

Front Street Improvement Project

June 25, 2010

The contractor TA Loving completed the 25th week of the project amidst continued record heat while working in the 100 block of Front Street and the Chestnut Street intersection. The project is heading into the home stretch, is 95% complete and will be completed ahead of the July 31st substantial completion date. Currently, TA Loving and all sub-contractors are almost done with the 100 block and Chestnut Street intersection. The contractor(s) have been busy with water main work, granite curbing, mid-block areas, brick pavers, and electrical light poles. The City continued to work closely with the Water Street parking deck and visited the business owners again in the 200 block of Front Street regarding schedule and impacts to traffic.

This week the weather was extremely hot with heat indexes around 110 degrees. The contractor completed the 16-inch line stop which allowed the 16-inch and 8-inch water main connections within the Chestnut Street intersection. The southern pedestrian crosswalk and the SW sidewalk ramp area were prepared and poured on Wednesday. The eastern pedestrian crosswalk and SE sidewalk ramp were poured on Friday. During the week, the contractors prepared the mid-block areas with concrete pads, ABC stone and landscaping fill material. Demolition of the western mid-block area took place on Friday. On Thursday, with the sidewalk and curb areas removed, the contractors staked and set new granite curbing around the two northern curb lines. This will allow the remaining crosswalks and sidewalk areas to be poured. The electricians continued to pull wires and provide power to the new light poles. Plus, they finished crossing Chestnut Street for the final two pole bases. The landscaping contractor installed brick pavers up the street and in the eastern mid-block area around Chops deli. The City coordinated with the Water Street parking deck to ensure access for monthly permit holders in the morning.

Next week the contractor(s) will begin the testing of the final section of water main and work to complete streetscape improvements in the 100 block. Beginning on Monday, the contractor is scheduled to install the two remaining pedestrian crosswalks on the western and northern side, with completion of the brick pavers by the end of the week. Since this requires a full shutdown of the intersection to vehicular traffic, the City is working with Lanier parking to provide access to the parking deck via the Grace Street ramp between 7 am and 9 am Monday thru Friday. This approach to the crosswalk work will expedite the overall schedule to allow repaving and opening of the intersection by the following week. On Monday and Tuesday, the asphalt contractor will pave the northern half of the 100 block, with striping and signage to follow. By the end of the week, the intersection will be graded with stone to allow traffic from westbound Chestnut onto the parking deck for the 4th of July weekend. Next week will require a lot of brick pavers to be installed and landscaping to go in. The landscaping contractor is expected to provide full resources to accomplish this task. During the week, the contractor will be performing a lot of finishing work, some punch list items and clean up to get ready for the 4th of July Weekend. Paving of the Chestnut Street intersection is scheduled for July 6th and 7th.

The City continues to provide project information directly to businesses and work closely with the contractor on their schedule. More information about the project can be found on the City's website at www.wilmingtonnc.gov.

