

Public Works Weekly Construction Report

May 9, 2008

Metropolitan Area Traffic/Road Construction Alerts:

Please remember to view current Houston metropolitan area traffic **road construction/closure information** from the City website “Traffic Updates/Closures” link, which directs citizens to Houston’s Transtar website, http://traffic.houstontranstar.org/construction/construction_report.aspx.

Weslayan Road Closure -between Swarthmore & University:

Report as of May 8, 2008:

During the course of investigating what appeared to be a situation of slow storm drainage at the intersection of Wesleyan Road, the City of West University Place staff discovered a collapsed storm line under Wesleyan Road. Further investigation revealed that the unstable soils, possibly as a result of this collapsed line, have affected a manhole in the center of the roadway and its corresponding sanitary sewer line running north to south in the center of the roadway at an approximate depth of at least 16 feet. This situation further left a six-inch void under the travel surface of the roadway, as well as a four-inch dip in the travel surface itself, of Wesleyan Road mid-block. In an abundance of caution, City staff closed Wesleyan Road and detoured traffic on Monday, May 5th.

Since this time the City has been rapidly collecting data and meeting with engineers on the best and most expeditious method of resolving these issues. As of 7:00 PM Wednesday May 7th the consulting engineers and City staff have gathered necessary data (historic core samplings, video investigations of all corresponding lines both sanitary and storm, recent line placements from other utility providers, etc.) and have prepared documentation to meet with proposed contractors for work to begin to resolve this issue hopefully by the middle of next week. In addition, due to the nature of this issue, staff has also conferred with the City Attorney, and, compliant with state law, have officially recognized this as an “emergency repair” to take advantage of all avenues to expedite this process for repair in the most cost effective manner possible.

The results of our investigation and studies have provided the possibility for opening one lane of traffic on Wesleyan Road within the next week, pending a positive report (on Thursday May 8th) from a “mud jacking” (pavement lifting) operator. This may possibly allow us to save one lane of the roadway. All this being said, we potentially anticipate work to begin next week on repairs. Traffic detours are expected to be in place for at least three more weeks. During the construction period we will be moving the detour of

through-traffic to Buffalo Speedway. Updated information will be communicated and placed on our website as more definite plans materialize.

West U Streetlight Project:

Streetlights Phase I –

Installation of streetlight poles on Belmont and Wakeforest Streets will be completed by Friday, May 9. Pole installation along Mercer Street began on Wednesday, May 7, and should be completed by Monday, May 12. CenterPoint Energy has begun wire installation along Auden Street, and early next week will begin pole installation on Edloe and Auden Streets. Toward the end of next week, poles will be installed first on Academy Street, then Westpoint Street, then Community Drive.

West U Sidewalk Construction Update:

Work Done:

- Continued construction on west side of Wesleyan between Riley and Ruskin.
- Began assessment schedule development in remaining areas.
- Continued restoration of areas affected by construction.

Future Work:

- Complete construction on west side of Wesleyan.
- Continue assessment and schedule development in remaining areas.
- Continue restoration of areas affected by construction.

College Ave./Bellaire Blvd. Improvement Project Update:

As many of you are aware, this improvement project will affect the Bellaire Blvd./College Ave./Poor Farm Ditch area of the City with enhancements to the transportation system and its associated drainage features. These enhancements are designed to not only provide free and clear roadways, but to greatly improve our drainage in the affected areas. The project is the joint effort of the City of West University Place, the City of Southside Place, the City of Houston, Harris County Flood Control District and Metropolitan Transit Authority.

The present Traffic Control Plan, closing the southern side of Bellaire Boulevard, thus moving two-way traffic to the northern lanes in the construction zone (currently from just east of Bellaire Boulevard's intersection with Stella Link Road to a point just west of its intersection with Mercer Avenue) is anticipated to remain in its current format throughout the upcoming week. Staff continues to meet with the contractor and the consulting

engineers to lessen traffic congestion whenever possible. It should be noted that this section of Bellaire Boulevard is entirely within the jurisdictions of both the City of Southside place and the City of Houston, and traffic violations in the work zone will be double fines.

The initial portion of the project will be the construction of the outfall of the 72” storm water line at Bellaire Blvd. and Poor Farm Ditch. The installation of 9x6 storm water boxes is complete to a point west of Bellaire Blvd.’s intersection with Auden Street. Paving of the outside traffic lanes on the south side of Bellaire Blvd. to this point will be in process next week, with completion anticipated within the following week. The intersection of Braes Blvd. and Bellaire Blvd. (southern lanes) will remain temporarily open to all traffic until paving preparation reaches this area. The northern lanes of Bellaire Blvd’s intersection with Auden Street have remained open.

Updates to this project will be posted weekly on our website as well as reported to subscribers of the City's email notification program. Further, please note that the contractor has established a contact in the event residents would have questions or concerns regarding this ongoing improvement project. **Their contact is Superintendent Luke Morganti; he can be reached at 832.265.7470.**

Kirby Drive Improvement Project Update:

The City of West University Place City Council has approved and interlocal agreement with the City of Houston for the placement of sidewalks on the west side of Kirby Drive. The agreement is now pending approval by the City of Houston’s City Council.

Contractors for the City of Houston are continuing the installation of storm water boxes on the west side of Kirby Drive. At present time the Segment 3 contractor has successfully installed over 1,900 linear feet of storm water boxes out of a total 3,000 linear feet contained within the Segment 3 Project. Present progress has reached a point between Kirby Drive’s intersection with Rice Blvd. and its intersection with Plumb Street. In addition, the contractor is anticipating pouring a section of the travel lanes of Kirby Drive between its intersection of Amherst Street and Rice Blvd. Further, the contractor is also awaiting approval to pave the east side travel lanes of Kirby Drive from Swift Street to Rice Blvd. This process would result in a switching of traffic to the west side lanes.

Contact information for this project is as follows:

Ms. Jody Craze
Senior Project Manager/ City of Houston
(713)837-7188

Reytec Construction Resources, Inc
(713)957-4003