



# project NEWS

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Project phone number:  
(608) 294-5000

E-mail:  
mhintze@hntb.com

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



Segment 1 of the East Washington Avenue Reconstruction Project, from Blair Street to Thornton Avenue, will be reconstructed in 2004.

## Construction to begin in spring

Construction of the first segment of the East Washington Avenue Reconstruction Project is scheduled to begin in mid-March, depending on weather.

Segment 1 includes the stretch of the corridor from Blair Street to Thornton Avenue.

■ Map of project area, including segments, Page 2

Construction plans have been completed, and the construction work contract is scheduled to be awarded in January.

To keep the public informed during construction on the segment,

the construction contractor and project manager will conduct regular meetings with local businesses and property owners to discuss the project schedule, vehicular access, pedestrian access and any other issues related to construction.

### Construction stages

Construction of Segment 1 will be completed in four stages:

■ **Stage 1** (*mid-March to mid-April*) will involve closing the median lanes to allow for the removal of the median and temporary pavement widening in the median along the inbound lanes in preparation for Stage 2.

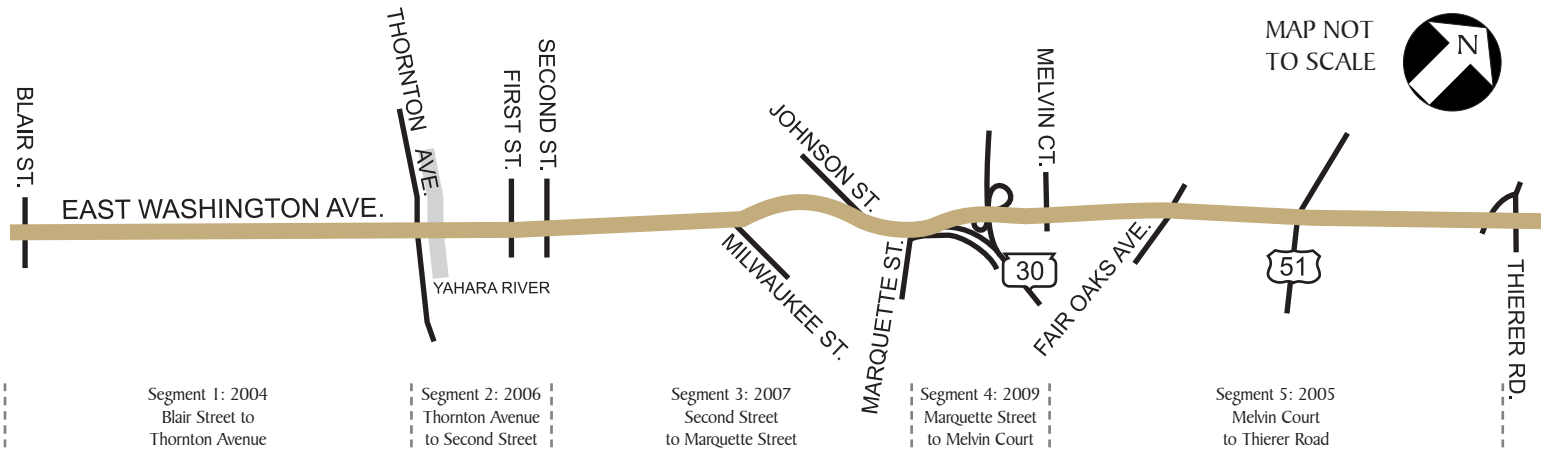
■ **Stage 2** (*mid-April to July*) will include four lanes of two-way traffic (two lanes in each direction) on the existing inbound lanes while the outbound lanes are being reconstructed.

■ **Stage 3** (*August to October*) will switch the four lanes of traffic over to the newly constructed outbound lanes while the inbound lanes are reconstructed.

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# East Washington Avenue Reconstruction Project Area



## Regular meetings to be held during construction

### **Public invited to attend**

If you own a property or business adjacent to the Segment 1 construction, Blair Street to Thornton Avenue, you will likely have questions regarding construction scheduling and access.

To answer these questions, the successful construction contract bidder on the project will be required to hold regular meetings, beginning before construction starts and running until completion of the work. The project engineer hired by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the city of Madison to oversee the project will also be there to hear concerns and answer questions.

These meetings will most likely be held on Friday mornings, and information will be available regarding construction operations for the coming week including the project schedule, vehicular access, pedestrian access and other issues.

Watch for announcements about the times and locations of these meetings on the East Washington Avenue project Web site: [www.ci.madison.wi.us/ewashingtonave/](http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/ewashingtonave/).

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- **Stage 4 (November)** will return to divided traffic with two lanes on each side of the median to allow for completion of the median and left-turn lanes. Final landscaping of the Segment 1 median will carry over into spring 2005.

Construction of the entire corridor will be completed in five segments over a six-year period, starting in 2004 with a break scheduled in 2008.

### **Traffic management plan**

The city of Madison will implement a construction traffic-management plan, which includes measures to minimize traffic diversion to residential neighborhoods and to maximize accessibility during construction.

Measures on East Washington Avenue include maximizing green-signal time, providing left-turn lanes at signalized intersections, installing changeable message signs, and utilizing an outreach program to keep motorists informed. The plan also includes maintaining access to businesses, providing pedestrian crossings, and encouraging the use of transit services.

Vehicular crossing of East Washington Avenue and left turns will be limited to the signalized intersections during construction. Access at all other unsignalized intersections and driveways within the construction zone will be restricted to right turns only. Intersections may be periodically closed for short periods of time during construction to allow for utility installations and concrete

- The public is invited to an informational meeting Wednesday, Nov. 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. at WisDOT District 1, 2101 Wright St. in Madison.

paving operations. Access to residential and business driveways will be maintained as much as possible.

Pedestrian crossings will be provided at the signalized intersections of Paterson, Ingersoll and Baldwin streets. Bus stops will be reduced to three stops within the construction area at these signalized intersections, with temporary bus stops in the median during construction Stages 2 and 3.

### **Plan modifications**

Construction plans have been altered from previous versions to incorporate bump-outs, colored crosswalks and pedestrian countdown timers.

Bump-outs, also called bulb-outs or curb extensions, allow for shorter pedestrian street-crossing distances and bookend on-street parking. Colored concrete crosswalks highlight the crossing for pedestrians and motorists, improve pedestrian safety, and serve as an aesthetic enhancement to the corridor that will complement other streetscape design elements. Pedestrian countdown timers eliminate the confusion of traditional "Don't Walk" indicators by adding a numerical display that counts down the amount of time pedestrians have to cross the street.

# Design focus now shifts to Segments 5 and 2

## *Streetscaping elements to include landscaping colored concrete*

With Segment 1 construction plans ready for letting, the design focus now shifts to Segment 5 (Melvin Court to Thierer Road) and Segment 2 (Thornton Avenue to Second Street).

Segment 5 is scheduled for 2005 construction, and Segment 2 – including reconstruction of the Yahara River Bridge and First Street from Johnson Street to Winnebago Street – is scheduled for construction in 2006.

Project team members will be accepting public input about the streetscaping plans for Segments 5 and 2 at the public information meeting scheduled for Nov 12. Comments are also sought regarding the Wright Street Pedestrian Tunnel, part of Segment 5. The tunnel runs underneath East Washington Avenue and exits at Fair Oaks Avenue to the south and Wright Street to the north.

The streetscaping for Segments 5 and 2 will complement the Segment 1 streetscaping. Many of the same elements will carry through, including:

- Colored and imprinted concrete planter borders in the median.
- Colored and imprinted concrete next to turn bays and in other parts of the median that are too narrow for grass.
- Colored concrete crosswalks at key intersections.
- Planting beds alternating with lawn panels.
- Trees planted in the median at regular intervals to create a visual rhythm.
- Decorative lighting.
- Bus shelters replaced with the decorative bus shelter design used in Segment 1.

Some elements will differ from those in Segment 1, however. The plantings will utilize more woody shrubs with perennials used as accents. Year-round color and interest

will be incorporated into the design, and all selected plant material will be hardy with a proven track record in Wisconsin medians.

Streetscaping for the Yahara River Bridge will include a colored and imprinted concrete median over the bridge. Landscaping on both sides of the bridge will be naturalistic and will reflect landscape architect O.C. Simonds' historical landscape plan.



*The Wright Street Pedestrian Tunnel, part of Segment 5, runs underneath East Washington Avenue and exits at Fair Oaks Avenue to the south and Wright Street to the north. Project team members will be seeking input about the tunnel at the public information meeting Nov. 12.*



*A hearing about this redesign proposed for the Yahara River Bridge on East Washington Avenue will be held Dec. 3 by the city of Madison Board of Public Works.*

## Board seeks input on bridge redesign

Anyone interested in sharing comments about the currently proposed redesign for the Yahara River Bridge is invited to attend a meeting of the city of Madison Board of Public Works on Wednesday, Dec. 3.

The hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Room 201 of the City-County Building, 210 Martin Luther King Blvd. The board will present the redesign and hear comments from meeting attendees.

The Yahara River Bridge crosses the Yahara River just north of Thornton Avenue on East Washington Avenue. The redesign includes 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. Recessed lighting will softly illuminate the bridge at night and highlight architectural features.

## East Washington Avenue Reconstruction Project Time Line

2 0 0 4	January 2004 February 2004 March 2004	Construction contract awarded for Segment 1 Real estate acquisition begins for Segments 5 and 2 Construction begins on Segment 1 – Blair Street to Thornton Avenue
2 0 0 5	March 2005	Construction begins on Segment 5 – Melvin Court to Thierer Avenue
2 0 0 6	March 2006 2006 – 2009	Construction begins on Segment 2 – Thornton Avenue to Second Street Ongoing design and construction for Segments 3 and 4

Matt Hintze  
HNTB Corporation  
10 East Doty St.  
Suite 615  
Madison, WI 53703

## YOU'RE INVITED

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

**Date:** Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2003

**Time:** 6 to 8 p.m., with a presentation at 7 p.m.

**Place:** Wisconsin Department of Transportation District 1  
2101 Wright St., Madison

This meeting will focus on reconstruction of Segment 5 (Melvin Court to Thierer Road).

The meeting focusing on the Yahara River Bridge is scheduled for Dec. 3 (see Page 3).