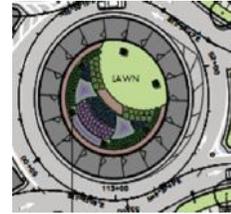




Seventh Street Reconstruction

Racine Construction News Update



The City of Racine in conjunction with the Wisconsin department of Transportation will begin reconstruction of Seventh Street (WIS 20/32) in downtown Racine May 29, 2012. The street will be reconstructed from just north of 9th Street to just west of Main Street. The project includes the intersection of Washington Avenue, 6th Street, and 7th Street which requires safety and operation improvement to meet current WisDOT standards. Work will include pavement reconstruction, storm sewer work, pedestrian and bicycle enhancements, streetscape improvements and signal replacement. A roundabout will be constructed at the Washington Avenue/Seventh Street/Sixth Street intersection.

Frequently asked questions and answers

Q. What is the project timeline and will vehicle traffic still be able to use the street?

A. The construction is set to begin May 29 and be completed by May 2013. It is anticipated that most of the work will be completed in 2012, with some final work in the Spring of 2013.

Stage 1: Contractor will be working on the south side of the roadway. Traffic will be moved to the north side of the road. Work will also be done in the roundabout area in front of City Hall. It is anticipated that stage 1 will be completed by the end of August, weather permitting.

Stage 2: When stage one is complete in late August or early September, the contractor will move traffic onto the newly completed south side of the roadway and begin work on the north side.

Finishing: It is anticipated that most of the construction work will be completed by the end of 2012. Some finishing and landscaping may be delayed to the Spring of 2012 if necessary.

Traffic will be permitted through the construction zone. Motorists may experience some minor delays traveling through the construction zone. Please use caution and remember this is a temporary situation.

Q. Will the contractor work nights and weekends?

A. It is possible that the contractors will work some nights and weekends to complete the project. They are prohibited from hauling materials to and/or from the site on Holidays such as the 4th of July and Labor Day.

Q. Will parking be available on Seventh Street during construction? What about the side streets?

A. Parking will not be permitted in the project limits. Parking meters will be removed and replaced with temporary "No Parking" signs. Overnight alternate street side parking storage will be waived within a two block distance of the project limits to facilitate more on street parking. Parking will be prohibited on the south side of Eighth Street from Washington Avenue to Main Street to facilitate Fire Department response from the Safety Building. In addition, temporary "All-Way Stop Signs" will be placed at the intersections of Eighth Street and Grand Avenue, Villa Street, College Avenue & Wisconsin Avenue. If DPW needs to perform routine street maintenance such as road repair, sweeping, leaf collection, etc., temporary "No Parking" will be posted so work can be performed.

Q. What about bus routes?

- A. Belle Urban System (BUS) Routes 3 and 7 will be forced to alter the way they travel through the project area. Route 3 coming from the south will no longer use 6th Street from Main Street but will continue on Main to State Street to the Transit Center. Route 7 buses will only be able to travel on Grand Avenue as far as 8th Street. They will be avoiding the project area by using 8th Street to Marquette to the Transit Center both inbound and outbound. Route 7 customers with downtown destinations will need to transfer to Routes 1 South or 3 South at the Transit Center. Special School service on Route 306 will also not be able to service a current stop on Seventh Street at City Hall. The closest pick-up and drop-off will be at 8th and Center Streets.

Q. Will customers and pedestrians still be able to access my business?

- A. Yes, access to businesses for pedestrians and vehicles will be maintained at all times.

Q. Will my driveway access be restricted?

- A. The contractor will work to minimize the time any driveway access is restricted and will notify the owner in advance of scheduled work.

Q. What else is being done as part of this project

- A. Streetscape plans include installation of decorative pavers at crosswalks ramps; new trees; free standing planters; decorative trash receptacles, benches, bicycle racks, and parking meter posts; ornamental LED street lighting; reconstruction of the Paul Harris and City Hall Plaza areas; and a living green wall with LED up-lighting along the Safety Building.

Q. Why a roundabout?

- A. After an extensive study with public input, a roundabout was chosen to be installed in front of City Hall at the Washington Ave/7th St/6th St intersection. The control of a roundabout will provide clear vehicle paths, shorter pedestrian crossings, improved traffic operations for future traffic volumes, and lower vehicle speeds which should reduce the frequency and severity of crashes. The roundabout will also create an attractive gateway to the Downtown business district.

Q. How can I keep informed about the progress of the project?

- A. There are a variety of ways to keep informed of the construction project as it proceeds.
- Beginning June 5, biweekly stakeholder construction meetings will be held every other Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. at the construction field office located on the second floor of 740 college Avenue. Representatives from the City, the State, and the contractor will be available to answer questions.
 - Monthly news updates will be developed and posted on the City of Racine website.
 - If you have immediate, specific concerns about construction work, if you need to make special arrangement for deliveries, or have other special property needs, contact Scott Whitsett, the Jewell Associates representative that will be on the construction site on a regular basis. If you have general questions or concerns, a community information representative will field questions anytime and get back to you with answers. Contact Kris Martinsek by phone at (414) 769-0400 or email at krism1325@sbcglobal.net. Shoot Kris an email if you would like the construction news updates sent directly to your inbox when they are available.

Q. Who are the people that will be working on this project?

- A. City of Racine: John Rooney, City Engineer (262) 636-9191
State of Wisconsin: Jason Dahlgren, WisDOT (262) 521-5349
Construction Manager: Scott Whitsett, Jewell Associates, (608) 341-8239
Community Info Rep: Kris Martinsek, Martinsek & Associates (414) 769-0400