

July 14, 2025 (removed 8-17-25)

Work will begin soon on East Main Street, the project that will make improvements to a three-quarter of a mile portion of the road between Willow Street and Horning Road.

Road design for the project was completed in early 2025. The project went out for bid and the contract was awarded to Kenmore Construction. Work is expected to begin in late July/early August 2025, depending on weather and other variables.

Construction is estimated to last three years, with traffic being maintained for the duration of the project.

You can read more about the project by clicking on the sections below. Once construction begins, check back here for updates.

Questions can be directed to Jon Giaquinto in the City Engineering Division at Jon.Giaquinto@KentOhio.gov or 330-678-8106. You can also send your email address to Giaquinto if you would like to receive email updates on the project.

July 24, 2025 (removed 9-2-25)

Work to Begin Soon!

Work is expected to begin in the next several weeks on the East Main Street Improvement Project. As always, the start time may vary depending on weather and other variables.

Congestion and safety improvements will include a tree-lined center boulevard and two roundabouts: one at the intersection of South Willow St., East Main St. and Haymaker Parkway, and the other at the East Main St. and Horning Rd. intersection.

There will also be wider sidewalks and tree lawn on the north side of the street, decorative streetlights and new bus pull-offs and shelters. The project also includes the addition of 34 dual-port EV charging stations for the public's use on the north side of the Kent State Campus adjacent to East Main Street. The project will be built in two sections; the first section will be the eastern half of East Main between Luther Ave. and Horning Rd., the second section will be the western half from Willow St. to Luther Ave. Traffic will be maintained with one eastbound and one westbound lane and a center left turn lane. Access to adjacent businesses and pedestrian access will also be maintained.

You can read more by clicking on the sections below. Check back here for updates throughout the three-year project.

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If you are part of the Kent State University community, [this article](#) gives more information on how the project will impact the campus.

Aug. 15, 2025 (removed 9-29-25)

Look for more activity on the project during the week of Aug. 18. On Monday the contractor is scheduled to begin removing the existing center island near Wilson Ave. It should take a couple of days for removal and to place temporary asphalt in the excavation. It's expected that one lane of traffic will be closed on either side of the center island during this time.

When that work is completed, traffic will be shifted to the north side of the road, beginning Thursday, Aug. 21. When that occurs, there will be three lanes of traffic between Luther Ave. and Horning Road. You should expect to see orange barrels on East Main St., starting near Five Guys and ending near Rockne's. There will be openings in the orange barrel area for access to driveways and side roads. As always, weather and other factors may impact the schedule.

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Aug. 29, 2025 (removed 10-10-25)

During the week of Sept. 1, the contractor will be installing temporary construction fencing to separate pedestrians from the work zone as much as possible. The contractor will install temporary sidewalks as needed and post pedestrian detours to maintain accessible routes around the construction.

Temporary tree protection fencing will also be installed in areas where trees will not be disturbed. The contractor is also staging material for sewer installation, which should begin in the next few weeks.

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Sept. 26, 2025 (removed 11-7-25)

Storm sewer installation continues on East Main Street, and the work is expected to last for the next few weeks. The contractor is also expected to begin pavement removal as early as next week. Some existing asphalt pavement surface was removed earlier, and now the contractor will work on removing the remaining asphalt and underlying base, which may include some concrete and brick.

A reminder to motorists traveling in the East Main Street project area: When you see an emergency vehicle approaching with its lights and sirens on, move as far right as possible and stop to let the emergency vehicle pass. Please do not move to the left.

Also, because of the road improvement project this year's Kent State University Homecoming parade has a new route. The parade will take place on Saturday, Oct. 11, on Summit Street, beginning at the intersection of Johnston Drive, Loop Road and Rhodes Road and travelling west on Summit St. to Terrace Drive.

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Oct. 10, 2025 (removed 11-20-25)

Storm sewer installation is continuing, and the contractor is expected to begin earthwork for the new eastbound lanes on East Main St. between Midway Drive and Horning Road. Earthwork is also scheduled to take place for the southern part of the roundabout, the Horning Road realignment east of the Center for the Performing Arts, and the new Theatre Drive/Horning Road intersection.

Due to this work, Theatre Drive will be closed at Horning Rd. The closure is tentatively set for Friday, Oct. 17, and it will remain closed for the duration of the first phase of the project. Theatre Drive will be open at Jackson Drive and a pedestrian detour will be posted in the work area.

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Nov. 7, 2025 (removed 12-29-25)

The contractor is continuing to work on the new eastbound lanes on East Main Street between Midway Dr. and Horning Rd. with earthwork, stone base, underdrains, and concrete curb. Motorists driving through this area can see the beginning of the first roundabout taking shape.

The stone retaining wall along the front of the Williamson House has been removed and the blocks will be saved for when the wall is rebuilt.

Ohio Edison is scheduled to be on site starting the week of Nov. 10 to remove the existing wood utility poles and streetlights along the south side of the construction zone and remove any overhead wires crossing East Main St. Traffic may be momentarily blocked when overhead wires are being removed. Ohio Edison is also scheduled to be on Horning Rd. next week to install new wood poles and relocate overhead wires; two-way traffic will be maintained on Horning Rd.

A reminder from the Kent City Fire Department that when responding to calls, emergency crews are often facing tight spaces and limited room to maneuver in the construction area.

Please remember — when you see lights and hear sirens, always pull to the right or stop safely to allow emergency vehicles to pass. Even a few extra feet of space can make a big difference when seconds count.

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Nov. 20, 2025 (removed 1-20-26)

The contractor has completed curb installations along the East Main St. eastbound lanes, the south leg of the new Horning Rd. roundabout and on Theatre Drive. Paving is taking place this week and during that time traffic on East Main may be stopped periodically to get trucks in and out of the work zone.

On Tuesday, while crews were digging in preparation for the asphalt work, the city's fiber optic line that communicates with the traffic signals was broken. This occurred in the area across from Overlook Drive and under the area that is currently being paved. This break only affects the traffic signal at East Main St. and Horning Rd. While the signal will continue to operate, any changes to timing will now have to be done manually instead of remotely.

Temporary traffic signals are also being installed in the work area, with the first one at Midway Dr. Upcoming work within the next couple of weeks includes pouring sections of the 10-foot-wide concrete shared use path on the Kent State Campus. This will be around the southern leg of the roundabout in the old band practice field. The contractor will also be completing some storm sewer work.

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Dec. 15, 2025 (removed 2-10-26)

East Main Street Project – Kent Seeking Public Comments for Midway Drive Sidewalk Extension

The City of Kent and Kent State University propose to construct approximately 225 feet of additional sidewalk on the east side of Midway Drive between Alumni Drive and Theatre Drive as part of the East Main Street Project. This additional sidewalk will increase pedestrian safety by completing a missing connection between two nearby sidewalks on what is expected to be a busy pedestrian route. In addition to the new sidewalk, concrete curb, ADA ramps, storm sewer, and pavement resurfacing will be included. Follow this [LINK](#) to view a map of the proposed improvements. The public is invited to submit comments on this proposed sidewalk extension. A 30-day comment period will begin December 15, 2025, and last through January 14, 2026. Comments received during this period will be compiled and addressed. Any comments should be sent to Jon Giaquinto in the City of Kent Engineering Division at 330-678-8106 or by email at Jon.Giaquinto@KentOhio.gov. Comments may also be sent to Jeff Bittenbender in the Kent State University, Office of the University Architect at jbittenb@kent.edu.

Dec. 29, 2025 (removed 04-3-26)

Kenmore Construction has been working on East Main St. during the cold weather and is planning to continue throughout the winter, identifying areas of underground utility work that can be done, such as sewer installation, water mains, and electrical conduits. The work zone is being adjusted to open more areas for the contractor to install utilities.

A temporary, single lane roundabout will be installed at the intersection of East Main St. and the relocated Horning Road (across from Overlook Dr.). Also, the three-lane section on East Main will be reduced to two lanes from approximately Frances Dr. to the United Methodist Church. This will allow more room for the contractor to build the center median.

The temporary roundabout is expected to be completed during the week of Jan. 5. When that happens, Overlook Dr. will be closed at East Main St. Access to Overlook Dr. will be maintained for residents, via Woodhill Dr. See [Detour Map](#).

Other traffic pattern changes include Horning Rd., which will be closed between Theatre Dr. and Loop Road; Theatre Drive will be open with access onto the relocated Horning Rd. Driveway access will be maintained on Horning Rd. with an access point near the Loop Road intersection.

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Jan. 20, 2026 (removed 04/06/26)

The temporary, single lane roundabout at the intersection of East Main St. and the relocated Horning Road is operational; East Main St. traffic is now reduced to two lanes from approximately Frances Dr. to the United Methodist Church. Overlook Dr. is now closed at East Main St. with access maintained for residents via Woodhill Dr.

A reminder to motorists traveling in the work area to please slow down, pay attention to the posted signs, and use caution when entering and exiting the temporary roundabout, especially during inclement weather conditions.

During the week of Jan. 26 Enbridge will begin work on the gas lines. The utility company has mailed out notices to customers in the affected area.

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