

Progress continues; crews discover collapsed clay pipe

Updates:

The contractor is making progress on MLK working toward Orange Avenue. This week an old clay pipe failed in the Magnolia Avenue and MLK intersection, and the crews are working to repair the pipe that had collapsed. Some delay is expected due to this collapsed pipe. The work to make this repair will be done as part of the project, which will be a benefit to the community. Because this area of the city has some very old infrastructure, officials had anticipated situations like this coming up during the project, and additional problems with outdated pipes could occur again.

The MLK Streetscape project became a city priority based on citizen feedback and recommendations made in the Midtown Master Plan. Some of the conditions in the MLK roadway corridor that this project is designed to remediate include:

- The rapidly approaching structural failure of the existing roadway
- Needed replacement of old and deteriorated utility infrastructure
- The road right-of-way corridor is in need of safety and operational updates
- To create a more pedestrian-friendly corridor that was not conducive to high vehicular speeds
- Beautification

City officials continue to work with the businesses in the area to provide additional signage letting the public know that access is available to them during the project through the side streets around the area. Customers of businesses in the area can park temporarily in the right-of-way on the side streets. Additionally, the city has secured permission from the manager of the grocery store on the southeast corner of Orange Avenue and MLK for Devores House of Beauty customers to park. Customers should cross Orange Avenue only at established pedestrian crosswalks so that they do not have to cross the MLK construction zone to access the salon. The city continues to do everything that is reasonable to adapt to the requests of the business owners and residents needs to move the project forward and minimize disruption in this community. The goal is to get the project built and complete per the plans as efficiently and safely as possible for the community.

Have questions? Please call (386) 671-8618.

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