

Neighbor Notes

A discussion of project issues of importance to your neighborhood.

Pleasant Hill Boulevard & Vandalia Road Open



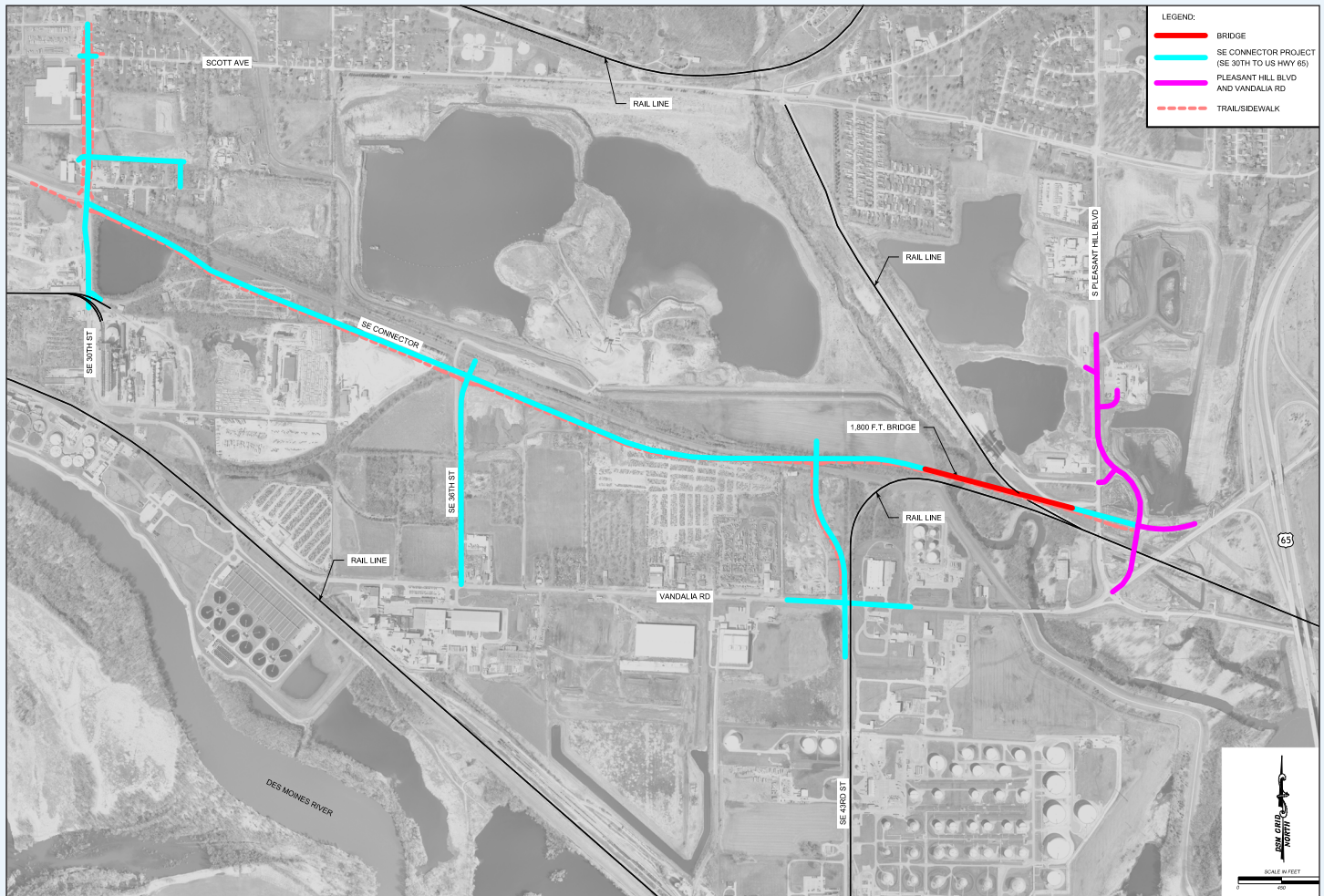
After 128 weeks of construction, the Pleasant Hill Boulevard & Vandalia Road project opened for traffic on May 12th, 2021. Construction was slowed several times during the project due to floodwaters, utility conflicts, and railroad schedules. This new section of roadway is elevated above the 500-year floodplain that shut down Pleasant Hill Boulevard numerous times over the past 20 years, which cut off access to critical services.

The new traffic signal and enhanced railroad crossing are coordinated to work together, so that when a train approaches the crossing, the traffic signal enters a protective phase that allows traffic to escape the crossing, while preventing any new traffic from approaching. This enhanced traffic feature allows trucks hauling hazardous waste (oil & gas tankers) to avoid coming to a stop at the crossing. Because the new railroad crossing has crossing arms and is coordinated with the adjacent traffic signal, it significantly reduces the risk of tankers becoming trapped or hit by oncoming trains.

Starting after the 2021 Iowa State Fair, the Vandalia Road bridge over Fourmile Creek will be closed for six-weeks for a deck repair and resurfacing. This bridge sees the brunt of the oil terminal truck traffic and has been scheduled for repairs for several years. The detour route for traffic on Vandalia Road will be SE 30th Street to E. University Avenue. This work was scheduled to occur last year but was put on hold when the SE 30th Viaduct was closed for repairs.

Property Acquisition for SE 30th – US 65 Ongoing

Property acquisition has started for the section of roadway between SE 30th and Pleasant Hill Boulevard. The City of Des Moines has been reaching out to affected property owners and started negotiations for the purchase of property and easements for the new roadway. In-person and online meetings are being held with property owners to discuss the new roadway, its impacts, and how they will be compensated for or mitigated. The City hopes to have all property needed for the project acquired by 2022.



SE 30th – US 65 Update

Final design is continuing on the final stretch of the SE Connector. Landscaping design has started, as well as street lighting and review of aesthetic enhancements. The City is applying for a \$20 Million dollar Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant from the Biden Administration for completion of the roadway. The previous section of the roadway (SE 15th – SE 30th) won a similar \$10 Million (TIGER) grant to fund that section of roadway. If the application for a grant is successful, construction of the final segment could start as early as Summer of 2023, with an anticipated construction timeline of 3 years.