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RISING RIVER CAUSES DELAYS FOR MISSISSIPPI DRIVE PROJECT

Most work continues but septic line placement delayed by rising water levels

MUSCATINE, Iowa – Construction work on the Mississippi Drive Reconstruction Project continued Monday despite the rising water level of the Mississippi River. Heavy rains last week, particularly in the northern part of the state and in Illinois, have resulted in the river level climbing to 15.69-feet by 2 p.m. Monday (July 24) after being as low as 10-feet last Friday (July 21).

“We were hoping to get the sanitary line up Chestnut Street over the weekend but the rising water level prevented us from getting that done,” Bill Haag, project manager for the City of Muscatine said. “Despite that setback we are making progress with this first phase of the project.”

The storm and septic lines are set the deepest and most vulnerable to fluctuations in the river level during construction. Crews had made significant progress last week when the river was down and had hopes of completing work on Chestnut Street before the river rose again.

“We will work with the contractor building the hotel and see when we have another window of opportunity to get the sewer line installed,” Haag said.

The river is forecast to crest at 18-feet Tuesday night and fall below flood stage by Friday if there is not anymore rain. Unfortunately, the extended forecast calls for a 90 percent chance of thunderstorms on Wednesday into Thursday morning.



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KE Flatworks was able to complete pouring of Iowa Avenue to the intersection with Mississippi Drive.

Brian Stineman, public works director, said that the city is continuing to monitor the level of the Mississippi River and the projected crest has been lowered to 18-feet.

“The river will not have much effect on city streets,” Stineman said. “There will be the loss of some parking on the river front as the prediction remains. If the projected elevation goes up or we get heavy rain while the river is flooding we may get some water on Mississippi Drive and Walnut Street coming out of the storm intakes.”

People should be cautious when walking near the river and should avoid playing in the water during times of flood. The higher the water level, the faster the water flows, and the quicker a person can be carried away should they fall in to the river or be caught up in the current.

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For more information, contact Kevin Jenison, Communications Manager, City of Muscatine, at (563) 264-1550 or email kjenison@muscatineiowa.gov.