



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

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PUBLIC WORKS

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Mayor, Public Works Director Break Ground on Division Street Extension, Bridge, and Complete Street Project

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Mayor Karl Dean and Metro Public Works, joined by Wood Caldwell, Principal at Southeast Venture, LLC, celebrated the start of construction with a ceremonial groundbreaking for the Division Street Extension, Bridge, and Complete Street Project this morning.

Approximately ½ mile in length, the project runs from 8th Avenue South to 2nd Avenue South and provides traffic, community and economic and environmental benefits. Connecting Division Street, which today dead-ends at the railroad tracks, has been a consistent reference in previous plans and studies. This project was a high-priority recommendation in the 2013 South of Broadway Strategic Master Plan as well as a proposed arterial boulevard recommended in the Metro Planning Department's Major Street and Collector Plan. It was also a recommendation in the Metro Planning Department's Downtown Community Plan.

The new road and bridge will provide for better circulation and distribution of transportation on our roadways; will provide economic and community benefits by both spurring development and increasing the value of properties nearby, and also by providing a sense of place and community amenity through the new pedestrian plaza that is a part of the project; and is environmentally friendly with LED lighting, landscaping and native plantings, and is a complete street that encompasses a new buffered cycle track and wide sidewalks.

“The Division Street extension will provide a vital link between the Gulch and SoBro, connecting activity taking place from Rolling Mill Hill to Vanderbilt – and all points in between,” Mayor Dean said. “This improved access opens doors for new community and economic benefits. I expect this public investment will spur even more private development to occur along this dynamic corridor.”

“This project is a perfect example of not only the commitment this administration has made toward investing in our infrastructure, but also, this project highlights the transition that we have made during the past 8 years, to a city that embraces and builds complete streets. Streets that support and encourage a transportation system that is safe and convenient for all users, regardless of their age, their ability, or their mode of transportation,” Randy Lovett, Public Works Director said. “During his tenure, Mayor Dean has changed not only the face of Nashville, but the very fabric of how we operate. We are a better city, we are a greener city, we are a more vibrant and healthy community and we will do everything we can to continue along the great path that he led us to.”

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“2 of the most vibrant areas in Nashville are the Gulch and SoBro, and this new roadway/complete street will link the 2 - improving vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian access,” said Wood Caldwell, Principal at Southeast Venture, LLC. “Mayor Dean has emphasized 3 keys strategies throughout his 8 years: Education, Safe Communities, and Economic Growth. This project is another great example of how Mayor Dean has promoted economic growth by providing Nashville with the necessary infrastructure.”

The project is Mayor Dean’s 6th major Complete Street project and balances multi-modal accessibility with aesthetic and quality of life improvements for area residents, visitors and businesses. Other major Complete Street projects under the Dean Administration include Korean Veteran’s Boulevard, 46th Avenue and Murphy Road Roundabout, 28/31 Avenue Connector, and the 11th Avenue Complete Street.

Following remarks, Mayor Dean, Randy Lovett, and Wood Caldwell pressed their handprints into a concrete casting which will become incorporated into the project.

Average Daily Traffic (ADT) for the completed project is estimated at 14,000 to 16,000. The project is scheduled to be completed winter 2016. Led by Metro Public Works Engineering Division, Jonathan Cleghon, PE Project Manager, project team members include Gresham, Smith & Partners, Bell & Associates Construction, L.P., HDR | ICA Engineering, Inc..

Additional information on the Division Street Extension, Bridge, and Complete Street Project is available at: <http://www.nashville.gov/Public-Works/Capital-Projects/Division-Street-Extension.aspx>.

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