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News Update

Highway 75 expansion to begin soon

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The widening of U.S. Highway 75 northward from Sam Rayburn Tollway could begin in the next two months, and city officials are confident that both hopes and headaches will spread with it.

"It will be the talk of the town," Matt Richardson, McKinney Capital Improvements Project manager, told the McKinney City Council on Tuesday night at a work session.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) officials have announced plans to begin widening the highway from two lanes each way to four lanes each way from the southernmost portion to the northernmost portion of McKinney, and to have three frontage roads going in each direction.

Richardson explained that the project will have several phases. Road widening is already under way from U.S. Highway 380 north to Bloomdale Road, and will eventually run from the tollway on the south side of the city to State Highway 121 on the north side of the city. There will also be a major redo of the U.S. 75 exit toward Eldorado Parkway.

"The information we are getting from TxDOT is that widening along U.S. 75 north from the tollway will begin in the next month or two," Richardson said.

Several city officials said they believe McKinney residents will be affected by project construction within the next few weeks.

At-large Councilman Roger Harris asked Richardson if the "talk of the town" would likely be positive.

Richardson grinned and said, "There will be some positives that will come from this, but there will be some headaches, too."

Mayor Brian Loughmiller said, "When you start tearing up service roads, there is some concern that people will just drive on by businesses without stopping."

City Manager Jason Gray added, "We will continue to be as proactive as we can. We will continue to serve as a liaison between TxDOT and the citizens of McKinney."

Richardson noted that the U.S. 75 expansion is a TxDOT project, while the city and county have numerous road projects that have either been recently completed or will be soon.

Airport Parkway, on the east side of McKinney, has been greatly improved in recent weeks, and the city is planning additional improvements to Custer Road and Alma Road.

"There will be some pain," said District 2 Councilwoman Geralyn Kever. "But after 36 months, we will be thankful that we have endured the pain."

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