

Grant Park South Underground Parking Garage Reconstruction Project

Public Building Commission of Chicago ■ Mayor Richard M. Daley, Chairman ■ Eileen J. Carey, Executive Director

SPRING 2002

FINAL MAJOR TRAFFIC SWITCH BEGINS IN APRIL

The downtown roadwork on South Michigan Avenue reaches the home stretch in April with the last major switch in traffic patterns—and less than three months remaining before all the street construction is finished.

Barring any last-minute weather delays, the next phase of the Grant Park South underground parking garage construction is scheduled to begin the first week of April, according to the Public Building Commission (PBC), which is managing the project.

When this occurs, the roadwork between Adams and Van Buren—which has been on the west half of Michigan Avenue since last November—will shift to the center lanes of the street.

This means both northbound and southbound traffic on Michigan Avenue will each be on its own side of the street, with the construction zone in the middle.

“Of all the traffic patterns we’ve seen on Michigan Avenue since the roadwork began last July, we expect this one to be the easiest for both motorists and pedestrians,” said PBC executive director Eileen Carey.

Easiest because both directions of vehicle traffic won’t be sharing the same side of the street, as has been the case since last summer, she explained.

This new traffic configuration also will feed smoothly into the separate lane reductions in effect since early this March for a separate project—the building of median planters between Monroe and Adams and from Van Buren to Congress.

As both projects speed toward their simultaneous

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The new pavement on the west half of Michigan Avenue will be ready to receive traffic the first week in April as construction moves to the center of the street for the final three months of the roadwork to rebuild the underground garage.

Phase 3 April-May, 2002



Final Switch

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conclusion, vehicle traffic will continue to be two lanes in each direction between Monroe and Congress, with all the roadwork in the center.

It's Almost Over

All of the Michigan Avenue roadwork is scheduled for completion by June 24.

By that date, the street will be entirely reopened to traffic and Jackson Boulevard—closed at Michigan Avenue since last November—will be fully open.

This will be five months earlier than originally planned. When the roadwork started last summer, it was expected to continue until this Thanksgiving.

Mayor Richard M. Daley—who also chairs the Public Building Commission—authorized the accelerated construction schedule to help minimize the effects of the rebuilding work on local businesses, their customers and area residents.

For the same reason, the separate median planters work was advanced so it, too, could be done by the last week in June.

When the roadwork is completed, Michigan Avenue will have new median planters all the way from Monroe and Congress similar to those already in place from Randolph to Monroe.

But the first and foremost need to rebuild Michigan Avenue was caused by the deterioration of the 40-year-old underground parking garage below the street. Before the work began, portions of the roadway—which doubles as the roof of the garage—were being shored up to prevent a pavement collapse.

While all streets will be open in late June, underground work will continue through the summer on the refurbished Grant Park South Garage, scheduled to open in early fall.

Until then, motorists still have the city's three other downtown parking garages: Grant Park North, East Monroe, and the new Millennium Park Garage that fully opened in January.

Keep in Mind

All of the Michigan Avenue and Jackson Boulevard stores and offices within the construction zone remain open during the roadwork.

The sidewalks are still open on the west side of Michigan Avenue, including those turning west onto Jackson, which also is open to local vehicle traffic from Wabash Avenue.

During this next traffic pattern, vehicles will still be allowed to turn west onto Adams or Van Buren from both northbound and southbound Michigan Avenue, though right turns onto Van Buren will remain curtailed—as now—only during the weekday rush hours.

The PBC, which is overseeing the garage work for the Chicago Park District and is building the other median planters for the Chicago Department of Transportation, continues to keep in close touch with local businesses to ensure the speedy resolution of any problems related to the roadwork.

Anyone wishing to reach the PBC on a construction-related matter can call (312) 744-3090 or send an e-mail message to pbcc@pbccchicago.com.

More detailed and continually updated project information also is available on the PBC's web site at www.pbccchicago.com.



Open for Business

The stores and offices in the Michigan Avenue construction zone are open as usual during the roadwork, including these fine ground-level businesses:

Art Institute of Chicago
Midwest Bank & Trust Company
The Savvy Traveller
Best Travel & Tours Inc.
Chicago Department of Housing
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Dr. Silvia Pelini, Optometrist
Utrecht Art & Drafting Supplies
Poster Plus
The Symphony Store
Executive Essentials

Fabrile Gallery
Sherry Brener Ltd.
The Corner Bakery
Supercuts
Chicago Architecture Foundation Shop & Tours
citibank
The Monroe Building
Boulevard Treats
rain dog BOOKS & CAFÉ
Fine Arts Building

Roosevelt University
Arts & Artisans, Ltd.
The School of the Art Institute
cosi
American Express Travel Agency
National-Louis University
Bennigan's
Fannie May Candies
Oriental Jewelry & Gifts
Antiques on Michigan

Important Dates

- construction in center of Michigan Avenue from Monroe to Congress this spring; two lanes of traffic in each direction.
- Jackson blocked off on both sides of Michigan Avenue until late June.
- all road construction completed—and streets fully open—by June 24.
- Grant Park South Garage reopens early this fall.