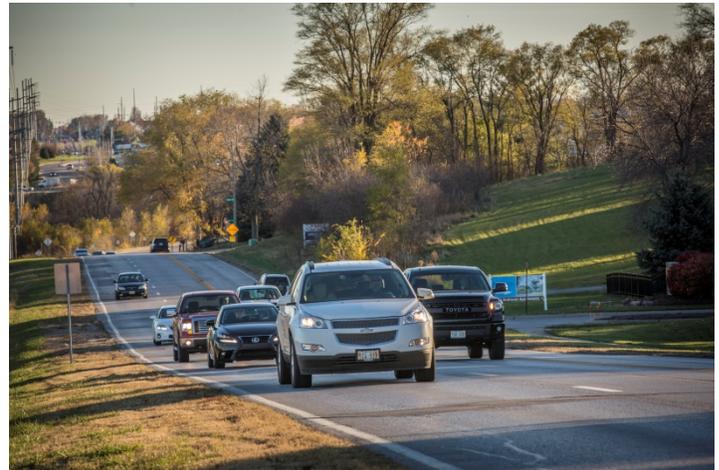


CONSTRUCTION UPDATE!

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the 168th Street newsletter. In this edition you'll learn more about the construction effort planned for this project, right of way acquisition, utility work that will be conducted throughout the corridor, and traveling safely during construction season.

Reminder: Please forward this newsletter along to anyone who might have interest in this project.



168th Street construction will take one year to complete.

UPDATE FROM THE ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR



Todd Pfitzer, Assistant Public Works Director

Since our last newsletter, we've completed a few traffic studies and concluded that closing 168th Street between West Dodge Road and West Maple Road is the best option for this project. We've seriously considered the pro's and con's of full roadway closure against constructing the road in phases to allow travel along the corridor. We've also considered the impact this construction project will have on the neighboring projects in the northwest portion of the metro.

We appreciate your concerns about inconvenience that this decision may cause for your typical travel behaviors. We hope that with enough warning, you can begin to plan ahead for a suitable alternative route to your desired destinations.

We also recognize that businesses along the corridor may be worried about the impact this closure will have on their business. We assure you that your patrons will still be able to access your business during construction through alternative routes. We understand the inconvenience this might bring, but are excited to deliver a completed project roughly five years sooner than originally anticipated.

In the **Construction Update** section below we'll discuss more details of the closure and how we arrived at our decision. Please continue to stay informed by visiting www.KeepOmahaMoving.com and tuning

in to our quarterly e-newsletter. We'll use the website and this newsletter to keep you updated as the project and construction progress.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The planning for construction along the 168th Street corridor between West Dodge Road and West Maple Road has determined that closing this corridor during construction is the **safest, quickest, and most economical option**. The amount of construction work to complete the entire 168th Street project would take multiple years to complete under a phased construction approach which allows some traffic movements. Closing 168th Street will allow us to complete the construction in a single year.

168TH STREET CLOSED DURING CONSTRUCTION

The planning for construction along the 168th Street corridor between West Dodge Road and West Maple Road has determined that closing this corridor during construction is the **safest, quickest, and most economical option**. The amount of construction work to complete the entire 168th Street project is more than typical for a single construction season. A full year closure is expected.

Visit www.KeepOmahaMoving.com/168th to learn more.

Northwest Corridor Construction Schedule

2018	168th Street (West Dodge Road to West Maple Road)
2019/2020	156th Street (Corby Street to Pepperwood Drive)
2020/2021	180th Street (Old Lincoln Highway to West Maple Road)

Why 168th Street West Dodge to West Maple First?
 This project is locally funded which allows for greater flexibility. The 156th Street and 180th Street projects are partially funded with federal money and have additional requirements and restrictions.
 The **timing is right** for 168th Street to begin first. After construction, the four-lanes of roadway on 168th Street will better accommodate increased traffic during the required closures of the adjacent 156th Street and 180th Street projects.

Benefits of Closing During Construction:

- SAFETY**
Closing the roadway will diminish the potential for vehicle/construction crew incidents.
- SCHEDULE**
Without traffic, the contractor will be able to perform their work uninterrupted. This will maximize construction efficiency and reduce overall construction time.
- FLEXIBILITY**
Sometimes situations arise that cause pause on particular parts of the construction effort. A complete roadway closure will allow contractors to adjust and move on to another area without delay.
- STORAGE**
Because the roadway is completely closed, we will be able to use the construction area to store materials and equipment rather than offsite or adjacent to the project area.
- COST**
The combination of all of these factors often results in lower construction bids and a significant savings for the project.

✓

FINISHED PROJECT

The full closure will allow us to focus on completing major parts of the project as a whole instead of in pieces, resulting in a better finished project.

**Click to enlarge.*

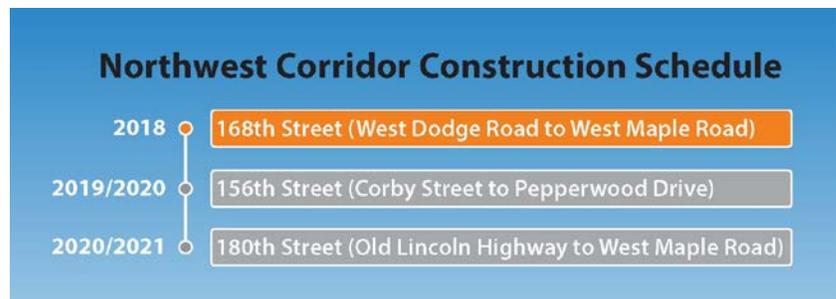
We understand that closing a major roadway like this will impact many drivers' typical commute, but after much consideration, traffic studies, and factoring in the construction schedules for the 156th Street (Corby Street to Pepperwood Drive) and 180th Street (Old Lincoln Highway to West Maple Road)

projects, we determined full road closure during 2018 is the safest and most economical choice for the City, Douglas County, and the 20,000 daily vehicles that travel this corridor.

The 168th Street project presents several unique factors that were considered when determining the construction timing and potential for road closure. We understand there are several limitations with regard to access and connectivity. There are four isolated single family homes along the corridor as well as the Carat Homes neighborhood near the southern end that do not have any other way of accessing their property than from 168th Street. 180th Street currently does not connect between West Dodge Road and Blondo Street, and there is limited connectivity between adjacent neighborhoods and major arterials due to the Papillion and West Papillion Creeks.

There is a lot going on in the northwest corridor. This part of the city is steadily growing and with growth, more drivers are on the roads. Improvement plans in the area include a surface rehabilitation project on West Maple Road from 204th Street to I-680 in 2019. Construction projects are planned for both 180th Street and 156th Street between West Dodge Road and West Maple Road, but these projects are partially funded with federal dollars and have additional requirements and restrictions. The 168th Street project between West Dodge Road and West Maple Road is funded with local dollars and allows the City greater flexibility in terms of timing.

The construction of these major arterials in the northwest was originally planned to begin with 156th Street in 2017 and 2018 with some closures, then construct 168th Street from Blondo to West Maple in late 2018 and 2019, while maintaining traffic on 168th Street. The portion of 168th Street from West Dodge to Blondo would have occurred in 2023. However, the construction on 156th Street has been rescheduled for 2019 and 2020. 180th Street remains on schedule for 2020/2021. Given the flexibility with a locally funded project, the timing is right for 168th Street project to begin first, and construct the entirety of the project from West Dodge to West Maple. After construction on 168th Street is complete, the four-lanes of roadway will better accommodate increased traffic during the required closures of the adjacent 156th Street and 180th Street projects.



168th Street Improvement Project

West Dodge Road to West Maple Road

July 2017

The 168th Street project from West Dodge Road to West Maple Road is a large effort. The amount of work to construct the entirety of this project is much greater than what is typical of a single construction season. As a result, the City needed to provide opportunities for the contractor to maximize their efficiency when possible. A full road closure will allow for uninterrupted work flow. The decision to close 168th Street from West Dodge Road to West Maple Road for 2018 was made only after regional traffic had been analyzed to understand the change in traffic patterns during a closure of 168th Street as well as improvements to traffic patterns once 168th Street is completed. Additional study has been done to analyze the impact of changing traffic patterns during a closure on 168th Street at adjacent intersections such as 156th Street and Blondo and 192nd Street and Blondo. The signal timings at 156th and Blondo can be adjusted to accommodate the change in traffic patterns and a temporary solution at the 192nd and Blondo intersection is currently being analyzed to accommodate the anticipated traffic changes.



We understand the inconveniences of a road closure, but after considerable considerations, we know this is the best possible solution to help keep the transportation improvement projects in the northwest area of the City moving forward. We are excited to deliver a completed project on 168th Street between

West Dodge Road and West Maple Road 5 years earlier than anticipated, alleviating the impacts to traffic flow during the 156th Street and 180th Street projects in the following years.

RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION & UTILITY RELOCATIONS

Right of Way Acquisition

Over the past several months, we have studied the corridor and have determined what the right of way (ROW) needs are for the project. An independent appraiser is assessing those needs and will assign a value within the next month. Once the ROW value has been determined, City ROW agents will be in contact with property owners to complete the ROW acquisition process.



Utility Relocations



Utility relocation work will soon begin along the 168th Street corridor between West Dodge Road and West Maple Road. Work will include surveying, removing pavement, trenching and other activities associated with utility relocations. Traffic lanes in this area may shift temporarily. Drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians should use caution when traveling through this area. Please be prepared to follow temporary traffic controls.

Communication, power, water, gas and other utility companies, both public and private will be out working in the area. Typically, flags and spray paint will be used to identify where utility relocations are needed. Please be careful not to remove flags or

mow over painted grass. If you have any questions about these activities please contact Jeff Babcock, City Project Manager at 402-444-5220.

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT – WORKZONE SAFETY

You've likely noticed more work zones throughout the metro? This is the time of year when weather conditions are better suited for construction crews to be out improving our roadways. It is also a time of year when more people are on the roads. Small to large scale work zones can be seen throughout the metro. Remember that City, county, state, utilities and developers all potentially have projects that might impact your travel. These are the projects that will help keep Omaha moving. But with added distractions on the roadways, it is even more important to be aware of your surroundings and adapt.

When driving in a work zone please remember the following things:

- Stay alert! Dedicate your full attention to driving.
- Minimize distractions such as avoiding the radio station, eating in the vehicle, or using a handheld phone while you are driving in a work zone.
- Slow down! Drive carefully and slowly through a construction site. Typically a reduced speed will be posted, if not, you should assume 20 mph slower than the regularly posted speed limit.
- Pay close attention and plan ahead to adjust based on work zone warning signs and flaggers. Watch for detours and lane diversions.
- Watch for stopped or slowly moving traffic. Do not tailgate.
- Use extra caution when driving through a work zone at night.
- Keep an eye out for construction workers and equipment.
- Expect the unexpected.



Each year, construction workers are killed in work zones due to negligent drivers. These deaths could have been prevented. Help keep our roadways and crews safe by doing your job in the vehicle – driving safely.