



SEARCH
PJStar.com Archives
NEWS
Front Page
Random Acts of Kindness
Regional & State
Enduring Freedom
Matters of Record
Births
Obituary Lists
Death Notices
Marriages
Divorces
Bankruptcies
Illinois Lottery
Calendars
COLUMNISTS
Phil Luciano
Terry Bibb
Hotline
GOVERNMENT
Illinois links
State contacts
Federal links
Health Inspections
• August-September
• July-August
SPECIAL SECTIONS

Break ahead in I-74 overhaul

Project's contractors hope to complete current stage in time for the holidays

November 15, 2003

By MATT BUEDEL
of the Journal Star

PEORIA - The orange tide of construction that swelled around Downtown hospitals and Northwoods Mall this year is about to recede as the Illinois Interstate 74 overhaul approaches a contractual crossroads.

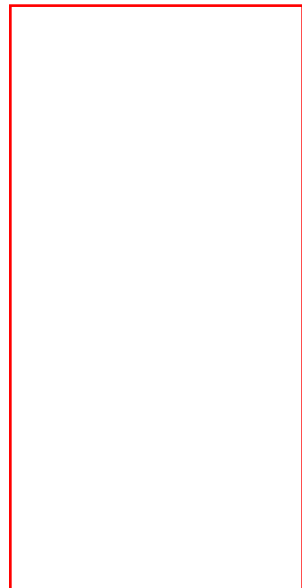
Sections of street in three separate construction projects currently under way in Peoria are now open for traffic or are scheduled to open within the next week. The work represents a major part of periphery construction that paves the way for actual I-74 improvement.

"This certainly is a big milestone in the project," said George Ryan, implementation engineer for the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Traffic patterns on Sterling Avenue are scheduled to shift Friday, with southbound vehicles entering newly laid lanes on the far west side of the street. Northbound traffic will move to middle lanes, while the eastern-most lanes will be shut down.

Contractors were told to complete the work by Nov. 28 to accommodate holiday shopping traffic. Contracts also ban work on that portion of Sterling until after Jan. 5.

"The traffic pattern that's going to happen now is going to remain that way through a good part of the spring and into the summer," Ryan said of work on Sterling.



- **SUBSCRIBE TO JOURNAL STAR**
- **EDIT THE EDITORS**
- **SOUND OFF ON**

HOI Fair Results
Spring Storms
Race for the Cure
Decision 2003
Blanket Clemency
2002 in Review
Legacy Project
Sept. 11: Year Later
Civic Center:
20 Years Later
Through Her Lens
Heimdal's Jungle

FRONT PAGE

WEATHER

SPORTS

OPINION

BUSINESS

ENTERTAINMENT

FEATURES

SPECIAL SECTIONS

MULTIMEDIA

CLASSIFIED

Announcements

Auctions

Automotive

Employment

Farm & Ranch

Garage Sales

Homes/Apartments

Merchandise

Mortgage Rates

Personals

Public Notices

Recreation

SERVICES

"It certainly will be easier (to navigate) once we get past the 28th, and the contractor can't work out there anymore."

Meanwhile, portions of Knoxville and Spalding avenues opened Friday, a day ahead of deadline. A second southbound lane on Knoxville also was finished Friday, the same day the last barricades were scheduled to be removed from Spalding between Glendale and Glen Oak avenues.

Roadwork on Spalding between Jefferson Street and Glendale will continue through the holiday season and into next year.

On the other side of the Illinois River in East Peoria, a deadline hovers over work on the eastbound Riverfront Drive exit off I-74, which must be finished by the end of November. Ryan said that segment of work in East Peoria should be done on time.

Piers being built there will carry traffic over to the Bob Michel bridge when the Murray Baker bridge closes down during a later phase of I-74 renovation.

Camp Street in East Peoria, which has experienced lane reductions for months, also is scheduled to fully reopen sometime in the next week.

"That work is very weather dependent," Ryan said.

Births
Celebrations
Contact Us
Internships
NIE
Photo Reprints
Site Map
Submit an Ad
Subscriptions
Yellow Pages
More

**©, Peoria Journal
Star, Inc.**

Edit the Editors Copyright

**Make us your home
page**

Subscribe Contact Us Archives Submit an Ad