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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

WEATHER IS CHANGING BUT WORK GOES ON FOR TWO PROJECTS

Work on Mississippi Drive, East 5th Street continues to make progress this week

MUSCATINE, Iowa – It is November and the weather is changing but construction work on the Mississippi Drive Reconstruction Project and Phase III of the West Hill Sewer Separation Project continued this week. The goal remains to have Mississippi Drive reopened from Broadway to Iowa before Thanksgiving and East 5th Street in the next week of two.

“We are still above freezing and we still meet the criteria for pouring concrete,” Bill Haag, project manager for the City of Muscatine said. “There will be a lot of concrete poured this next week as long the weather cooperates.”

WEST HILL SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT

Heuer Construction poured 180 yards of concrete on East 5th Street from Iowa to Sycamore Wednesday and are looking to pour another 180 yards of concrete Friday. These are the last two big pours of the project and will complete East 5th Street except for some small pours.

The only pour remaining will be on Sycamore from East 5th Street to the #5 Alley. Haggerty Earthworks is wrapping up underground work on Sycamore Street which is the final portion of underground work in Phase III. Sycamore will be closed from East 5th to the #5 alley for the underground work.

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Phase IV is planned for 2018.

MISSISSIPPI DRIVE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The underground work from Linn Street to Broadway is substantially complete and KE Flatworks expects to begin paving that portion of Mississippi Drive beginning Monday starting with the eastbound lane. The major pours for that section of Phase II of the Mississippi Drive Reconstruction project should be completed by the end of next week, weather permitting, with some smaller pours and parking areas to be completed in the next couple of weeks.

There will also be action at the Iowa Avenue railroad crossing as Taylor Ridge Drilling will be on location station Monday to drill the deep foundations for the signal cross arms. The foundations are 3-feet wide by 30-feet deep and will be filled with concrete when the drilling is completed. There are four drills to be made, two on each side of the tracks, and the process will be repeated at the Cedar Street and 2nd Street railroad crossings next year.

Heritage Landscaping installed the landscaping in the medians while Hardscapes Solutions, Inc., the brickwork in the medians and pedestrian crossings, as the project moved downriver from Sycamore Street.

KE Flatworks remains optimistic that the goal of having Mississippi Drive open from Iowa Avenue to Broadway Street will be accomplished before Thanksgiving. If that occurs, temporary stop signs will be used for traffic control. Eastbound Mississippi Drive traffic will only be able to turn left at Iowa Avenue as Mississippi Drive will remain closed from Iowa Avenue east.

However, the Canadian Pacific Rail Road crossing at Iowa Avenue will remain closed as CPRR has had to delay the installation of "Quiet Zone" equipment until December due to crews being sent to areas damaged by the recent hurricanes.

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City officials and the general contractor are working with CPRR to try and get the status of the crossing updated prior to the installation of the equipment. The Iowa Avenue crossing must be opened before officials can close the Cedar Street crossing and begin underground work from Sycamore to Mulberry over the winter months. There is the possibility that both traffic crossings and the pedestrian crossings can be completed before the end of the year but that is dependent on the weather and CPRR scheduling.

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