

The Keller Citizen

Progress is steady on Rufe Snow construction

Posted Monday, Jan. 09, 2012

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Special to the Keller Citizen

KELLER -- The widening of one of Keller's major traffic ways is making steady progress and should soon provide "a beautiful drive" through this northern Tarrant County city, according to City Manager Dan O'Leary.

Currently, the eastern two lanes of the \$5.3 million Rufe Snow Drive reconstruction project are being paved in concrete. Those lanes, which will be the future northbound lanes, are expected to be completed in January -- weather permitting.

The project is adding more lanes onto Rufe Snow and creating a new bridge over Big Bear Creek. When it's finished, Rufe Snow will be a four-lane concrete roadway from Rapp Road to Barbara Lane and a six-lane concrete roadway and bridges from Barbara Lane to near Keller Parkway.

While the road work is in progress, traffic speed in the road construction work zone during work hours is 20 miles per hour.

"Rufe Snow Drive is a major traffic arterial road in the city of Keller and has been planned for expansion for many years," O'Leary said. "We believe that the road will reduce traffic congestion and neighborhood cut-through traffic and will be a beautiful drive through the heart of Keller."

Construction of driveways, subdivision entrances and a 10-foot-wide concrete trail is scheduled to begin once the paving is complete. Also, the new bridge deck has been poured, and construction of the new bridge railing is currently underway. The traffic signals at Shady Grove and Rapp roads will also be installed over the next few weeks.

Rufe Snow reconstruction began in February 2011 and is slated for completion in May 2012. The project's cost will be offset in large part by a \$3.2-million reimbursement from Tarrant County through its 2006 bond program.

Rufe Snow isn't the only road improvement happening in Keller. The city has partnered with the county and North Richland Hills to expand North Tarrant Parkway. That project is nearing completion and should be open in the next six to eight weeks, O'Leary said.

Also, Keller is finishing the \$750,000 Bourland Road extension from Mt. Gilead Road into the Marshall Ridge subdivision. The city in conjunction with the Silver Leaf subdivision developer is also extending Keller-Smithfield Road to North Tarrant Parkway. That project should be completed in the next few months, O'Leary said.

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