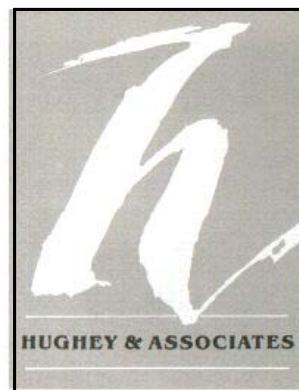


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
REQUEST FOR COVERAGE**

**For Further Information Contact:**

**Byron Hughey (504) 524-8843 ofc  
(504) 669-1008 cell**

**Email: [H1apr@aol.com](mailto:H1apr@aol.com)**



**Oak Street Renovations Get Underway  
Wednesday, March 11, 2009**

The long awaited renovations of Oak Street get underway on Wednesday, March 11, 2009.

Bonds were approved for the project in the late 1990's. Fleming Construction Co., LLC received the contract.

The completed project is expected to last six months. The project includes replacing waste lines, upgrades of sewers and drainage, repaving of all sidewalks, installing storm drains, and replacing historic street name tiles at each intersection. There will be bike racks, benches, and sixteen (16) crepe myrtles trees planted as additional streetscape amenities.

Jack Fleming, II, Vice President of Fleming Construction, Co., LL said "We at Fleming Construction Co. are very sensitive to any inconvenience this work may cause the businesses on Oak Street. Therefore we have gone to great lengths in planning for the project to ensure that any disruption is as minimal as possible, for the shortest duration possible and impacting the fewest people possible at any one time."

Phase I construction necessitates the closing of only two blocks of Oak Street. The traffic plan requires a "Road Closed" barricade at Dante and Oak, as well as an additional "Road Closed to thru Traffic" sign at Cambronne and Oak to inform drivers that Oak Street dead ends at the barricade at Dante and Oak. However, the "Road Closed to thru Traffic" sign **does not** prevent vehicular traffic from entering the third block of Oak.

The closure of the first two blocks of Oak (Phase I) is scheduled to start tomorrow March 11 when the contractor will begin milling the asphalt to expose the cobblestones in the first three blocks of Oak (Carrollton to Cambronne). This activity, along with the mobilization of supplies and equipment, will result in the third block of Oak being closed for the morning and part of the afternoon.

As shown in the traffic plan the contractor will conduct his work in the first two blocks (Carrollton to Dante), then proceed to the next two blocks (Dante to Joliet), and then the last portion of work will be the remaining three blocks (Joliet to Eagle).

Terry Langlois, owner of Castellon's Pharmacy said "Oak Street businesses have been waiting so long for this project to happen. I am delighted that it is finally here. Sure it might cause some inconvenience for a short time, but what a pleasure it will be for us and our customers to walk and shop in our area when it is completed."

Oak Street has been a major shopping street for decades. Restaurants, music clubs, antique shops, clothing stores have long been the attractions for the street and when this project is complete, new businesses will be joining the exciting ones there today.

If anyone has any questions or comments please feel free to contact Byron Hughey – 504-524-8843.

**###**