



# project NEWS

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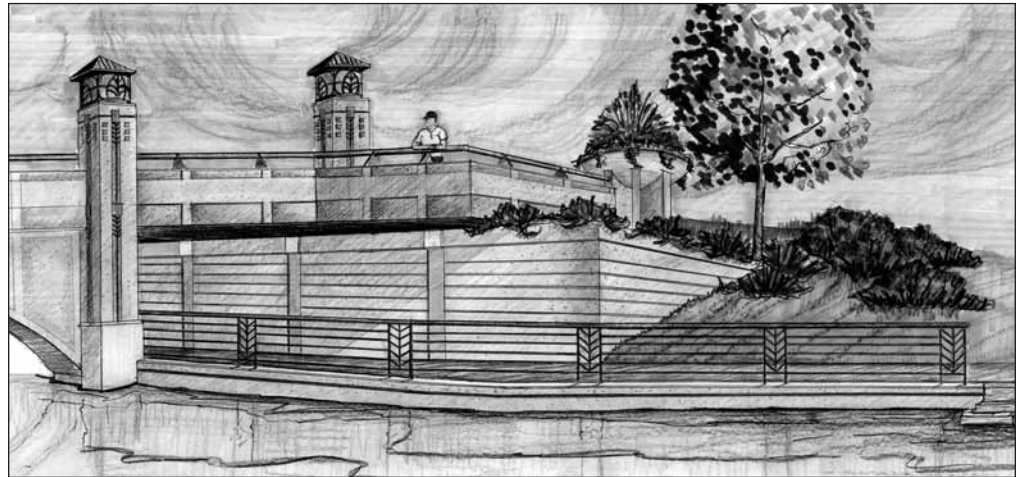
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Project time line  
Invitation to public information meeting

Project phone number:  
(608) 294-5000

E-mail:  
mhintze@hntb.com

On the Web:  
www.ci.madison.wi.us/ewashingtonave/



*Pedestrian overlooks on each corner of the Yahara River Bridge, which will be reconstructed as part of Segment 2, will offer panoramic views of the parkway and Yahara River.*

## Construction on Segment 2 scheduled to begin in spring

Segment 2 of the East Washington Avenue Reconstruction Project is scheduled to kick off in early 2006, with the start of construction set for mid-March, weather permitting.

This is the third phase of construction and covers the corridor from Thornton Avenue to Third Street on East Washington Avenue, along with First Street from Johnson to Winnebago streets. The construction plan includes improvements to pedestrian crossings at the East Washington Avenue-First Street intersection, as well as extensive streetscaping and landscaping that complement the streetscaping done on Segment 1, from Blair Street to Thornton Avenue. Consistent elements include colored and imprinted

■ Map of project area, Page 2

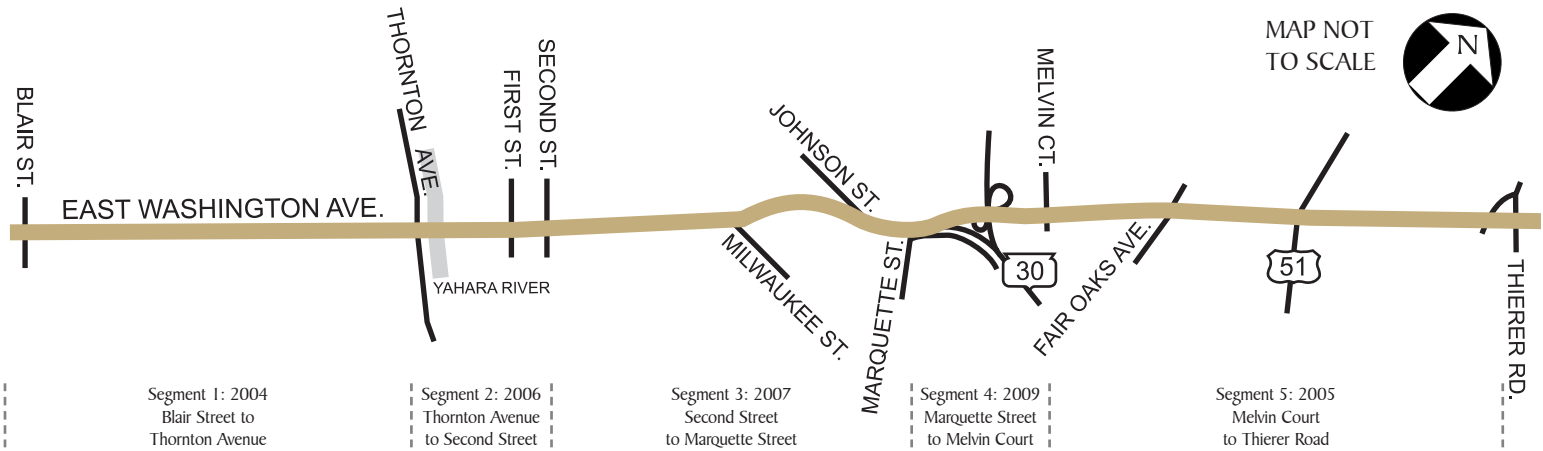
concrete in medians and crosswalks, planting beds, trees planted in the median, decorative lighting and new bus shelters.

The Segment 2 work also includes the reconstruction of the Yahara River Bridge, which crosses the Yahara River just north of Thornton Avenue on East Washington Avenue. The bridge will be removed and rebuilt one side at a time so traffic can be maintained on the bridge. Thornton Avenue will be closed permanently to East Washington Avenue, as consistent with the Yahara River Parkway and Environs Master Plan. This plan includes specific design criteria for the open-space and park areas along the Yahara River on Madison's isthmus.

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# East Washington Avenue Reconstruction Project Area



Continued from Page 1

The new bridge will be a landmark for the Yahara River Parkway and East Washington Avenue. The redesign features an arched girder bridge with pedestrian walkways on both sides of the river. “Outlook” areas, or open spaces, will be built within the walkways so that pedestrians can view the river while passing under the bridge. Lighting will softly illuminate the bridge at night and highlight architectural features. Other highlights of the reconstruction will include:

- Extensive naturalistic landscaping on both sides of the bridge, reflecting landscape architect O.C. Simonds’ historical plan.
- Integration of the Thornton Avenue right of way into the parkway between Main Street and Mifflin Street.
- Incorporation of the Halle Steensland commemorative plaques into small monuments near the new bridge.
- Addition of cut-stone steps from the walkway to the river for easy river access.
- Construction of a handicapped-accessible overlook platform near the bridge.

## Construction stages

Segment 2 will be constructed throughout five stages in 2006:

**Stage 1 (late March):** In Stage 1, the median lanes will be closed to allow for the removal of the median and the laying of temporary pavement to widen the roadway in preparation for Stage 2.

**Stage 2 (April to June):** In Stage 2, four lanes of two-way traffic (two lanes in each direction) will be open on the existing outbound lanes while the inbound lanes are reconstructed.

**Stage 3 (July):** Stage 3 will involve utility work in the median. Two lanes of traffic in each direction - divided by the median - will be open.

**Stage 4 (August to October):** During Stage 4, the four lanes (two lanes in each direction) of traffic will be switched over to the newly constructed inbound lanes while the outbound lanes are reconstructed.

**Stage 5 (November):** The median will be reconstructed in Stage 5. Landscape plantings in the Segment 2 median will also carry over into spring 2007.

Construction of the entire corridor will be completed in five segments over a six-year period. A break is scheduled in 2008, followed by construction of the final segment in 2009. Segment 1 has been completed. Work on Segment 5 is currently under way.

## Traffic impacts on First Street

Construction will impact traffic on First Street during 2006:

- North First Street from East Washington Avenue to Johnson Street will remain open with one lane in each direction for the duration of construction.
- South First Street from East Washington Avenue to Main Street will be closed from May through September.
- South First Street from Main Street to Winnebago Street will be closed from June through August.

## Maintaining access to businesses

During construction, green-signal times on East Washington Avenue will be maximized, left-turn lanes will be provided at the First Street intersection, and some signing will be implemented to help motorists find access to businesses. Most access will be limited to right-turn or side-road entrances and exits.

To keep the public informed of construction progress, the construction contractor and construction project manager will conduct regular meetings with local businesses. Meeting topics will include the project schedule, vehicular access, pedestrian access and other construction issues.

# Reconstructed Segment 1 wins national award

## *Project considered in two categories in competition*

Business owners, pedestrians and motorists who weathered the 2004 construction of Segment 1, from Blair Street to Thornton Avenue, will be pleased to know that this new section of urban gateway is getting great reviews — and winning awards!

Segment 1 of the East Washington Avenue Reconstruction Project won the American Concrete Pavement Association's 2005 National Award for Excellence in Concrete Pavement, Urban Arterials and Collectors Category, in recognition of outstanding design and construction.

Competitors included projects from all over the United States. Segment 1 was also a finalist in the Traffic Management category.



*Segment 1 of the East Washington Avenue Reconstruction Project — from Blair Street south to Thornton Avenue — was constructed in 2004.*

# Segment 5 moves toward completion

Construction of Segment 5 of the East Washington Avenue Reconstruction Project, from Melvin Court to Thierer Road, is progressing toward completion.

Segment 5 is being constructed throughout five stages this year. Stage 1 began in early spring, and Stage 5 — during which the median will be reconstructed — is expected to be completed in November.

Currently, work is progressing on the median lanes from US 51 to Thierer Road, and the inbound lanes from Aberg Avenue to US 51 are being paved. When paving is complete from Aberg Avenue to US 51, inbound traffic will be switched to the new inbound lanes and work will begin on the median areas.

Final landscaping and lane marking work will take place in spring of 2006. The new Wright Street underpass reopened on Sept. 1, in time for the first day of



*The newly reconstructed Wright Street pedestrian tunnel reopened on Sept. 1.*

school. Entrance ramps to the pedestrian tunnel were flattened to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards, wingwalls were flared and received architectural enhancement, and new tunnel lighting was installed. Landscaping will complete the open space around the north end of the tunnel in spring.

# Plan to attend public information meeting

You're invited to attend an informational meeting on Thursday, Nov. 10, to discuss the design of Segment 3 of the East Washington Avenue Reconstruction Project.

This segment stretches from Second Street to Marquette Street, and it is scheduled for construction in 2007. The meeting will be held in at the Salvation Army Community Center, 3030 Darbo Drive, from 6 to 8 p.m., with a presentation scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Project staff will answer questions related to the design.

Recent updates to the design plan include a fully signalized intersection at Sixth Street due to the planned redevelopment of the Union Corners area. The Starkweather Creek bike path connections across East Washington and Aberg Avenues will also be discussed.

## East Washington Avenue Reconstruction Project Time Line

<b>2 0 0 4</b>	January 2004 March 2004	Construction contract awarded for Segment 1 Construction began on Segment 1 – Blair Street to Thornton Avenue
<b>2 0 0 5</b>	March 2005 June 2005	Construction began on Segment 5 – Melvin Court to Thierer Avenue Construction on Segment 1 was completed
<b>2 0 0 6</b>	March 2006 2006 – 2009	Construction begins on Segment 2 – Thornton Avenue to Second Street Ongoing design and construction for Segments 3 and 4
<b>2 0 0 7</b>	March 2007	Construction begins on Segment 3 – Second Street to Marquette Street

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## YOU'RE INVITED

### to the East Washington Avenue Reconstruction Project **Public Information Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, Nov. 10, 2005

**Time:** 6 to 8 p.m., with a presentation at 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** Salvation Army Community Center  
3030 Darbo Drive, Madison

This meeting will focus on the design of Segment 3, which stretches from Second Street to Marquette Street. Segment 3 is scheduled for construction in 2007.