

Beautification creates summer of eyesores

By Scott Nelson

If downtown traffic seems bad now, wait until early September's State Fair when Lincoln will be finishing its downtown Q Place Project.

"Football and State Fair traffic are problems we have to face every year, and we try to stage our work around those dates," said Tom Cast, a project engineer for the Public Works Department.

He said his department will repave P and Q streets between ninth and 17th and all the connecting streets. Cast said the work should be done around Nov. 15.

The major street work in other parts of Lincoln is to be finished Sept. 15, according to Rodney Schwartz, deputy city engineer.

Schwartz added the date was only an estimate, because weather and material shortages could delay completion. He cited the growing cement shortage as an example.

He said cement is rapidly becoming shorter in supply, although the shortage hasn't presented a major problem in Lincoln yet.

"I don't know how that shortage is going to affect the individual contractors, but I'd bet it will figure in this summer," Schwartz said.

The major arterial work to be done in Lincoln includes: South St. from eighth St. to 46th St., Fremont St., from 56th

St. to 70th St., Pioneer's Blvd. from 43rd St. to Highway Two, 48th St. from 600 feet south of Vine St. to P St., 27th St. from Seward to Calvert St., Van Dorn from Seventh St. to Ninth St., and A St. from 63rd St. to 68th St.

Major intersections to be worked on include 40th St. and Pioneer's Blvd., Calvert St. and Sheridan Blvd., South St. and 70th St., 56th St. and Normal Blvd., 56th St. and Holdrege St., Cotner Blvd. and Holdrege St., 70th and Holdrege St., 66th St. and Van Dorn St., 33rd St. and Holdrege St., 56th St. and Vine St.

Gerald Derby, head of street and storm sewer maintenance said repair of minor surface problems like pot holes is almost done.

"I'd estimate that we're 85 to 90 percent done on spring potholes," he said.

Derby said he is now busy with several compression blowups.

He said concrete expands when it is hot and contracts when it is cold. However, it doesn't contract as much as it expands and over a period of two to three years building pressure can cause a compression blowout.

Derby said he is working on three blowouts on O St., one near Cotner Blvd. and O St., one near 42nd St. and O St. and one a block east. He said he is watching one develop on Cornhusker Highway between 36th and 37th Sts. and will begin work on it soon.



Photo by George Wright

UN-L student Nasser Issa and Doug Malone both of Dobson Construction are working on the Q Place Project.

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