

COVER STORIES

North Sherman resurfacing begins June 30

By Dana Slowiak

The Northside News

Roadwork for North Sherman Avenue will begin June 30, after Rhythm and Booms, and is scheduled to be completed by October 24.

The construction zone begins at the railroad tracks south of Roth Street through Windom Way, south of Warner Park and the Northside TownCenter. The portion of North Sherman between Windom Way and Northport Drive will not be reconstructed until after the potential stadium renovations at Warner Park. The project includes upgrading underground utilities, including water and sewer mains, and replacing deteriorated curbs, gutters drive apron and sidewalks. The final stage is resurfacing the street.

Traffic falls to one lane in each direction for the duration of the three-phase project. In all phases, motorists and pedestrians should be alert for signage. Motorists are still expected to

yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, which will be maintained throughout construction.

Phase One: Northbound lanes close. Access to the east side of North Sherman will be limited to Aberg Avenue, Schlimgen Avenue and Melrose Street. All other side streets will be closed to North Sherman.

Phase Two: Southbound lanes close. Access to the west side of North Sherman will be limited to Aberg Avenue, MacPherson Street and Trailway. Again, all other side streets will be closed to North Sherman.

Phase Three: The entire street is paved and will utilize several traffic switches.

Stop lights will be removed and replaced by temporary stop signs during construction. An all-way stop will be located at the intersection of North Sherman and Aberg Avenues. Two stop signs will be placed at the side streets of Schlimgen and MacPherson, but traffic on North Sherman will not be

Sherman Resurfacing ~ How does it affect you?

- ☒ Project time frame is June 30 through October 15 in three stages. Traffic falls to one lane in each direction during the project.
- ☒ All Metro routes and stops are maintained.
- ☒ Pedestrian access is maintained at all times.
- ☒ The posted speed limit drops to 25 mph.
- ☒ Temporary stop signs replace stop lights at Aberg Avenue and Schlimgen Avenue/MacPherson Street during construction. All other side streets are closed to North Sherman but are affected in any other way.
- ☒ All businesses along North Sherman Avenue will remain open, with access, at all times. Look for construction specials on the Northside Business Association web site at www.madisonnba.com.
- ☒ Trash and recycling practices remain the same. Residents continue to place their receptacles at the end of their driveways.
- ☒ Residential driveways may be inaccessible for a total of 20 days during the project. Residents must be notified by the contractor at least 48 hours in advance of driveway closing.

required to stop. The stop signs should create traffic breaks for left-hand turns and pedestrian crossings.

Residents along North Sherman should have received a special assessment for half the costs in April. The project contractor will be approved by the Common Council on June 17.

Residents and business owners with questions or concerns should contact District 12 Alder Satya Rhodes-Conway at 242-4426 or district12@cityofmadison.com or the Department of Public Works' Glen Yoerger at 261-9177 or gyoerger@cityofmadison.com.

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Biking

piece of the plan has also stalled. Ray Harmon of Mayor Cieslewicz's office reports that Union Pacific Railroad, which needs to grant an easement to allow for construction of the path along the railroad tracks that run from Fordem Avenue to Troy Drive, is currently refusing all of the city's proposals. While this is certainly disappointing, Alder Satya Rhodes-Conway said, "I don't think we've entirely given up, and it is not my intention to have the Sherman Flyer slip off the books."

At Alder Rhodes-Conway's request, City Engineering and Traffic Engineering are currently exploring alternate routes for bicycles and pedestrians. In the meantime, the Northside Bicycling Advocates are discussing other options. As North Sherman Avenue is being resurfaced this year, people are talking about exploring a "Road Diet" for North Sherman.

A Road Diet would reduce the four lanes to a two-lane with a left turn lane (commonly referred to as TWLTL) and with bicycle lanes. Such a configuration has worked in Madison and other cities and has demonstrated the ability to improve safety for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians (especially important for Mallards fans, students at Sherman Middle School and Shabazz High School and seniors living at Sherman Glen Apartments) while not reducing traffic volume — which is important for the businesses along North Sherman.

The Northside Bicycling Advocates met on May 13 to discuss what to do as hearings are expected to be held regarding North Sherman Avenue. We look forward to engaging our neighbors to discuss how to improve safety for all users of our streets and how to expand options for Northside bicyclists.

NORTHSIDE ACTION ALERT

Whatever your opinion of the Sherman Flyer or what to do with North Sherman Avenue, you are encouraged to join your fellow Northside bicyclists by contacting Michael Shinnners (shinnners50@hotmail.com or 241-1848) or Mike Basford (mabasford@charter.net or 513-1387). For more information about Road Diets, check out www.walkable.org/download/rdiets.pdf