



CITY OF MUSCATINE PRESS RELEASE

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**WORKERS FROM KE Flatworks work to pour and finish the concrete pedestrian walkway from Riverside Park to the main line of the Canadian Pacific Rail Road at Sycamore Street Thursday. Once KMA Excavating completes underground work near the Sycamore Street intersection, crews will return to complete the pedestrian walkway from the main line to Mississippi Drive.**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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December 19, 2017

### **CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

***Eastbound Mississippi Drive to be closed 24-48 hours starting Dec. 20;  
Iowa Avenue Canadian Pacific Rail Road crossing opens Thursday***

**MUSCATINE, Iowa** – Fall-like weather for the third full week of December has proven to be a boon for construction activity along the riverfront in Muscatine with sunny skies and temperatures in the 50s allowing crews bonus days of work on the Mississippi Drive Reconstruction Project.

Another segment of that project neared completion on Tuesday (Dec. 19) as the Canadian Pacific Rail Road Signal crew began wrapping up the installation of the lights and signal arms at the Iowa Avenue crossing. KE Flatworks was also able to take advantage of the weather by pouring the sidewalks on either side of the crossing and the first part of the pedestrian crossing at the Sycamore Street intersection.

“As of right now our plan is to open up the Iowa Avenue crossing Thursday morning,” Bill Haag, project manager for the City of Muscatine, said. “Once that crossing is open, however, we will be closing the crossing at Cedar Street.”

Plans are for Muscatine Power & Water (MPW) to de-energize the highline running along Mississippi Drive from Pine Street east and reroute power. The lines and poles will be removed as part of the Reconstruction Project with the wiring placed underground next summer. The conduit is already in place for the underground wires but the wires themselves will not be pulled through until Summer 2018.



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“We need those lines de-energized because the cross arms come very close to them when fully raised,” Haag said. “We cannot officially reopen the crossing until that safety concern is met.”

That effort will start at 8 a.m. Wednesday (Dec. 20) when the eastbound lane of Mississippi Drive from Pine Street to Iowa Avenue is closed to facilitate MPW’s de-energizing of the line.

“We are hopeful that the work can be completed in 24 hours,” Jim Edgmond, City Engineer, said. “We are advising, however, that it could be 24 to 48 hours for the process to be completed.”

The closure of the eastbound lane of Mississippi Drive means that eastbound traffic will be diverted onto Pine Street and then to 2nd Street. The westbound lane (from Iowa Avenue westbound) will remain open.

Work continued in other areas this week including the pedestrian rail crossings where Smith Seeding, Inc., was installing posts and fencing. The crossings at Mad Creek and Hershey Avenue (near the McKee Button Factory) were close to completion on Tuesday. Smith Seeding, Inc., will move to the Chestnut Street crossing beginning Wednesday, and the Iowa Avenue crossing later this week. Also to be completed are the pedestrian crossings at Sycamore and at Cedar Street.

With the opening of the Iowa Avenue crossing, the Cedar Street crossing will be closed for reconstruction as part of Phase III of the reconstruction project. KMA Excavating is currently doing underground work from Sycamore to Cedar streets. The weather has been a bonus to this portion of the project which is moving ahead of schedule. KMA expects to continue east (upriver) towards Mulberry Avenue which will necessitate the closing of the intersections at Cedar Street and then at Walnut as work progresses.



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One of the goals for this section of the reconstruction project is to improve the roadway against river flooding which has closed this section of Mississippi Drive during previous high floods. Raising of the roadway and repaving will take place next spring.

Reconstruction of Mississippi Drive from Sycamore to Mulberry Avenue is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2018. The last portion of the project includes Mulberry Avenue to 2nd Street, the Mulberry Avenue-2nd Street roundabout, and 2nd Street from Mulberry to the intersection with Iowa 92 which is expected to be completed by late November 2018.

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