



CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

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MAYOR

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THREE PROJECTS ON MAJOR ROADWAYS NEARING COMPLETION; ADDITIONAL PROJECTS TO BEGIN IN EARLY JANUARY

Kenner, LA. - Three projects that have disrupted traffic for Kenner motorists for the past two to three months are either completed or nearly finished, officials said.

The installation of new concrete bus pads that required detours on 31st Street has been completed, said Public Works Director Jose Gonzalez. "There are no more detours. I think in a week or two the project should be totally completed."

The project to repave sections of Roosevelt Boulevard also is largely completed, Gonzalez said. Work crews have some final, mostly minor items to complete. Roosevelt is also fully open to traffic.

Finally, resurfacing on Loyola Drive, including the intersection with West Esplanade, also is practically finished. "There is still some striping left to do, but all lanes are now open," Gonzalez said.

However, there still are still two significant projects set to begin shortly after New Year's Day that will affect traffic on West Esplanade Avenue, Gonzalez said.

A \$1.2 million job to repair concrete panels and repave both sides of West Esplanade between Williams Boulevard and Power Boulevard is scheduled to begin on Jan. 6, Gonzalez said. Barriere Construction Co. is the contractor on the job, which is expected to last about three months, weather permitting.

The work involves removing and replacing any damaged concrete street panels, installing both a new curb along the canal bank and handicap ramps at intersections as well as putting down a high quality covering of asphalt on the roadway. While the work is expected to have an impact on traffic, officials said at least one lane of West Esplanade will remain open at all times.

The work is actually an extension of a Paths to Progress project that repaired and repaved West Esplanade from Ole Miss Drive to Williams. "It was not part of the original program but because of the condition of the roadway the city lobbied the state and federal officials to see if they could extend the limits of the project all the way to Power and we were successful," Gonzalez said.

Another project set to begin in January is the upgrade of traffic signals surround The Esplanade Mall. Urban Systems was hired by the city to upgrade the two traffic signals on West Esplanade Avenue, as well as a signal at the 32nd Street entrance to the mall, Gonzalez said.

The idea is to improve the traffic flow with the expected increase in traffic due to the opening earlier this month of the Grand 14 Esplanade movie theater complex. Diamond Electric is the contractor on the project and chose a January start date to avoid interfering with holiday shoppers. The project should be finished within a month, assuming there are no weather delays, Gonzalez said.

The cost of the \$155,138 signal upgrade is being shared by Southern Theaters, the city of Kenner and Simon Group, owner of The Esplanade Mall.

"I understand that some inconveniences were unavoidable, but to now have these new roadways and improved traffic controls along another major roadway are invaluable. I appreciate the patience of our citizens as we make these enhancements," said Mayor Mike Yenni.

With the exception of the traffic signal upgrade, all the projects are part of the Paths to Progress program - a joint effort between state and federal officials to rehabilitate and restore roadways in both Orleans and Jefferson parishes. About \$26 million of the \$90 million total budget for the program is being spent on Kenner roads at no cost to the city.

If you have a comment or question about any of the Paths to Progress road projects, call the hotline for the program at 1-800-574-7193 or email paths2progress@gmail.com

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