

PRESS RELEASE
Main Street Crosswalks

The new Main Street reconstruction project from last year has been recognized as a high quality fix to our downtown roadway. It rides so much smoother, is much quieter and better looking. It was a project that the downtown business owners and patrons enjoyed watching and saw the huge amount of work necessary to ensure a great outcome on a high quality project.

The concrete roadway cured out and is exactly the result that was anticipated. However, the red stamped concrete (to look like bricks) did not cure out as well and has issues. These are basically the crossing areas for pedestrians at the corners of Main and Columbus and Main and Broad. The State (ODOT) officials and the concrete contractor need to go in and take out the red concrete and re-do those sections. They have worked on a better process for a proper cure and tested it last fall - - and the test areas look great today.

Therefore, the timing for the repairs has been looked at thoroughly with respect to anticipated weather conditions, planned downtown events and the like and a date has been chosen. The replacement of the red concrete will begin on Monday, April 27 and should conclude by Monday, May 11.

Obviously, most of Main Street will be totally closed off for the repairs, but other sections will be open for pedestrian and some motor vehicles. The section of Main Street from Memorial Drive to Columbus Street will be totally closed throughout the project. The Jobs & Family Services Building will have access from Wheeling Street to all of the off street parking lots. The section of Main from Columbus to Broad will be closed off to motor vehicles but will have access to pedestrians at Center Alley as that red brick area there does not need replacement. The section of Main from Broad to High street will have very limited access to motor vehicles (no through traffic, no large vehicles, no trucks, etc.), but will allow access to the businesses in that block - - with the caveat that they must make a U-Turn at Broad and return to High Street.

The regular through traffic will be routed around Main Street by using the traditional Wheeling Street and Chestnut Street detours. There will be plenty of traffic signage to direct traffic appropriately. The alley ways running parallel to Main Street will remain open. The alleys that lead into Main in the closure areas will be obviously closed.

Pedestrian walking will be permitted up and along all the sidewalks in the construction/repair areas. Crossing areas will be provided for pedestrians at Main and Memorial, Main and Columbus, Main and Broad as well as Main and High Street. However, large construction vehicles will be using Main Street for access to their working areas and pedestrians should be very mindful of that and show typical cautions of such a worksite.

Updates throughout the project will be offered on the City of Lancaster website (www.ci.lancaster.oh.us) , the Lancaster-Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce website

(www.lancoc.org) and Destination Downtown Lancaster (www.destinationdowntownlancaster.com).

We appreciate the inconvenience that this repair work will cause to our downtown businesses and their customers. We hope this plan of action and the relatively short time will be received with the same support as the big project last year; and, that people will maintain their loyalty to the downtown businesses during the construction period.

Specific questions may be directed to my office at 740-687-6600 or mayor@ci.lancaster.oh.us.

Dave Smith
Mayor of Lancaster