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 publics' 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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

Questions can be directed to Jon Giaquinto in the City Engineering Division at Jon.Giaquinto@KentOhio.gov or 330-678-8106.

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.

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.

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.

Questions about the 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 on the project.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Feb. 10, 2026

Work has started on the first phase of relocating gas lines in the project area. Don Wartko Construction is doing the work for Enbridge and as early as Wednesday (Feb. 11), crews are expected to start installing the new gas line on East Main St. between Overlook Dr. and the United Methodist Church.

Please be aware that intermittent delays may occur on East Main while this work is being done. One lane of traffic with flaggers will be maintained and areas of the sidewalk along the north side of East Main may be blocked while work is in progress. The contractor will have extra workers on hand to assist pedestrians.

If you’re traveling in the construction area of East Main Street, please remember to slow down, pay attention to the posted signs, and use caution when entering and exiting the temporary roundabout, especially during inclement weather.

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.

March 10, 2026

The gas line installation on Horning Rd. has been completed and now surface restoration work is underway.

Wartko Construction will have three crews on site working in different areas this week to complete the restoration work. The work includes backfilling crossings and installing pipe crossings at various intersections. This work may cause some detours and flaggers directing traffic in the project area.

Kenmore Construction is scheduled to work on water main adjustments and storm sewer installation on Horning Rd. over the next several weeks. The storm sewer work will generally follow the same area as the gas line work from Loop Rd. to Theatre Drive and then to East Main St.

With the warmer weather, Kenmore is also planning to remark the faded pavement markings throughout the construction area over the next few weeks.

If you're traveling East Main St. in the construction area, please remember to slow down, pay attention to the posted signs, and use caution when entering and exiting the temporary roundabout.

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.

March 27, 2026

Over the past few weeks, the contractor has been excavating for the East Main Street road realignment along the front of the Kent United Church of Christ and continuing storm sewer installation on Horning Rd. The storm sewer work is expected to last into mid-April and then crews will begin installing new curb, driveway aprons, sidewalk, and asphalt pavement on Horning Rd.

The gas main relocation and replacement work continues with crews concentrating on East Main Street between Depeyster and Lincoln streets. This work is expected to be completed in about another month, depending on weather and other factors.

Work has started on restriping the faded pavement lines in the project area, including crosswalk locations.

If you're traveling East Main St. in the construction area, please remember to slow down, pay attention to the posted signs, and use caution when entering and exiting the temporary roundabout.

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.

May 6, 2026

Storm sewer work is underway on Horning Rd., beginning at Loop Rd. and proceeding up the hill to Theatre Dr., with new storm sewer and catch basins. This work is expected to take several weeks to complete.

Crews have also started to rebuild the stone retaining wall in front of the Williamson House on the Kent State campus. The concrete foundation has been poured and foundation drains have been installed. As weather permits you should start to see the wall appear over the next couple of weeks.

Concrete curb is also on the schedule to be poured along the eastern part of the project in front of the Kent United Church of Christ. This will begin to define the east leg of the new roundabout that will be built at Horning Rd. and East Main St.

The gas line work has stopped for the time being, until the arrival of some necessary parts. There is one service line to be completed, some existing pipe to be removed, and then restoration of the pavement cuts, sidewalks, driveways, and grass areas.

If you're traveling East Main St. in the construction area, please remember to slow down, pay attention to the posted signs, and use caution.

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.

May 26, 2026

Work continues on the East Main St. project, with some upcoming road closures impacting travel through the Kent State University campus. Within the next two weeks Midway Dr. will be closed between Main St. and Terrace Dr. for approximately 10 weeks. Detour routes will be posted, and you can view those routes here.

Also on the Kent State Campus, Horning Rd. continues to be closed between Theatre Dr. and Loop Rd. through approximately mid-June.

If you're traveling East Main St. in the construction area, please remember to slow down, pay attention to the posted signs, and use caution.

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.

Aug. 10, 2026

Weather permitting, paving of the final asphalt surface on Horning Rd. is scheduled to begin the week of Aug. 10. The paving will go from the city limits to south of East Main St. Message boards will be posted in the area and there may be some intermittent delays during this time. Other work expected on Horning Rd. is the continued installation of sidewalk so that the road can open before classes resume at Kent State later this month.

On Midway Dr. the contractor will be paving and continuing the installation of sidewalk with the goal of reopening Midway before the fall semester begins. The existing traffic signal will be put back into its regular mode and the westbound left turn lane will be back in service.

On East Main Street, the contractor will continue paving the future eastbound lanes between Horning and Midway. This will reconnect Midway to East Main St. again so it can be reopened.

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.

June 25, 2026

As crews continue to work on the East Main St. project, part of Horning Rd. has reopened. The road is now accessible from the Loop Rd. side, with motorists able to get to the driveways on Horning. This includes the Newman Center and one of the back drives of the Kent United Church of Christ. Use caution when accessing the driveways as asphalt work continues in this area.

Horning Rd. remains closed at Theater Dr. and Midway Dr. remains closed between East Main St. and Terrace Dr.

If you're traveling in the construction area, please remember to slow down, pay attention to the posted signs, and use caution.

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.

July 30, 2026

Driving through the work area, you may have noticed that the contractor is building a new, wide sidewalk along the south side of East Main St. This will connect to the existing walk on Horning Rd. in front of the Kent State University Administrative Services Building. In the past, there was no sidewalk along the front of the Newman Center, which created a gap between East Main St. and Horning Rd. In future phases of this project, the wide sidewalk will extend to the west and connect into the existing walk on Haymaker Parkway near South Willow St.

Once the East Main St. project is completed there will be a connection from the existing bike lanes on Horning Rd. to the Freedom Trail. The wide sidewalk on East Main St. will also be extended to the east along the south side of East Main Street/SR 59 to SR 261 with another project that is currently in design.

The electrical contractor is building the new traffic signal at East Main St. and Luther Ave. The new traffic signal cabinet is in place and traffic signal poles should be installed soon.

For those who travel regularly through the construction area, you have probably noticed that street grading between Midway Dr. and the drive to the old White Hall parking lot has stopped. This is due to an existing watermain that was found and needs to be relocated and lowered. Once that has been done, the contractor can resume pouring the concrete curb and eventually paving the new lanes.

If you're traveling in the construction area, please remember to slow down, pay attention to the posted signs, and use caution.

Sept. 8, 2026

As you have probably noticed, work has not yet started on lowering an existing waterline on East Main St. The contractor's pipe crew is finishing up another project and once that is done they will transition back to work on East Main St. When the waterline is completed, crews can finish the remaining concrete curb, pavement, and sidewalk on East Main from Wilson Ave. to Midway Dr.

In the meantime, the concrete crew has been working on sidewalks between Midway Dr. and Horning Rd. and has installed most of the concrete curb for the drop off loop at Kent United Church of Christ. The contractor will also be working on placing the concrete driveway apron and remaining sidewalk at the church.

Another crew has been working on final grading and topsoil installation in areas where the curb and sidewalk is completed. This will continue for several weeks.

The contractor will also be repainting existing crosswalk lines and installing additional in-street "Yield to Pedestrian In Crosswalk" signs on East Main St.

Once the remaining curb, pavement, sidewalk, and topsoil is installed on the south side of East Main, the contractor will be ready to make a traffic shift from the north side to the south side so work can begin on the north side of the road. That switch is expected to happen later this year.

If you're traveling in the construction area, please remember to slow down, pay attention to the posted signs, and use caution, especially now that school is back in session.

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.