



CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

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ROADWORK ON WEST ESPLANADE WILL NOT IMPACT BLACK FRIDAY SHOPPERS

Kenner, LA – Kenner motorists have something to be thankful for in advance of Thanksgiving as a pair of high-profile road projects on West Esplanade Avenue – one of them including the busy intersection with Loyola Drive – will be substantially completed early this week, weather-permitting, in anticipation of the annual shopping crush on Black Friday.

Both the resurfacing project on Loyola Drive, which includes the intersection with West Esplanade, and the resurfacing of both sides of West Esplanade between Williams Boulevard and Ole Miss Drive, are part of the Paths to Progress program – paid for completely by the federal government and overseen by state-assigned engineers.

“While we didn’t have a choice on when those projects would start, we have urged the contractor to do everything in its power to finish the work before Black Friday, the traditional first shopping day of the Christmas season,” Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni said. “Despite some complications from the weather the past few days that will require crews to return to one of the project areas next week, I know that Kenner residents will be quite pleased not having to navigate those work areas on the way to The Esplanade Mall or to any of our other shopping areas in the city on Friday.”

Barriere Construction Company, the contractor for both projects, has worked 10-hour days and on most weekends in order to finish the work as quickly as possible, said Kenner Public Works Director Jose Gonzalez. However, the rain, windy conditions and cold weather that blew into the area on Friday has stolen time from the construction schedule. Although there is still striping and curb work to be finished on the West Esplanade and Loyola resurfacing project, the work will be suspended Tuesday. Crews will return to the area to complete the estimated two to three days of work during the first week of December, Gonzalez said.

The project on Loyola, including the intersection with West Esplanade, required occasional lane closures during the job’s phases. First, the old layer of asphalt was cold milled and then a new, high-quality layer of asphalt was put down.

The project on West Esplanade required the removal and replacement of damaged concrete panels and cold milling of the existing roadway before putting down a new covering of asphalt. The work required a lane of West Esplanade to be closed and also affected the side streets in the project area. There is still some curb work to be completed, but it is not in the area between the Duncan Canal and Ole Miss Drive that has generally had the greatest impact on traffic.

Paths to Progress is a joint effort between state and federal officials to rehabilitate and restore roadways in both Orleans and Jefferson parishes. About \$26 million of the total \$150 million budget will be spent to rehabilitate roads in Kenner.

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