



PRESS RELEASE
CITY OF MUSCATINE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MISSISSIPPI DRIVE WILL REMAIN A TRUCK ROUTE

Street was designed to handle truck traffic as a through roadway

MUSCATINE, Iowa – There is a misconception among many that the City of Muscatine will not permit semi-trucks to use Mississippi Drive once the reconstruction project is completed.

“The City of Muscatine has never had any intention to ban truck traffic on Mississippi Drive,” Jim Edgmond, city engineer, said.

Currently there are two routes for trucks around Muscatine ... use the bypass (U.S. 61) or use what is now known as Business 61 (Mississippi Drive and Grandview Avenue corridors). For trucks coming into Muscatine from Illinois across the Norbert F. Beckey Bridge, it makes more sense for them to use Business 61 to reach their destinations in Muscatine.

“Trucks using the Mississippi Drive corridor can expect to go slower and may have to deal with vehicles parking and increased pedestrian traffic,” Jim Edgmond, Muscatine city engineer, said.

Trucks are currently using the section of Mississippi Drive that was reopened in December with very few problems and most of those problems while trying to turn on to or off of the side streets.

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“The drivers must remember that the side streets were not designed for truck use,” Edmond said. “Iowa and Mulberry are the only two that are.”

The Mississippi Drive Corridor project has an anticipated completion date of November 2018. Yet to be completed is the section from Sycamore to Mulberry, Mulberry up to 2nd Street, and 2nd Street out to the Highway 92 bridge over the Mississippi River.

There will be issues with truck traffic during these final portions of the reconstruction project but city staff is working with affected businesses much the same as they did during the first two phases of the project.

When completed Mississippi Drive will be a better through route for trucks coming off the bridge to companies located along the riverfront, better for regular traffic, and better for pedestrians.

“You will just have to be more patient, accept the slower pace, be aware of pedestrians and of vehicles trying to park,” Edmond said.

The Grandview Avenue Corridor Revitalization Project is slated for 2019-2020 and many of the same issues regarding truck traffic may be encountered during the project. A meeting on the Grandview project will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 8, at the Water Pollution Control Plant.