

## **Keystone Avenue Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the current project timeline?**

106<sup>th</sup> Street and 126<sup>th</sup> Street intersections – Design is complete for the improvements to these intersections. Construction to begin in April and May of 2008 with completion expected in December of 2008.

116<sup>th</sup> Street and Carmel Drive intersections – Design to begin in the spring of 2008 with construction commencing in the spring of 2009. Completion of this interchange is expected in December of 2009. More details of this intersection will be made available during the fall of 2008.

131<sup>st</sup> Street intersection– Design to begin in the spring of 2009 with construction commencing in the spring of 2010. Construction is expected to be complete by December 2010.

136th Street intersection – Design to begin in the spring of 2008. The acceleration of the design schedule for the improvements to this intersection will enable the City solicit bids and move quickly to construction as soon as City wide maintenance of traffic scenarios allow. Construction may begin as early as July of 2008. The Department of Engineering will continually evaluate the feasible timeframe for the improvements to this intersection based on the progress of other City projects.

### **Why improve Keystone Avenue?**

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) had plans to add a third lane in each direction along Keystone Avenue and the addition of numerous turn lanes at each of the intersections during the summer of 2008. While such a project would have provided temporary relief to the current congestion, it would not have provided a long-term solution to the capacity issues for the corridor and the local street network. By lowering Keystone Avenue and providing roundabout interchanges at each major cross street, the City of Carmel can provide safer intersections and increased mobility for its citizens and visitors. In addition, facilities are being added to eliminate the barrier Keystone Avenue has historically represented to pedestrian traffic.

### **How will the project be funded?**

The Keystone Avenue reconstruction project is being funded with the 90 million dollars in payments made to the City of Carmel from the INDOT as a condition of the agreement to relinquish the road to the City of Carmel.

### **Will I need to stop on Keystone Avenue once the project is complete?**

Upon completion of the project, traffic on Keystone Avenue will not have to stop between 96<sup>th</sup> Street and 146<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Will my property be impacted?**

All affected property owners have been notified if additional right-of-way will be required for the improvements to the 106<sup>th</sup> Street and 126<sup>th</sup> Street intersections. In some cases, the area within the existing right-of-way adjacent to some parcels may be disturbed by the construction; but these areas will be restored upon completion. As right-of-way needs are identified for the improvements to other intersections, the City will contact the affected property owners. For specific questions, please contact the Department of Engineering at 317-571-2441.

### **Why lower Keystone Avenue instead of bringing it above the cross-streets?**

Keystone Avenue is being lowered to minimize the impact to the adjacent neighborhoods and properties and to better facilitate maintenance of traffic during construction.

### **Will all of Keystone Avenue be lowered?**

As a part of this project Keystone Avenue will be lowered at 106<sup>th</sup> Street, 116<sup>th</sup> Street, Carmel Drive, 126<sup>th</sup> Street, 131<sup>st</sup> Street and 136<sup>th</sup> Street. The depth to which Keystone Avenue will be lowered might vary at each interchange.

### **Will cross-streets be closed during construction? What about after construction?**

At some point in the construction sequence, it will be necessary to fully close the cross streets at each interchange location. There are no permanent cross street closures planned. While not identified to receive interchange improvements, the intersections of 98<sup>th</sup> Street and 99<sup>th</sup> Street may be modified as a part of this project.

### **Will traffic cut through my neighborhood during construction?**

The intent during construction is to maintain existing traffic patterns on Keystone Avenue. The City of Carmel is working to establish detour routes, as needed, for the cross-street closures. Such detours will utilize main thoroughfares. The City of Carmel will make all attempts to encourage the use of the established detour routes.

### **I live along Keystone Avenue; will the road be closer to my house?**

At each interchange, Keystone Avenue will actually be closer to the centerline of the existing median. Within the limits of each interchange, the entrance/exit ramps and roundabout lanes may be closer than the current roadways. Outside of the construction limits of each interchange, the roadway will not be altered.

### **How will pedestrian and bicycle traffic be affected by the Keystone Avenue project?**

Each new interchange will include a City of Carmel standard multi-use path along each side of the bridge crossing. Each roundabout will accommodate pedestrian and bicycle movements.

**How will this project affect school traffic?**

The City is working closely with the School Corporation to minimize the impact to school traffic. The City will make all attempts to limit the cross street closures to the times when school is not in session.

**Why are the roundabouts “teardrop” shaped?**

As design progressed, it became apparent that the “teardrop” shaped roundabout would be the most effective at realizing the benefits roundabouts provide. In some instances, the teardrop shape resulted in a smaller project footprint, reducing the amount of additional right-of-way that needs to be purchased. One benefit of roundabouts is that they are flexible in their design. While the teardrop shape is not what Carmel motorists are accustomed to, they will function the same as the existing roundabouts in the City.

**How much safer will the new Keystone Avenue corridor be to traverse?**

Per American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials guidelines: “The greatest efficiency, safety and capacity are attained when the intersecting through traffic lanes are separated in grades.” While it is difficult to measure the increase in safety, the elimination of at-grade intersections will inherently make this corridor safer. The use of roundabouts at each interchange instead of traffic signals will provide all of the same safety benefits realized in the City at other roundabouts.

**What are the environmental impacts associated with the Keystone Avenue project?**

All environmental concerns are being coordinated through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, (IDNR) as well as the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, (IDEM). As with all City road projects, the Keystone Avenue project will consider and attempt to address any current drainage problems within the project limits. Storm water quality issues are also being addressed during the design process. The proposed improvements are expected to reduce congestion both on Keystone Avenue as well as the cross streets and thus reduce fuel consumption, noise pollution and air pollution.

**What speed limit will be posted after construction?**

The City is still considering the posted speed limit on Keystone Avenue.

**Will any lights be added at the interchanges?**

Yes, decorative streetlights will be added to each interchange.

**Will sound barrier walls be installed along Keystone Avenue?**

At the present time, sound barrier walls will not be installed along Keystone Avenue. The City anticipates the reconstruction project will result in a reduction in noise levels from vehicular traffic in the corridor.

**Will pumps be required where the roadway is lowered?**

Pumps will be considered only when all other options have been determined to be unfeasible. Currently, the 106<sup>th</sup> Street and 126<sup>th</sup> Street interchanges will not require the use of pumps to control groundwater and surface runoff. Each interchange will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

**Will 96<sup>th</sup> Street improvements be made with this project?**

Improvements to the 96<sup>th</sup> Street and Keystone Avenue intersection are in the planning stages. No improvements to this intersection are planned as part of the current Keystone Avenue project.

**How can I stay informed throughout the construction process?**

A website will be established for the Keystone Avenue project. This website will be updated regularly with schedule updates, construction related notifications and other information. In the event that the website does not provide the information being sought, please contact the Department of Engineering at 317-571-2441 with specific questions.

**Can I see plans?**

The City currently has design plans for the interchanges at 106<sup>th</sup> Street and 126<sup>th</sup> Street. These plans are available for public viewing in the Department of Engineering, located on the first floor of City Hall. Please call 317-571-2441 to arrange an appointment so that we may better assist you.