

NEWS



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The view looking south down Wauwatosa Avenue near the intersection of Harwood Avenue. This section of Wauwatosa Avenue will be closed to traffic beginning July 5, 2017.

Summer traffic to be interrupted on Harmonee and Wauwatosa avenues

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Traffic will be impeded this summer in the Wauwatosa Village due to ongoing construction as phase three of the project begins.

Now through Labor Day, Harmonee Avenue from Wauwatosa Avenue to the Harmonee Bridge will be reduced to two lanes — one in each direction — as construction on this phase begins.

The phase three schedule also calls for Wauwatosa Avenue to be closed from Blanchard Street to Harmonee Avenue beginning July 5 and ending by Labor Day.

Work has been proceeding on phase two, including in front of and behind the State Street Station on State Street, Blanchard Street, James Street and North 74th Street.

Phase one has a few punch-list items remain-

ing, including light fixtures, benches and signage that continue to be installed on State Street, Harwood Avenue and Underwood Avenue.

Businesses in the area will remain open during all phases of the project, said Melissa Weiss, communications manager for the city of Wauwatosa.

“We have a vibrant and wonderful business community in the Village,” Weiss said. “We are hopeful people will continue to show their support during construction.”

In addition, Harwood Avenue will be rebuilt and closed at an undetermined time, including Root Common and Pocket parks, which will be reconfigured. Currently the two parts of Harwood Avenue are separated by Root Common and they will be connected. The two parks will be rebuilt in 2018.

Senior construction engineer for the city of Wauwatosa Tony Minto said the bulk of construction will be completed by Thanksgiving, weather permitting.

“We ask that everyone be courteous when merging and please be safe,” Minto said.

Phase four of the project — which includes the portion of land alongside the railroad tracks on the south side of State Street — has been delayed somewhat. According to city officials, the delay is due to ongoing negotiations with Canadian Pacific Railroad, the owners of the tracks.

That phase of the plan is slated to include a pedestrian railroad crossing and easement from Wauwatosa Avenue east to 68th Street, and also a sidewalk and a fence that would help separate the public from the railroad tracks.