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Elgin road construction season kicks into gear

By MIKE DANAHEY

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Crews are landscaping and putting other finishing touches on work along Duncan Avenue in Elgin that was related to the Illinois Tollway's extensive project on I-90 above the city road. (Mike Danahey / The Courier-News)

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For those interested in keeping up on Elgin's road projects, the information will be at your fingertips via social media, websites or a mobile app.

Elgin's \$8.5 million capital plan for 2017 includes nearly 25 miles of street improvements, two miles of new water main and a quarter mile of new sanitary sewer, with the projects financed through a combination of funding from Grand Victoria Casino tax money, sales tax and utility funds, Elgin Communications Specialist Molly Center said.

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Already underway are the Moseley/Orchard area street rehabilitation project and the Lord Street sanitary sewer project, Center said.

"In addition, the Bluff City Boulevard Combined Sewer Separation project has carried over from last year's progress and this phase of the basin work is expected to be completed by July," she said.

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The West Pressure Zone Connectivity Project will continue this month, providing water system redundancy to Elgin's west side with 1.63 miles of new water main.

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Starting in June, there will be several street resurfacing projects kickstarting,

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miles of new riding surface planned for the northwest side, 6.6 miles for the northeast side and 10.8 miles for the southwest side.

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The city also is planning maintenance and rehabilitation to 24 bridges, and work will begin in June and be completed by the end of November, Center said.

Traffic will most likely be disrupted by work Metra will be doing to improve railroad crossings, and that will require closures at the Kimball Street crossing and the Route 25/St. Charles Street crossing.

"Tentatively, work on the Kimball Street crossing is planned for June 2 - 5, and work on the Route 25/St. Charles Street crossing will be from June 14 - 23," Center said.

While construction on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (1-90) in the Elgin area is largely complete, there are still some details to be completed.

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According to Illinois Tollway Communications Manager Dan Rozek, the Tollway is restoring a portion of Route 31 at I-90 as part of the interchange construction wrap-up. The work includes removing the asphalt on Route 31 between the I-90 ramps, patching the pavement below it and then placing new asphalt over the repaired pavement.

"The Tollway already has removed the asphalt, and this week expects to begin repairing the pavement," Rozek said. "When that work is completed, new asphalt will be applied. The work is scheduled to be completed this month."

Landscaping also is taking place under the Fox River bridge on the east and west

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along Airport Road and River Road on the west side of the river.

Rozek also noted that Pace is expected this summer to begin constructing a new Park-n-Ride Station at Illinois Route 25 and I-90 as part of an expanded partnership with the Tollway that included the construction of a new inside FlexLane on I-90 that will allow Pace buses to avoid congestion and offer more reliable travel times.

Center said daily project updates will be posted to the city's designated construction Twitter handle @ElginRoadAlerts. Information on all 2017 city projects also can be found online at cityofelgin.org/construction. For questions or concerns, people can call Elgin 311 by dialing 311 within city limits or 847-931-6100 if outside of Elgin.

"For the most updated information and alerts like construction-related road closures, residents and those traveling through Elgin regularly are encouraged to download the Elgin 311 mobile app," Center said.

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Topics: Elgin, Pace Bus

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