



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Alex Damien, PE, Interim Director

adamien@waukesha-wi.gov

1/13/2022

St Paul Avenue Corridor Improvement Project – Frequently Asked Questions

1. When is the project going to start, and when will it finish?

Here are the important dates for this project:

Important Dates

- Utility Relocation work - Mid-November 2021
- Public Information Meeting – January 13, 2022 (4:00-6:00)
- Start of construction – Mid/Late-March 2022
- Final Project Completion - Mid/Late October 2022

2. Both St Paul Avenue and North Street operate great as is. Why is the City making this change?

The City has been working on the conversion of one-way streets to two-way streets since 1989. This has included planning for the conversion of St. Paul Avenue and North Street. You can view the planning documents on the City’s website (<https://waukesha-wi.gov/1991/St-Paul-Avenue-and-North-Street>) In summary, the benefits to this project include:

- Easier Wayfinding- Conversion of one-way streets allows for easier maneuverability through and around the City for residents and visitors and allows for easier access to Downtown.
- Increased Business Visibility - Two directions of travel not only makes it easier to access the downtown business district, it also provides two perspectives and opportunities to notice our local businesses.
- Support New Development and Redevelopment - Developers looking at the Downtown area have stressed the importance of a two-way street system on St. Paul Ave./North St. for viability of potential developments.
- Increased Transit Safety and Efficiency - Two-way streets around the Downtown Transit Center, as the Center was designed for, increases transit safety by eliminating the number of left hand turns a driver would be required to make in the Downtown area. This will lead to increased safety and efficiency of the system.
- Federal Funding- Due to a Federal grant the City has received, the majority of this project is funded 80% by the Federal government with the City paying only 20% of the eligible project costs.

ENGINEERING DIVISION
 Alex Damien, PE
 City Engineer
 201 Delafield St.
 Waukesha, WI 53188
 262-524-3600

MUNICIPAL PARKING SERVICES
 Fred Ripley
 Parking Supervisor
 241 South St.
 Waukesha, WI 53186
 262-524-3622
 Fax – 262-650-2573

STREETS DIVISION
 300 Sentry Dr.
 Waukesha, WI 53186
 262-524-3615
 Fax – 262-524-3612

CLEAN WATER PLANT
 Jeff Harenda
 Plant Manager
 600 Sentry Dr.
 Waukesha, WI 53186
 262-524-3625
 Fax – 262-524-3632

WAUKESHA METRO TRANSIT
 Brian Engelking
 Transit Manager
 2311 Badger Dr.
 Waukesha, WI 53188
 262-524-3634
 Fax – 262-524-3646

3. Will I have access to my property?

We will be maintaining access for residents as much as possible through the project. There will be access restrictions during concrete paving, and potentially during sanitary/storm/water excavation right in front of your property. Outside of those times, residents will be able to enter through the work zone, and access their driveways. During paving we will coordinate parking locations and send out specific correspondence regarding timelines and paving operations via update emails or on the City's construction update page.

Access to businesses and to apartment complexes will be maintained throughout the project, unless otherwise planned with the City.

4. Will something be done about the speeding along St Paul Avenue and North Street?

North Street and St Paul Avenue from Albert Street to Madison Street will be converted from a one-way condition to a two-way condition (one lane in each direction) with parking on both sides of the road. While the speed limits will remain the same throughout the corridor, the change to two-way traffic operation and addition of on-street parking will help calm traffic and reduce travel speeds.

5. Won't two-way traffic mean more congestion and gridlock?

The City hired an independent consulting firm to analyze switching from a one-way operation to a two-way operation on both North Street and St Paul Avenue. After completing the analysis, the results noted all intersections within the corridor are expected to operate within an acceptable level of service. In addition, the improvements give drivers additional direct route options to eliminate the need to drive around the block. The report will be posted on the City's construction page.

6. Will there be parking added with the project?

Yes. With the project, it is currently planned to add parking lane on westbound St Paul Avenue (from Wisconsin Avenue to Fuller Street), and eastbound North Street (from Roberts Street to Albert Street).

7. North Street and St Paul Avenue have been a One-Way my entire life. How is the City going to ensure the traveling public knows of this major change?

During construction both St Paul Avenue and North Street will remain in one-way operation. We will include additional signage and message boards notifying residents of what to expect traveling through the construction zone and when the switch occurs.

Communication will also occur through the Public Works Newsletter- The Works Space, Social Media campaigns, City website, City e-mail newsletter and educational videos.

8. Why are you stopping at Albert/Pewaukee?

The current project scope and budget is for the conversion to two-way traffic from Mountain Avenue to Albert St. as in previous studies this corridor showed the most benefit. The City will continue to study and plan for possible additional areas being converted to two-way traffic.

9. How will traffic operate once North Street and St. Paul Avenue are converted to two-way operations?

The two-way conversion will reduce the amount of “around the block” travel needed in today’s one-way configuration. Some additional delay may be experienced at traffic signals with the additional approaches. In general, speeds are generally lower on two-way streets.

10. How will on-street parking be impacted?

During construction on street parking will try to be maintained as much as possible. At times, on street parking will have to be restricted to complete the project. Any restrictions will be posted on the City’s webpage or by no parking signs. At the completion of the project, there will be added parking in spot locations along the corridor.

11. How will pedestrians be accommodated?

Existing crosswalks will be maintained, and pedestrian push buttons will still be provided at signalized intersections. Some crossings will now have two directions of vehicle traffic, but generally only a single through lane to cross for each direction.

Also with the project, the City will be upgrading all ADA crossings up to the federal standards.

12. Will it be more difficult to turn into and out of driveways? Will driveways be removed?

No driveways are planned to be closed as part of the project. Some left turns into and out of driveways may take additional time as a new direction of traffic is present, but right turns will now be available in new locations, reducing the need to drive around the block.

13. Will the two-way streets be confusing for motorists?

Although the change will be new to daily drivers, the streets will operate like any other two-way street and will make it easier for local access and less confusing for visitors.

14. How can I stay informed with updates on this project?

Every week the project Engineer will send out a project update email. If you would like to be receive the email, please contact Craig Ausen at causen@waukesha-wi.gov. The weekly update will also be posted on the City website: <https://wi-waukesha.civicplus.com/1991/St-Paul-Avenue-and-North-Street>

In addition, we encourage you to follow the City’s social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn) as well as the City’s e-newsletter (<https://wi-waukesha.civicplus.com/1661/Whats-Up-in-Waukesha>) for construction updates throughout the City.

15. Still have questions?

For any remaining questions, please contact the project Engineer, Craig Ausen at causen@waukesha-wi.gov or 262-524-3589.