

Viaduct reconstruction continues

Officials hope to finish overpass by year's end

By Mindy Lelter
Staff Reporter

Progress on the 10th Street overpass has been delayed by rain and stormy weather, but city crews are still optimistic they can complete the project by the new year, a city official said.

Al Imig, a city engineer, said rain had slowed the progress somewhat, but he said the crews, if given good weather, could complete the overpass this winter.

"Right now it looks like mid-December," he said.

The overpass is a \$5.25 million city project designed to replace the 75- to 80-year-old viaduct over the railroad tracks, which had become worn down.

Paul Carlson, interim business manager at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said he was happy with the progress on the overpass, though the project was not quite as far along as he had expected.

"I think the work they have done is great," he said. "They just need dry (weather) to pour concrete."

The overpass, Imig said, was about

one-third of the way done. The old bridge has been torn down completely, and the approaches to the old viaducts are being removed.

The steel girders of the new viaduct are in place; work on the north side approach is complete; and concrete deckings on the roadways are working their way up the structure, Imig said.

"It'll start looking like a bridge real soon," he said.

Avery Street has been rerouted north, but will have to be connected to 10th Street before it can be opened.

Avery Street and the routes connected to it are designed to handle the traffic generated by Cornhusker football games.

The city's scheduled completion date is Sept. 4, the first home football game.

"If Al says that we will make the first football game, then we'll make the first football game," Carlson said.

"They have worked hard, they were behind but they caught up quickly," he said.

He said all the crews really needed was some cooperation from Mother Nature.

"When they have had good weather, they have worked really hard to get done," he said.

Michael Cacak, UNL's manager of transportation services, said parking would no longer be affected by the viaduct construction even though some

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— Imig
city engineer

spaces were lost to the project.

"We have been doing some repainting and re-striping of lots to help reclaim parking spaces," he said.

Some lots that were closed because of the construction are now being opened:

• The area 20 lot west of Harper-Schramm-Smith residence hall complex should be open by the start of school.

• The area 20 lot north of Memorial Stadium should be open by the end of this week.

• The parking lot at 9th and V streets is being enlarged and should be open by the start of school.

As for commuting to campus around the construction, students are advised to give themselves plenty of time to find new alternatives.

"Please be patient," Imig asked. "If everyone has patience the traffic will settle down. People will have to expect a few delays."



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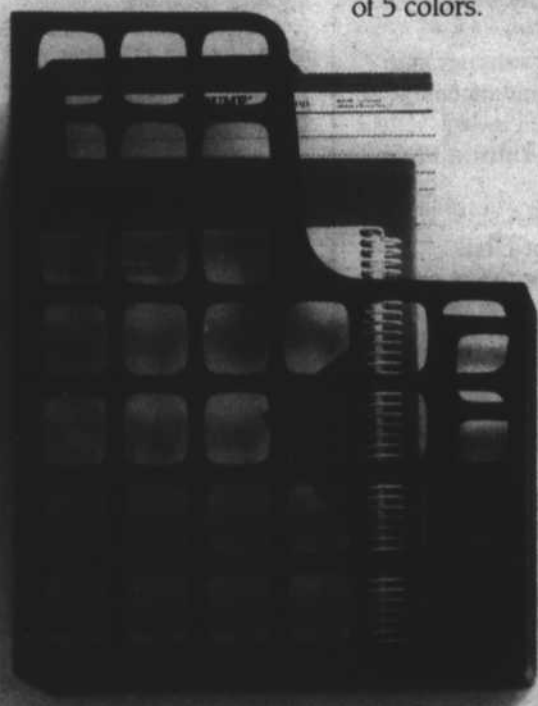


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