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Work progresses on Hwy 50; end in sight

By Rosemary Revell | Democrat staff writer |



CONCRETE POURING is expected this week on the Bedford Avenue pedestrian overcrossing of Highway 50. Democrat photo by Pat Dollins

Caltrans senior resident engineer Mic Restaino gave the Placerville City Council an update on work being done on Highway 50 in the city limits at the council's Tuesday meeting.

A list of completed tasks includes: Striping the onramp and offramp undercrossing at Placerville Drive, opening the segment of Placerville Drive connecting Forni Road to Highway 50 (the city did the sanding), installing one half of the pre-empt system emergency vehicle signal override, tuning up new signals at Canal and Spring streets and placing concrete for the short-span bridge new pedestrian overcrossing to north of Highway 50 at Bedford Ave.

The goals that Restaino expects to see completed within the next two months include: Temporary lane line striping in ultimate configuration at Spring and Canal, planting at Hangtown Creek in the realignment area near Canal, work on the Bedford overcrossing by laying concrete next week and installing permanent signs and a chain-link fence, laying the foundation for the last signal at Bedford and Highway 50, doing the final overlay of asphalt-concrete by May 1 and installing slotted drains down the center median of Highway 50.

"We're starting to get people used to new configurations," Restaino said.

Warmer nights in April will see the beginning again of work at night, Restaino added.

Councilman Mark Acuna asked whether Caltrans could maintain an open right lane into the city for the downtown merchants. Restaino said he had to postpone giving an answer and suggested that maybe a cone-delineated pocket could be worked out.

Councilwoman Patty Borelli said the paint lines were invisible going east off Spring Street and inquired when they would be repainted. Restaino said next week.

A review list of the Highway 50 improvements includes five main project locations: Highway 50 at Missouri Flat Road just west of Placerville replacing the existing Missouri Flat Road over-crossing, widening Missouri Flat Road and improving the Missouri Flat Road intersection, Highway 50 from Placerville Drive onramp through central Placerville to east of Bedford Avenue, Highway 50 from the Ray Lawyer overcrossing to the Clay Street undercrossing, Highway 50 at the westbound Placerville Drive offramp and Highway 50 at the eastbound Placerville Drive onramp.

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