

Hemingway District Construction

Oak Park Avenue to Euclid Avenue Closure Begins September 8

Final work on Lake Street in the Hemingway District will begin on **Tuesday, September 8** through Thanksgiving. Barricades will be set to divert all E-W traffic during the closure. Outside dining will no longer be offered; the Avenue parking garage remains available for business patrons.

Work includes complete removal and reconstruction of the roadway and sidewalk. The timeframe for this phase of the project has been shortened from original plans due to some of the work being completed back in May during the utility work closure.

COVID-19 Considerations

The original construction schedule for this portion of work called for closure of Lake Street at the end of July 2020. Due to the pandemic's impact on local businesses, the Village was open to the idea of delaying the work to allow restaurants to take advantage of the Phase 4 re-opening in Illinois and to provide outdoor dining areas through the summer.

Alternate scheduling options were discussed in late June, and presented to the Village Board at the July 6 meeting. The Better Lake Street construction team gathered feedback from Hemingway District business owners to inform final decisions. Options considered included:

- 1: Proceeding on the original schedule with no delay
- 2: Holding off construction until after Labor Day
- 3: Delaying construction until spring of 2021

Delaying the resumption of work until late October was never an option since weather and temperature conditions would have prevented the completion of work in 2020.

Option 1 was preferred by retail establishments, but they were accepting of Option 2. Recognizing the unknowns that COVID-19 presented, Option 2 provided a compromise to restaurant owners who understood the impact of delaying work until 2021 for both the Village and their businesses. Option 3 would have resulted in considerable increased costs for labor wages and storage of supplies already purchased, plus the construction duration would likely increase due to unfavorable springtime weather conditions. Members of the Village Board provided direction to proceed with Option 2.

Intersection Closure

As work progresses, the intersection at Oak Park Avenue and Lake Street will be closed in all directions beginning around the first week of October, for 2-3 weeks. Once completed, the street will re-open to north, south and westbound traffic until all final paving is complete between Oak Park and Euclid Avenues.

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