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“Michigan Avenue Work Continues”

It's not your run-of-the-mill street project. The improvements being made to Michigan Avenue between Wood Street and 10th Street this summer involve major infrastructure changes and will take to the end of fall to complete.



Mark Dolechek, Assistant Engineer for the City of Norfolk, said this week that the project is behind schedule a bit because of the periodic rains this summer. Contractors also ran into a few snags along the way in construction.

“Anytime you work with so many underground utilities you are bound to run into unknown complications that you cannot plan for. In the Michigan Avenue project, we are significantly upgrading and changing the storm sewer system, updating the sanitary sewer system and making improvements to the intersection at 11th Street and Michigan Avenue. During construction we ran into a few of those unknown complications with the sanitary sewer main. It took a little more design in the field and resulted in installation of additional sewer main that wasn't originally planned for,” Dolechek said.

In addition to the installation of new sanitary sewer line, there is also new drainage pipe being installed under the streets to handle rainwater south of Pasewalk Ave, from Glenwood Boulevard to 8th Street which drains to Michigan Avenue.

“All of that water used to drain into a single 24” pipe. That was severely undersized so we're rerouting 1/3 of that drainage to a 42” pipe and routing it west of Southern Drive down to Corporation Gulch,” Dolechek said.

As of this week, the sanitary sewer system upgrade is completed and contractors are working on completion of the storm sewer pipe installation. Dolechek said the next step after the storm sewer pipe and inlets installation will be to excavate a foot of soil on the street surface and lay a foot of crushed rock as a sub grade before resurfacing the street. At that time driveway entrances and sidewalks will also be installed.

Elkhorn Paving of Norfolk is the contractor for the project.