the work as soon as possible, in a safe and effective manner. Engineering staff are on site daily to ensure the work is complete in a safe and code compliant manner.

Project Overview:

The North Avenue Construction Project includes replacement of the water main under North Avenue running from Idlewood Lane to Marl Oak Drive. The new main will improve water flow for everyday usage as well as enhance fire suppression capabilities. Other improvements include roadway resurfacing and new curbs. Along with curb replacement work, the concrete pavement on North Ave and Marl Oak Drive will be prepared for an asphalt surface.

Following State statutes and City requirements a competitive bidding process for the construction work was completed and the North Avenue construction contract was awarded to Copenhaver Construction, Inc. based on their qualifications to perform the work and low responsible bid. The City conducts a formal bidding process for capital improvement projects with a construction value above \$25,000. In addition to the bid price, the City assesses bidder's qualifications, experience, and quality of work conducted prior to awarding a contract. The City has the ability to award a contract to a bidder who is not the low bid based on qualitative factors.

The Summit Avenue Construction Project includes installation of a new storm sewer under Summit Avenue from Hyacinth Place to Old Elm Road. From Old Elm Road to Hill Street the

project also includes new concrete curbs and asphalt pavement resurfacing. The same contractor is working on both the North Avenue and Summit Avenue projects.

Remaining Construction Schedule (information updated as of 12/7/2018):

Pavement construction work is scheduled to be completed according to the following schedule on Marl Oak Drive, North Avenue, and Summit Avenue, weather permitting.

Paving operations are not conducted if the temperature is below 20°F. The forecast calls for very low temperatures overnight on Friday, December 7, as such, paving operations will be completed on Monday, December 10 and Tuesday, December 11. Typically, the paving operation is done in two lifts, with an inch and a half of binder asphalt mix material placed first and then another inch and half of surface asphalt mix material placed last. The surface material is the drivable surface. The binder asphalt is in place now. Please note all three roadways are currently in drivable condition and all homes have access to their driveways.

Remaining Construction Schedule (information updated as of 3:00 PM on 12/7/2018):

Pavement construction work is scheduled to be completed according to the following schedule on Marl Oak Drive, North Avenue, and Summit Avenue, weather permitting.

On Friday, December 7, 2018, the barricades will be removed from the adjusted structures and tapered rings will be placed around frames and lids in the pavement. The rings provide a smooth transition for vehicles to drive over the structures. Final grading of the parkways on Summit Avenue will be completed.

On Monday, December 10, 2018, the contractor will begin placing the final asphalt surface on Summit and North Avenues as well as on Marl Oak Drive. Driveways on Summit Ave which have been partially paved with asphalt will also get their final surface placed. No paving work will occur in front of Northwood Junior High School from 7-8 AM and 2-3 PM coinciding with school pick up and drop off.

On Tuesday, December 11, 2018, the contractor will finish placing the final asphalt surface if unable to complete the final surface paving on Monday. No paving work will occur in front of Northwood Junior High School from 7-8 AM and 2-3 PM coinciding with school pick up and drop off.

The remaining residential parkways are scheduled to be complete on Monday and Tuesday, December 10 and 11, 2018. Minor miscellaneous punch list items such as striping, parkway area restoration, and other items will be complete next week. Sod will be installed in spring.

Contractor Equipment Staging:

The contractor has been instructed to park construction vehicles and equipment away from the area of North and Marl Oak to ensure clear vehicular flow on North Avenue in front of Northwood Junior High School when no construction is taking place.

Traffic and Pedestrian Management Plan for Remaining Construction:

Public safety is a paramount core priority for the City. The Public Works Department will ensure no construction vehicles or equipment are staged on North Avenue in front of Northwood Junior High School which will impede traffic flow.

Police Officers and Community Service Officers will assist with traffic control around Northwood Junior High School during school arrival and dismissal times. In the event police personnel are dispatched to another area for an emergency, police command staff or other authorized personnel will provide traffic control during school arrival and dismissal.

North and Summit Avenues Construction Project Q&A

1. Will the City hold a neighborhood meeting for residents in the North/Summit/Marl Oak area to discuss capital projects?

The City will be discussing Capital Projects at its December 10, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting at City Hall at 5:45 PM.

The City will hold a neighborhood meeting to discuss this construction project on January 8, 2019 at 6:00 PM at the Public Services Center (1150 Half Day Road).

2. Who is going to be responsible for making sure that the asphalt maintains proper temperature?

For road construction projects, the City follows specifications issued by the Illinois Department of Transportation ("IDOT"). IDOT has years of experience with road and bridge construction in cold weather and has numerous resources and effective specifications to handle such conditions which the City uses as well. For the North/Summit/Marl Oak project, the contractor has followed the IDOT procedures and specifications for cold weather road construction. For asphalt surfaces, the key for longevity of asphalt pavement is the binding of asphalt to a dry surface. Ideal paving temperatures are above 40° F, however asphalt paving is successfully completed in weather between 30° F and 40° F as long as the asphalt is laid on a clean and dry surface, and achieving a pavement density after being rolled of higher than 90%. The paving contractor has done numerous jobs in temperatures lower than 40° F with successful results by ensuring asphalt is placed on dry surfaces and asphalt density requirements are met. The City will ensure these conditions are met during the asphalt paving scheduled for Monday, December 10 and Tuesday, December 11. The article linked below provides an overview of cold weather paving and construction measures to be taken, which the City's paving contractor has been following.

<https://www.forconstructionpros.com/asphalt/article/12007337/how-to-successfully-achieve-cold-weather-asphalt-paving>

3. What extended warranties will the City require from the contractor to ensure the asphalt paving and concrete do not fail because of the delays?

Warranties for the concrete and asphalt surfaces will be in effect for one year after paving. If the asphalt pavement or concrete fail, the liquidated damages fines paid by the contractor to the City would be used to replace the pavement surface.

4. Will the contractor fix the bumps in the road?

The bump is the gap between the two layers of asphalt.. They are a 1.5 inch gap between the asphalt binder surface and the existing roadway. The gap will be eliminated with the placement of final surface. Due to cold temperatures on Friday, December 7, it is recommended the final surface asphalt layer be placed on Monday and Tuesday. The

joints will be addressed for a smooth driving surface during asphalt paving operations on Monday and Tuesday.

5. Will the City lift the winter overnight on-street parking restrictions during construction?

The City has temporarily lifted the winter overnight on-street parking restrictions in the North/Summit/Marl Oak area where construction is ongoing until the construction work is completed, which is scheduled for December 7, 2018 weather permitting. Residents are allowed to park vehicles on City streets in the area of North/Summit/Marl Oak while construction is ongoing.

6. What will be done for pedestrians if the curbs and sidewalk aprons at the intersection of North and Summit Avenues aren't completed on December 3?
Should construction of the curbs and sidewalk aprons at the intersection of North and Summit Avenues not be completed on December 3, the contractor will place temporary boards to ensure a level walking surface and access to sidewalks and those boards shall remain installed until the walkways are installed by Friday, December 7.

7. What legal action has the City taken due to the project delays?

The construction contract calls for the contractor to pay liquidated damages in the amount of \$1,275 per day that construction continues beyond the deadline. The liquidated damages began on October 26, 2018. We are working with the City's Corporation Counsel to consider all legal remedies and options available to the City.

5. COMPLETION DATE PLUS WORKING DAYS (ALTERNATE BID)

Revise Article 108.05 (b) of the Standard Specifications as follows:

"When a completion date plus working days is specified, the Contractor shall complete all contract items and safely open all roadways to traffic by 11:59 PM on, October 26, 2018 except as specified herein.

The Contractor will be allowed to complete all clean-up work and punch list items within 5 working days after the completion date for opening the roadway to traffic. Under extenuating circumstances the Engineer may direct that certain items of work, not affecting the safe opening of the roadway to traffic, may be completed within the working days allowed for cleanup work and punch list items. Temporary lane closures for this work may be allowed at the discretion of the Engineer.

8. Can the contractor sweep the street on North Avenue after grinding to create a smoother driving surface prior to the asphalt surface being laid?

The Contractor has been asked to sweep the surface on North Avenue after street grinding to provide for a smoother driving surface. Grinding creates a temporary uneven driving surface and even with sweeping, some areas of the grinded surface will remain bumpy and uneven until the asphalt surface is paved.

9. When will restoration of landscaping be completed?

The City's landscaping contractor will begin landscape restoration for affected areas in the early spring and be completed by the end of April/middle of May 2019, weather

permitting. Landscape restoration includes placement of topsoil and sod. During the winter the parkway will be graded to final grade and an excelsior blanket will be installed to cover and protect areas that do not have landscaping in place. The blanket will protect the site from erosion until the final landscape restoration can be completed in the spring of 2019.

10. When can vehicles begin driving on asphalt streets?

Asphalt cures quickly and typically can be driven on the same day that it is placed.

11. How does the City communicate about construction projects?

The City uses a combination of open house meetings, informational mailings, door to door in-person notifications, door tags, and the City website to communicate construction projects. On November 29th, City staff delivered door hangers to residents in the project area. During the delivery of the door tags for this project, staff spoke to residents who were at home to share information about the project. We were able to speak to about half of the affected residents concerning the driveway work and temporary loss of access. If a resident was not available, the door tag was placed on the door. It is understood that residents reported they did not receive a door tag and did not talk to someone from the City. We will be implementing additional communication measures in 2019 to ensure that residents are aware when construction work is forthcoming in their neighborhood.

12. Why is the completion of this project so delayed?

The City issued a Request for Proposal, awarded the construction contract, and met with the contractor before school started. The contractor was supposed to complete the water main installation, which is the most disruptive work of the project, prior to the commencement of the school year. Sidewalks, gutter, and street resurfacing were to be completed by the end of October. The City informed the contractor of the importance of the work being completed before the school year began. The contractor informed the City that the start of this project would be delayed but that a majority of the work still could be completed prior to the start of the school year. The City continued to communicate to the contractor the importance of completing the work before school started, however the contractor failed to deliver on their commitment to complete the majority of work before school began. This delay is absolutely unacceptable to the City.

13. What happens if asphalt plants close before the project is complete?

The contractor plans to have the paving complete by Friday, December 7 according to the project schedule, weather permitting. Asphalt plants close each year around December at the end of the road construction season. Should asphalt plants close before the completion of this project, the contractor will winterize the roadway and asphalt will be placed in the spring. Winterizing involves patching of the pavement surface followed by concrete being poured to provide a safe driving surface. Once asphalt plants reopen, the final asphalt surface would be poured.

14. Why aren't there any detour signs posted for the North Avenue construction?

The North Avenue construction project did not cause any full road closures which would warrant a detour. Detours are typically setup for those projects which cause a full road closure requiring traffic to be rerouted. The contractors barricaded and placed signage for those areas under construction and provided flaggers to direct traffic around ongoing construction.

15. Where can I get a copy of the construction contract?

The approved contract and staff report can be found on the City's website and is linked [here](#) for reference.

16. Why didn't the City cancel the project given the delayed start?

Copenhaver Construction informed the City that they would be able to complete the majority of work before school started, even with the delays. Despite the City's demands that the project be expedited, work did not proceed as quickly as demanded by the City and unforeseen weather impacts caused further construction delays.

17. Will the City hire the contractor again in the future?

The City takes into account past experiences with contractors when reviewing and awarding construction contracts. The City conducts a formal Request for Proposals ("RFP") process for capital improvement projects with a construction value above \$25,000. In addition to the bid price, the City looks at the qualifications, experience, and quality of work conducted prior to awarding a contract. The City has the ability to award a contract to respondents who are not the low bid based on qualitative factors.

18. What is the backup plan in the event that police officers are dispatched to another emergency?

The Police Department has a combination of Police Officers and Community Service Officers assisting with traffic and pedestrian flow in the area of North and Summit Avenues. In the event that a Police Officer or Community Service Officer is dispatched to an emergency, Police command personnel will assume this responsibility. While construction is taking place, the contractor will have a flagger stationed to direct traffic around the construction site. As soon as a Police Officer or Community Service Officer is freed up from another emergency call, they will be stationed back in the area of North and Summit Avenues to continue providing traffic and pedestrian control.

19. Can anyone conduct traffic control?

Police Officers, Community Service Officers and Crossing Guards receive training by the Police Department to conduct traffic control. It is not safe or legal for a civilian, without this training, to control traffic on a public street.

20. Why aren't there more crossing guards?

The City employs crossing guards at warranted locations throughout the community where pedestrians cross streets on their way to and from school. The warrants are determined based on a number of factors including but not limited to the number of pedestrians, roadway configuration and vehicular counts. The City is always looking for additional crossing guards. To apply for a crossing guard position, please visit the City's website at www.cityhpil.com. The crossing guards are part-time positions.

21. Does construction impact mail delivery?

Based on a resident concern that their mail was not being delivered, we contacted the Highland Park Post Office to report the concern. Individuals are encouraged to contact the Post Office directly and to provide their address if they are not receiving mail. The Post Officer Supervisor reported that a mail carrier may suspend mail if they are not able to

complete their route in a timely manner. In this case, mail will be attempted the following business day.

22. Where can I find more information about this project?

Updates and additional detailed information on the project can be found at the City website, www.cityhpil.com/construction. The City posts construction updates on all construction projects such as underground utilities, bridges, ravines, and other City projects which can be found at the aforementioned link.

23. Who can I contact with questions regarding this project?

Questions regarding the project may be directed to the Public Works Department at 847.432.0807 or the City Manager's Office at 847.926.1000.