



THE WORD ON THE STREETS

A periodic update of Bentonville's street improvement projects

DEC 2008

NOW OPEN

Downtown Square Enhancement - Phase II

Project included water, sewer, street and sidewalk improvements around the exterior of the square and on Central Ave. from Main St. to SW A St. and from SE A St. to Dave Peel Park.



Intersection improvements at Central Ave. and SW A St. included upgraded traffic signals and left turn lanes on Central Ave. Main St. was converted to two-way traffic between Central Ave. and NE 2nd St. *Status: Substantially completed on Wed., Nov. 5, 2008 and dedicated by Mayor Bob McCaslin on Fri., Nov. 7, 2008.*



Hwy 72 - J St. to Hwy 71 (I-540)

A major arterial road widening to five lanes with curb and gutter, storm drains, and a trail.

Hwy 102 - Walton Blvd. to Greenhouse Rd.

A major arterial road widening to five lanes with curb and gutter and storm drains.

IN THE WORKS

W 8th St.- I St. to SW Arrowhead

Construction of a new three-lane street section with sidewalks and street lights has been revised to include a five-lane street section and adding storm drains and bus turnouts. *Status: Design substantially complete. Anticipate construction to begin later winter / early spring.*

SE 28th St. / Olive St. Overpass Improvements

Partnership with the City of Rogers to widen the existing two lane overpass to five lanes, including improvements to the west side approach as well as the intersection of 28th St. and Moberly. *Status: Design 100% complete. Currently negotiating right-of-way. Anticipate construction to begin in late winter..*

NE J St. with Interchange

A four lane boulevard from Tiger to Price Coffee Rd. with a new interchange at Hwy 71. *Status: Conceptual design and study phase currently underway for determining access onto Hwy. 71.*

SW I St. - Hwy 102 to Hwy 12

Widening SW I St from Hwy 102 to Hwy 12 including a realignment of Hwy 112 with SW I St. *Status: Design 90% complete; begin construction by early 2009.*

E Central Ave.- "J" St. to the Square

Improving existing two-lane facility with curb and gutter, storm drain and sidewalks with a left turn lane added at "F" Street. *Status: Conceptual design phase.*

8TH STREET PROJECT

Hwy 71 to NW I St.

Widening to five lanes with curb and gutter, including an interchange with Hwy 71.

The consultant contract for conceptual design and studies was approved by the AHTD and FHWA in October 2007. The consultant has started the traffic study, environmental study, break in access study and conceptual design.

Scheduled to have that phase of the consulting done and approval of conceptual in 18 to 20 months, will then begin preliminary design on interchange and improvements to 8th Street followed by final design of the project.

Along with a new interchange, 8th St. is planned to be five lanes from the interstate to SE "J" St. and a four lane boulevard from SE "J" St. to Walton Blvd. with potential for on-street parking and wide sidewalks. It will be approximately 24 months before the final alignment and intersection improvements along the corridor are determined. At that time, right-of-way and easement documents will be prepared and ready for acquisition, followed by utility relocation. This schedule could change significantly as the project moves forward.

Status: AHTD has approved three concepts. Currently determining which concept is the preferred alternative. Next public meeting will be in February or March.

AHTD: AR Highway and Transportation Dept.

FHWA: Federal Highway Administration



FUTURE PROJECTS

Main St. - Hwy 12 to SE 8th St.

Improving two lanes with curb and gutter, storm drains and sidewalks with the potential for on-street parking added by future development. *Status: Currently in conceptual design phase. Considered for construction in 2010.*

SW "A" St.— Central to Walton Blvd.

Upgrading the existing two lane road with on street parking, curb and gutter, storm drain and upgraded sidewalks. *Status: Currently in conceptual design phase. Considered for construction in 3 to 4 years.*

Hwy 12 - Hwy 71B (Rainbow Curve) to Shell Road

Widening Hwy 12 to five lanes in partnership with the AHTD. *Status: Consultant selection phase. Anticipating construction starting in early 2011.*

SW "O" St. - Hwy 72 to 8th St.

Widening the existing narrow two lanes to an improved two lane street with curb and gutter, storm drain and sidewalks. The project will tie in on the south to the new 8th St. project. *Timeline: Considered for construction in 3 years.*

Frontage Roads—Hwy 72/I-540 Interchange to Proposed J St. Interchange

Construction of frontage roads along I-540 between the existing Hwy 72 interchange and the proposed NE "J" St. interchange. *Timeline: Considered for construction in 3 to 5 years.*

Water Tower Road—E. Central to Hwy 102

Widening to five lanes (or a four lane boulevard). The final alignment of this project will not be able to be determined until the geometry of the new interchange associated with the 8th St. project is known. *Timeline: Considered to start design in 2 to 3 years after approval of interchange design for 8th St.*

NW 3rd Phase 2B - Saddlebrook to Torrell Bridge

Improving the remaining section of NW 3rd that has not been reconstructed. This will be a two lane street with curb and gutter, storm drain and sidewalk on the north side and will tie into the existing two lane bridge. *Timeline: Considered for construction in 4 to 6 years.*

SW Elm Tree Rd. - Hwy 102 to Hwy 72

Widening to a three lane street, tying into the already improved sections creating a continuous improved three lane street. *Timeline: Considered for construction in 5 to 6 years.*

E Central Ave. -

Hwy 72 to Water Tower Road

Widening the existing road to three lanes. *Timeline: Considered for construction in 5 to 7 years.*

Town Vu Bridge Replacement

This project will consist of the replacement of the existing one lane bridge on Town Vu Road with a two lane bridge with sidewalk.

Timeline: Considered for construction in 5 to 6 years.

Square renovation project from steps of Benton County Courthouse.



BUILDING ROADS

Construction is the final step in the street improvement process. Several actions occur behind the scenes before the first construction equipment arrives on site.

1. **Funding.** The City must first select a mechanism, such as sales tax, to fund the project.
2. **Design.** A consultant is hired to design the street. The consultant begins by surveying the proposed street and preparing a preliminary design for review.
3. **Utilities.** Utility companies are sent plans for review and determination is made of what adjustments have to be made to utilities.
4. **Acquisition.** Right-of-way and easement requirements are determined and documents are processed. A right-of-way acquisition specialist begins negotiations with property owners.
5. **Bid for Construction.** The project is then advertised to bid for construction for a minimum of thirty days (law requires). Once a bid has been verified as acceptable, it must be approved by City Council.

6. **Pre-construction Meeting.** A pre-construction meeting is scheduled with the contractor and utility companies to discuss the project and issue a notice to proceed. At the same time, utility companies are asked to begin their adjustments. The contractor typically begins construction after the utilities are relocated.

Street construction requires time and money. More importantly is the coordination and partnership between the City, engineers, contractors, specialists and property owners. All must work cooperatively for timely completion of a successful road improvement project.

Always slow down in construction zones