

February 9, 2017



RE: Cedar Rapids Paving for Progress Roadway Improvement Project
Johnson Avenue NW Roadway Improvements from 1st Avenue SW to Midway Drive NW

Dear Sir or Madam:

The City of Cedar Rapids is proud to share that street improvements are scheduled in your neighborhood as part of the Paving for Progress campaign. You are cordially invited to attend the second open house for this project where our team will discuss the preliminary design and address any questions or concerns before moving on to final design.

Open House
Wednesday, February 22, 2017
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Taft Middle School Cafeteria (5200 E Avenue NW)
(20-minute presentation to begin at 5:30 p.m. Staff will be available for questions)

Project designers and City representatives will be there to help answer your questions. We are inviting your input during this open house, *before* the design is finalized, in order to incorporate as much public feedback as possible before construction on the project begins.

If you are unable to attend the open house, we welcome your comments through the following methods:

Call Us: You are welcome to call our Paving for Progress representative, Lee Tippe, at 319-286-5816 with questions specific to this project. Feel free to contact Public Works Engineering at 319-286-5802 with general questions you might have about the Paving for Progress program.

Email us: pavingforprogress@cedar-rapids.org. Please include your mailing address, so we know to which property you are referring.

Comment form: Complete the enclosed comment form and mail it back. You can also complete the form online at www.cityofcr.org/pavingsurvey.

Thank you for your support. We are excited to see the Paving for Progress campaign transform our streets! Read more about the campaign to fix our streets at www.cityofcr.org/pavingforprogress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug F. Wilson".

Doug F. Wilson, P.E., Paving for Progress Program Manager, City of Cedar Rapids

CC: Clayton Carper, P.E., Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC – Project Design Engineer
Lee Tippe, P.E., City of Cedar Rapids – Project Manager

(see reverse for project information)

PROJECT INFORMATION

SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS: Johnson Avenue NW will be reconstructed from 1st Avenue SW to Wesley Drive NW. Improvements include reconstructing the existing surface, shifting from four travel lanes to three lanes plus bikes lanes on both sides of the road, and replacing sidewalk on both sides of the road. We are also replacing the traffic signals at 1st Avenue and installing a crosswalk signal west of Short Street, constructing pedestrian-friendly, single lane mini-roundabouts at Jacolyn Dr and Wiley Blvd, and replacing pedestrian curb ramps to comply with current ADA standards. Pipe work will include replacing water main throughout the project limits, replacing storm sewer intakes, plus other storm or sanitary upgrades as necessary. The map below shows the general location of construction.



PROJECT TIMELINE: Construction is anticipated to start in the spring of 2018, with completion in the fall of 2018. Private utilities will be relocating facilities during the summer/fall of 2017 prior to the roadway construction.

HOW WILL IMPROVEMENTS BE PAID FOR? The local option sales tax along with Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) funding from the Iowa Department of Transportation will fund roadway, storm sewer, and intersection improvements. Capital improvement dollars will fund water main and sanitary sewer upgrades.

WILL STREETS BE CLOSED DURING CONSTRUCTION? Portions of Johnson Avenue will be closed at times, and lane reductions are anticipated. Work will be completed in phases to limit the duration of traffic impacts at any given location, and crews will work to keep one lane of traffic open in the eastbound direction at all times. Work adjacent to Hoover Elementary School will commence during summer break, and will be completed prior to the start of school year to avoid traffic impacts.

WILL I HAVE ACCESS TO MY PROPERTY? From time to time, residents will not have vehicular access to their driveways while construction is underway. We will work to limit those times as much as possible, and our contractor on site will coordinate these closures with property owners. We ask for your cooperation to allow the construction process to move as quickly as possible. Commercial entrances will maintain at least one point of entry throughout construction.

WILL SIDEWALKS OR DRIVEWAYS BE REPLACED? All driveways, sidewalks, and curb ramps within the project limits will be replaced at City expense to accommodate the roadway reconstruction and to meet current ADA requirements.

WILL MY WATER/SANITARY SEWER SERVICE BE DISRUPTED? Minor interruptions to water or sanitary sewer service of select properties may occur. The City contractor will coordinate service interruptions directly with property owners to minimize inconvenience as much as possible.

WHY ARE BICYCLE LANES BEING ADDED? Safety of the traveling public, whether you choose to travel by bike, car, or on foot, is always a top priority during project design. The incorporation of bike lanes for this project was determined through the Cedar Rapids Comprehensive Trails Plan. The plan recommended bicycle facilities for roadways in proximity to potential destinations such as parks, residential areas, churches, schools, and other attractions. This provides safe and designated places for children on bikes, pedestrians walking, and cyclists who wish to use the street. Providing these options allows people the opportunity to choose travel by car, bike, or on foot.

WHY ARE THE NUMBER OF LANES BEING REDUCED? The proposed roadway will provide a travel lane in each direction and a center turn lane. The design is based in part on crash data collected by the Traffic Engineering Division. The study shows Johnson Avenue NW has a higher crash rate and personal injury rate than other comparable Iowa municipal facilities by 10% and 55%, respectively. A significant portion of documented crashes occur when vehicles slow down or stop to turn left from an inside lane. The study states that providing a continuous left turn lane – as this project does – is expected to reduce the crash risk by an estimated 37% without adversely affecting roadway capacity

WHY IS A ROUNDABOUT BEING CONSIDERED? Roundabouts are engineered to maximize safety and minimize traffic delays. Some of the safety benefits include eliminating head-on and right-angle crashes, and decreasing the severity of crashes. Roundabouts are also designed to move traffic more efficiently during peak hours, reduce stops and delays, and help alleviate congestion. The roundabouts proposed for the Johnson Avenue NW project will include pedestrian islands and shorter crosswalks to improve pedestrian safety. Additional resources on roundabouts, including videos and downloadable material, is available online at www.cityofcr.com/roundabouts

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a City program, service, or activity, should contact Lee Tippe with Public Works Engineering at 319-286-5816 or email leet@cedar-rapids.org as soon as possible, but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event. TTY users may also call 711 (Iowa Relay Service.)

Thank you for your collaboration as we work to improve our streets.

