

THE CITY OF DES MOINES

SOUTHEAST CONNECTOR

MLK

US65

The City of Des Moines Southeast Connector

The Southeast (SE) Connector is an arterial roadway construction project under development by the City of Des Moines. The purpose of the project is to construct a major, multi-lane roadway connecting Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway at S.W. 2nd Street to the U.S. 65 beltway.

The SE Connector improvements will fulfill significant and far-reaching goals for the city of Des Moines and the greater metropolitan area. Development of the SE Connector will greatly benefit the City's overall transportation system.

What Is Happening?

The SE Connector has been under construction since 2006. Roadway is now open from SW 2nd Street to SE 9th Street, including dual bridges over the Des Moines River. This new section of roadway provides more efficient access from the heavily traveled SE 6th Street to the downtown area.

SE Connector Demo and Site Preparation

Cleanup of the area between SE 9th and SE 15th Streets including the stabilization of unsuitable soils in the vicinity of the SE 14th Street viaduct, and the removal of a pallet business is in the final stages of completion. The corridor between SE 9th and SE 15th Street is now visible from the SE 14th Street viaduct.



SE Connector Demolition Project

SE Connector SE 9th to SE 15th

Final design has been completed for the next portion of roadway from SE 9th to SE 15th Street. This project includes:

- Mainline paving from SE 9th to SE 15th Street with signalized intersections at SE 12th and SE 15th.
- Reconstruction of SE 10th Street between

Raccoon Street and Scott Avenue.

- Reconstruction of SE 12th Street between the SE Connector and Maury Street.
- Reconstruction of SE 15th Street between the SE Connector and Scott Avenue.
- Funding is in place for this project. Roadway construction is anticipated to begin in late 2012 / early 2013, pending a project agreement with the Norfolk Southern Railway.

SE Connector SE 15th to SE 23rd

Design is underway for the portion of roadway from SE 15th to SE 23rd Street. This project includes:

- Mainline paving from SE 15th to SE 23rd Street with signalized intersections at SE 18th and SE 23rd Streets.
- Reconstruction of SE 18th Street between Market Street and Maury Street.
- Construction of a new SE 23rd Street from SE Connector south to Maury Street.
- Dual bridges over the Union Pacific Railroad near SE 21st Street
- Dual bridges over the Norfolk Southern Railroad near SE 21st Street
- Expansion of Deans Lake
- Installation of a new culvert to carry Deans Lake beneath the SE Connector

Along with preliminary design, property acquisitions and relocations are taking place for impacted businesses and homes. Utility coordination and relocation plans are being developed. Soil borings and environmental analysis are nearly complete.

The Iowa Department of Transportation has awarded the project \$12.7 million in RISE funds. In addition, the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization has allocated Federal STP funds. Roadway construction is planned to begin during the Summer of 2013.

SE Connector SE 23rd to SE 30th

Preliminary design is being completed for the portion of roadway from SE 23rd to SE 30th Street. This project includes:

- Mainline paving from SE 23rd to SE 30th Street with signalized intersections at SE 25th Court and SE 30th Street.
- Pedestrian crosswalk with signalization at SE 26th Court.
- Reconstruction of SE 25th Court between Scott Avenue and Shaw Street.

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- Modifications at the SE Connector for SE 26th Court, SE 27th Street, SE 27th Court, SE 28th Street, and SE 28th Court.
- Widening of SE 30th Street to accommodate turn lanes.

Along with preliminary design, property acquisitions and relocations are taking place for impacted businesses and homes. Utility coordination and relocation plans are being developed, and funding is being established. Soil borings and environmental analysis are nearly complete. Roadway construction for this section of the project is not fully funded. The schedule will be finalized as funding is available.

SE Connector SE 30th to US 65

Design has not progressed beyond the EIS for the project between SE 30th Street and US 65. As the other sections of the project move forward and when additional funds become available, further design will begin on this section. This portion of the project is not currently programmed in the City's Capital Improvement Program.

Making the Connection...

Bridge Construction Design

Connector project team members will be designing four bridges over the railroad tracks near SE 21st Street. These bridges will be parallel, two bridges for eastbound traffic, and two bridges for westbound traffic. Two of the bridges will cross the Union Pacific Railroad, and the other two will cross the Norfolk Southern Railroad. Due to requirements for bridges over railroad tracks, these new bridges will be over 30 feet high, and will offer spectacular views of Des Moines. These bridges will be more standard than the Des Moines River bridges constructed as part of the SE Connector, but will continue the bike lanes on the roadway, and trail along the south side of the roadway. The bridge design also includes very tall MSE (Mechanically Stabilized Earth) walls along the railroad tracks to keep the bridges as short as possible. This type of wall can be found on I-235 as it passes through downtown Des Moines. A large MSE wall will also be placed along the Kemin Industries property to maximize their space for future expansion.

Roadway Design

The SE Connector has been completed and is operational from SW 2nd Street to SE 9th Street. The sections of roadway that are currently under design will be similar to the previously constructed sections, but different in a few ways. From the Environmental Impact Study and finalized Record of Decision, several restrictions were

Who's Involved?

Kirkham Michael (KM) the city's consulting engineer and its sub consultants RDG and Terracon are leading the effort for the roadway design and construction between SE 9th and SE 30th Street. The project team works closely with the City of Des Moines, The Iowa Department of Transportation, and all major utilities whose facilities are impacted by the construction.

Community input is a valuable part of this process. A variety of communication channels has been employed to keep stakeholders informed and involved.

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**Public meeting to be
scheduled later this
summer.**

placed on roadway width and geometry. The section of roadway from SE 15th to SE 25th Court will feature a smaller median than previous sections (24-feet instead of 44-feet), and will have a lower level of landscaping. The section of roadway through the Chesterfield neighborhood will feature an even smaller median (8-feet) to minimize impacts to homes and businesses, but will include landscaping to signify your entrance to the neighborhood.

The City of Des Moines staff and the project team are working to assure that details of the design are compatible with expectations, plans and responses to the improvements already in place on MLK Parkway. The project team is meeting with affected business and utilities to coordinate relocation or modifications to their site or facilities. Extensive coordination with both railroads has been ongoing since 2007 to try to negotiate a plan that works for all parties involved. Detailed improvements on the Deans Lake chain is also part of this project in an effort to minimize future flooding in this area. It is the project teams goal to not only construct a new roadway through the alignment corridor, but to improve traffic, storm sewer, and economic development to provide a long lasting improvement to the Southeast side of Des Moines.

A public meeting is being planned for this summer. Additional information will be provided once a meeting is set.