



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

Karl F. Dean
Mayor

Randy Lovett
Acting Director

Metro Nashville
PUBLIC WORKS

METRO PUBLIC WORKS
750 SOUTH 5TH STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37206

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
03/11/2014

Contact: Jenna Smith
(615) 880-2439 office
(615) 967-8186 cell
Jenna.smith@nashville.gov

Old Hickory Boulevard Along Williamson and Davidson County Line to Get Major Facelift With New Trees

Landscape Enhancements to Begin

NASHVILLE, TENN. – In a public-private partnership that includes the cities of Nashville and Brentwood, along with the private and non-profit sector, landscape renovations will start in March along the stretch of Old Hickory Boulevard that is west of Interstate 65 from Franklin Road to Granny White Pike .

The aging Bradford Pear trees in the median will soon give way to a wide and colorful variety of approximately 200 trees. The new trees are better suited for this section of Old Hickory Boulevard, which is designated as a Tennessee Scenic Highway.

The project, which will be done in two phases, is a collaborative effort between Metro Nashville Public Works, Nashville Electric Service, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Maryland Farms Owners Association, Nashville Tree Foundation, Marketplace at Maryland Farms and the City of Brentwood.

“These landscape enhancements will provide an inviting and beautiful gateway to both Nashville and Brentwood,” Mayor Karl Dean said. “I am proud of the public-private partnership that made the new trees possible, and I know residents and visitors will enjoy them for many years to come.”

Over the course of time, the Bradford Pears grew too large for the median and were difficult to maintain. The aging trees also were easily damaged by strong winds.

“This project is the positive result of several key stakeholders working together,” said Brentwood Mayor Betsy Crossley. “The removal of the failing Bradford Pears, along with the implementation of this restoration plan, will ensure the future beauty of the corridor.”

The new trees will be a variety of species including magnolia, Okame cherry, redbud, sugar maple, Nuttall oak and holly.

“Highways are tough environments for trees” said Skip Heibert of Heibert & Associates, the landscape architect hired by the Maryland Farms Office Park to select the trees. “This project required trees with some very specific characteristics.”

Since many of the trees will be planted near overhead wires, they had to be a variety that would not grow into the wires as they mature. Trees also were selected to provide seasonal color and require minimal maintenance.

-more-

Page 2, Old Hickory Boulevard Along Williamson and Davidson County Line to Get Major Facelift With New Trees

An added value of the project is that it will serve as a living demonstration of how electric power lines and trees may coexist. Through this planting and the promotion of power line friendly trees on their website, this project continues NES's commitment to sustaining the urban forest.

The project will be done in two phases. Phase I, from Franklin Road to Westpark Drive, is slated to begin in March, 2014. Phase II will continue to Granny White Pike. Completion for both phases are largely weather dependent.

###