



CONTACT Robert Herrington
TITLE Press Secretary
OFFICE (317) 776-6324
EMAIL rherrington@noblesville.in.us
WEBSITE www.reimaginepleasantst.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Progress Update: Reimagine Pleasant Street One Year Later

Transformational Noblesville project is on schedule

One year after breaking ground on Reimagine Pleasant Street, Noblesville’s long-awaited project is showing major progress.

The Reimagine Pleasant Street project is a major infrastructure project that will result in improved east-west connectivity and accessibility for the growing City of Noblesville. More than just a road, the project also includes three new bridges and enhanced trails and sidewalks to enhance mobility and public safety for those traveling to and through Noblesville. The project is expected to reduce traffic congestion through downtown Noblesville by 20 percent by providing an alternate route for vehicles to cross the White River when traveling in and around the city.

“This project is a game-changer for Noblesville, and my administration has been committed to engaging the community and meeting our current and future needs from the beginning,” Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen said. “I’m happy to say this project is on schedule, and I want to thank everyone involved for their work to continue advancing this forward.”

Throughout the past year, crews have made significant progress on the first phase of the project, which is the segment from River Road to Eleventh Street and includes a 645-foot-long bridge over the White River. Beams have been set for the new White River bridge, and underground storm sewer has been installed. Crews have also been paving the new roundabouts along Eighth Street, which is scheduled to reopen to traffic in November. Additional trails have been paved, and a pedestrian tunnel beneath the new Pleasant Street at the Riverwalk Trail crossing has been installed.

Several significant milestones have been met as a part of the Reimagine Pleasant project. Jensen pointed to the reopening of Eighth Street, new bridge, and trail connectivity as the biggest accomplishments since the groundbreaking last November.

Eighth Street Reopening Ahead of Schedule

Drivers will notice Eighth Street reopening ahead of schedule in early November with new roundabouts at the intersections with Historic Pleasant Street and new Pleasant Street. Eighth Street will temporarily open as a single-lane roundabout until construction is completed next year.

The roundabout at Historic Pleasant Street and Eighth Street is also being dedicated as a “Bicentennial Roundabout” as part of Noblesville’s bicentennial celebration.

Selected for their safety and traffic flow benefits, roundabouts are a proven way to slow traffic and eliminate severe accidents that happen at traditional intersections. The free-flowing nature of roundabouts will also help traffic move efficiently throughout the corridor.

“Making it easier for everyone to get to our restaurants and shops downtown is one of the most important aspects of Reimagine Pleasant Street,” Jensen said. “We know how important this section of the project is for our businesses, and it’s exciting for these roundabouts to not just open – but open ahead of schedule.”

New bridge beams set

Scheduled to open next year, the new White River bridge has reached a significant milestone with the beams being set in September. The massive prestressed concrete beams range in length from 120 feet to 145 feet and weigh between 140,000 and 175,000 pounds, which is longer than three school buses and heavier than 10 elephants.

“The Pleasant Street project and new bridge is an idea that was discussed back in the early 80s when I was on the Noblesville City Council,” Hamilton County Commissioner Steve Dillinger said. “Thanks to the efforts of this Mayor and City Council, along with the cooperation of the County Commissioner’s and the County Council on building the bridge, this project will become a reality. I believe it will be one of the most meaningful projects for this City as well as the County, since the upgrades of 146th St.”

A highlight of the bridge is an artistic concrete mural that reflects the history and character of Hamilton County. When complete, the mural can be viewed by those who frequent the White River during the summer months.

“We want this project to be about more than a new road and bridge,” Jensen said. “We want this to complement the charm of Noblesville and show the rich heritage of Hamilton County and the White River.”

Prior to the construction of the new bridge, an old Midland railroad truss bridge needed to be removed due to the hydraulic impact of the piers in the White River. Collaborating with local residents, historical preservation groups, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the bridge was carefully lifted, disassembled, and moved to a new location. The bridge is currently being stored in partnership with Conner Prairie while the city and local partners are investigating a new location where it can be refurbished and reconstructed to maintain its original historic character.

Enhanced trail connections

The Pleasant Street project also completes a key trail network connection in Noblesville by linking the Riverwalk Trail, Midland Trace Trail, and Nickel Plate Trail. This network will enhance

pedestrian and bicycle connectivity through downtown Noblesville and connect with trail systems in Marion and Hamilton counties, unlocking a 42-mile loop of trails.

“Trails were once seen as an amenity but are now an expectation,” Jensen said. “These new connections will upgrade our trail network tremendously and be a benefit for all people in Hamilton County.”

A new pedestrian tunnel has been installed to connect the Nickel Plate and Midland Trace Trails with the Riverwalk Trail. This new connection provides a safe crossing for pedestrians and cyclists. Two more concrete murals adorn the walls surrounding the pedestrian tunnel that reflect icons of Noblesville and Indiana’s heritage including the state flower, a Peony, and the state bird, a cardinal. The peony signifies Noblesville’s embrace of the flower’s popularity with its wildly successful annual Peony Festival and other peony highlights around the city.

Other trail features include historical signage and rest areas near the historic Plum Prairie neighborhood. The signs will highlight the historic character of the neighborhood and one of its prominent residents, Reverend Barney Stone. The signage was a result of collaboration between city officials, neighborhood representatives, the Noblesville Historic Preservation Alliance, and Indiana Landmarks.

More to Come

The first phase of the project, which is the segment from River Road to 11th Street, is planned to be fully completed in November of 2024. The city is currently securing construction contracts for the final two phases of the project.

The next step is to close 10th Street and Pleasant Street in summer 2024 to construct a new roundabout. There will also be new traffic patterns on River Road as crews construct a roundabout at the new Pleasant Street intersection with River Road. River Road will remain open to traffic during construction.

Phase 2 will include widening the existing Pleasant Street to four lanes, and reconstructing the roundabout at 19th Street to a two lane roundabout. The Midland Trace Trail will be extended along the north side of Pleasant Street in phase 2 to the project’s terminus at 19th Street. City engineers are studying the intersection with SR 37, as any improvements to the east of 19th Street will need to be included in those plans.

Phase 3 highlights include a roundabout at the intersection of Hague Road and SR 32 that will be constructed in coordination and partnership with the Indiana Department of Transportation, which owns and maintains the State Route. The roundabout will include a trail connection to the existing Midland Trace Trail that currently ends at the intersection. Pedestrian tunnels will be installed to safely allow trail users to cross SR 32 and access Hague Road Trail to the north. Trail users will be able to cross the new Pleasant Street alignment and continue along the new Midland Trace Trail to the east. Phase 3 will also include a new concrete beam bridge over Cicero Creek.

Construction for Phases 2 and 3 will begin in 2024, and the entire project is expected to be complete in Fall 2025. Visit www.reimaginepleasantst.com for more information.

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Reimagine Pleasant Street is a transformative project for the city of Noblesville to improve future mobility and complement the growth of the city. When complete, the project will create a safe, vibrant corridor for residents to drive, walk, or bike to downtown Noblesville while alleviating traffic congestion along SR 32.

CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF PROGRESS!

WHITE RIVER BRIDGE



OCTOBER 2022



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PLEASANT STREET



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EIGHTH STREET



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