

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.

Questions about the East Main Street project 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.