Summer 2019

Neighbor Notes

A discussion of project issues of importance to your neighborhood.

Pleasant Hill Boulevard and Vandalia Road Under Construction

After a very wet spring with frequent flooding, work on the Pleasant Hill Boulevard project has finally commenced. This project will reduce the number of railroad crossings, improve railroad crossing safety measures, and elevate Pleasant Hill Boulevard to above the 500-year floodplain. This roadway was inundated by floodwaters in 2010 and 2018, shutting off access to businesses and emergency services.

The realignment and elevation changes will allow traffic to move in all directions even during flood events. The future SE Connector Bridge and the Fourmile Creek floodplain have been extensively modeled to determine what improvements are needed in the Pleasant Hill Boulevard project to allow the future construction of the SE Connector. This Pleasant Hill project will include multiple reinforced concrete box culverts to carry water beneath the new roadways and two large storm water mitigation ponds to store the storm events. All of these improvements have been reviewed and approved by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IADNR). The project was bid and awarded to Elder Corporation of Des Moines for $9,360,000.00

To improve the overall depth and water quality of the backwater ponds, the City of Pleasant Hill will allow Hallett Materials to mine both of these ponds for sand for several years, as they currently hold mining leases on these properties. Once the mining has been completed and the sites restored to the requirements of a restoration plan, the City will have future opportunities to develop the sites for recreational purposes. Pleasant Hill is planning to develop these sites into large parks with several unique amenities. The new roadway should be ready for use by November 2020.

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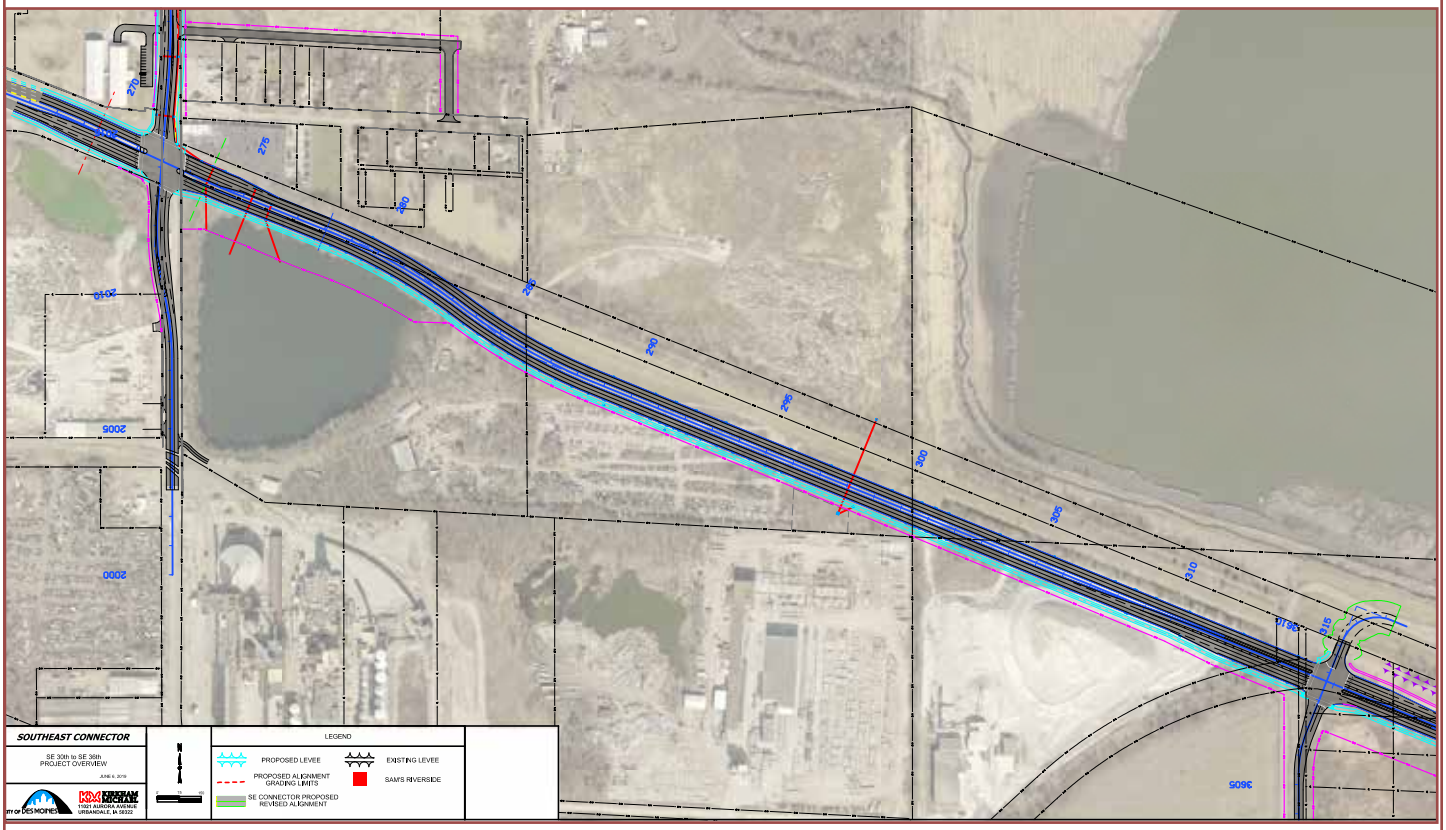
CITY OF DES MOINES

Completion of Vandalia Road Drainage

As part of the infrastructure improvements to the SE Connector Corridor, Phase 2 of the Vandalia Road Storm Sewer Project is nearly complete. Phase 1 of the project was completed in the spring of 2018 and added storm sewer to a small section of Vandalia Road near Crossroads Cold Storage.

This second phase during 2019 added storm sewer intakes to the remainder of Vandalia Road between the WRA plant and SE 43rd Street, on both sides of the road. Both shoulders of the roadway were reshaped and surfaced with gravel to provide improved drainage and safety.

The project was substantially complete in July of 2019, with only final seeding and some driveway improvements remaining.



SE 30th – US 65 Update

Preliminary design for the section between SE 30th and US Highway 65 was completed in July of 2018. The design team is now focused on Final Design and 60% review plans. These plans include the roadway typical section, plan & profile, storm sewer, and limits of construction. Once the final limits of construction can be determined, right-of-way acquisition can begin.

The roadway through this section will be designed for a 45 mph speed limit and will look nearly identical to other sections of the SE Connector. The section between SE 30th and US Hwy 65 will have parallel storm sewer and recreational trail just like the rest of Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway. Once this section of roadway is complete, the recreational trail will lead from downtown all the way to Pleasant Hill.

This final section of roadway between SE 30th and Pleasant Hill Boulevard will have intermediate intersections at SE 36th Street and SE 43rd Street. All intersections will be signalized. Improvements at SE 30th and Scott and SE 43rd and Vandalia will also be part of the project. The roadway will also have a 1,600-foot long bridge that spans Fourmile Creek and the Lanus Coop railroad spur.

Final plans for the roadway should be completed in 2021, and construction will start in 2023, subject to available funding and property acquisition. The current estimated construction cost for the final half-build section of roadway is $41 million dollars.