

Liz Wallace
Communications Manager

lwallace@ci.norfolk.ne.us

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Big changes are occurring in the East Norfolk Avenue bridge project



Big changes came to the East Norfolk Avenue bridge project on Monday, June 5. Though the crews working with the project are on schedule, an additional construction crew was brought in by Dixon Construction, contractors for the project, to help maintain an aggressive pace.

Currently, work is continuing on both the east and west sides of the bridge simultaneously. On the east side of the bridge the new crew is continuing concrete construction needed for the foundation. Their original crew has moved to the west side of the bridge to begin installing the steel items needed for its foundation. This consists of using heavy weights or hammers to “drive” the steel beams and sheeting, or piling, in place to prepare for concrete work. A combination of the steel supports encased with concrete are used to create the foundation. The bridge girders and paving are then constructed above the foundation on each side.

A common misconception about the process of driving pile is that an obstacle the crews face is hard soils in the surface of the earth. James McClellan of Olsson Associates, the Resident Project Observer for the project, says that is simply not the case.

“It is not something hard below the surface that we are facing. Instead, it’s all about the friction. It’s not like you’re going into bedrock or a harder soil system, but trying to find the friction to hold the steel piling in place, also called pile bearing.”

The progress on the bridge remains on track with the contractors schedule and is estimated to be completed in the fall of this year.

“We continue to encourage our citizens to patronize businesses on East Norfolk Avenue,” says City Engineer, John Heine. “We also want to remind citizens that the designated detours are Omaha Avenue and Benjamin Avenue.”

To learn more about the bridge project you can access the conceptual drawings, stages of construction, and a short video here: <http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/engineering/Norfolkaveproject.htm>. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact John Heine, City Engineer, at 402-844-2020.

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