



# CITY OF KENNER

## PRESS RELEASE

**MICHAEL S. YENNI**

Mayor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Jan. 3, 2014**

### **TWO WEST ESPLANADE AVENUE ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS SET TO BEGIN ON MONDAY**

**Kenner, LA.** - A pair of road projects that will affect traffic on West Esplanade Avenue are scheduled to begin on Monday, officials said.

A \$1.7 million job to repair concrete panels and repave both sides of West Esplanade between Williams Boulevard and Power Boulevard is scheduled to last about three months, weather permitting, Kenner Public Works Director Jose Gonzalez said. Barriere Construction Co. is the contractor on the job.

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 in each direction 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 32<sup>nd</sup> 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.

The West Esplanade resurfacing is 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](mailto:paths2progress@gmail.com)

###