

dallasnews

Powered by *The Dallas Morning News*

Downtown Dallas to see two-way Houston Street in September



3

12

0



Share

0

1

AA



By [ROBERT WILONSKY](#)

Staff Writer

rwilonsky@dallasnews.com

Published: 27 July 2014 10:36 PM

Updated: 27 July 2014 10:40 PM

In July 2013, Dallas city officials said that Houston Street between Young and Elm streets would become two-way by January.

The plan was to make the streets two-way after services in Dealey Plaza commemorating the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's assassination on Nov. 22.

Eight months later, Houston's still one-way, and traffic lights installed to accommodate the change are still dark. But that could change soon. The Public Works Department expects Houston Street to become two way by September.

"We're eager to make it happen," says Tom Morris, a senior program manager in Public Works. "It'll be pretty soon now. We're pretty comfortable with mid-September."

Keith Manoy, Dallas' chief transportation planner, said Public Works had every intention of taking Houston two ways by the beginning of the year.

But they didn't get very far for a good reason: "Bottom line is they did start after the Kennedy memorial," Manoy said. "But the wiring underneath there wasn't in the condition they anticipated, so they had to do a lot of replacing."

Morris said "nearly 100 percent" of the conduits beneath the street at each intersection had to be replaced. That task alone was time-consuming. So was working around the JFK event, the Final Four and other scheduled events.

"Things have taken longer than expected, which is typical on these kinds of projects," Morris said. "What's remaining is just a little electrical work. We do have to procure some electrical cabinets, these traffic control boxes, and that will take some time."

Morris said officials will announce the change within two weeks of the switch.

The traffic signals, aimed at folks coming into downtown from Oak Cliff, will be turned on when Houston Street goes both ways.

Before the street's conversion to two ways, the city will close half of it "as an introduction," Morris said. Dallas also will have to coordinate with Dallas Area Rapid Transit as it oversees construction of the Oak-Cliff-to-downtown streetcar line scheduled to get rolling across the Houston Street viaduct in 2015.

"We need to see how they will tie in together before we do the conversion to two ways," said engineer Barbara Reading, a project manager in Public Works.

DART, though, is the contractor on the streetcar job, so the city of Dallas will ultimately end up coordinating with itself — specifically, Keith Manoy. Morris said he's not aware of any issues that would delay the September change.

Turning some one-way streets into two-way streets has been on the downtown to-do list ever since the Central Business District Comprehensive Transportation Plan was presented to the City Council in 2005.

Five years later, five streets were identified for conversion, but it wasn't until March of last year that the first change occurred when Federal Street from Akard to Ervav started flowing in both directions. Since then, there have been three other conversions: Field Street

from Pacific to Wood, Patterson Street from Field to Akard and Akard from Commerce to Elm.

Houston, though, is by far the most significant, as far as city officials are concerned. John Crawford, president and CEO of Downtown Dallas Inc., agrees.

"It's the biggest change geographically, and because it's a major thoroughfare it will bring about the biggest improvement and make the biggest impact," Crawford said. "It connects and changes several different areas, from downtown and the West End to Victory Park, and the connection to West Dallas and Oak Cliff.

"It's going to have a major impact. That's progress. As we look at the things that need to be done to achieve how downtown needs to be revitalized, that's a big part of it."

Did you see something wrong in this story, or something missing? [Let us know.](#)

You Might Also Like



Finally, One Link Established- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (Envita)



How Anyone Can Fly on a Private Jet for Less Than a Seat in (FOX Business)



The Best Breakfast Tacos in Dallas that Make Waking Up So (Zagat)



Best Credit Cards for Flights in 2014 (MileCards.com)

Recommended by

From the web

[Smackdown: Las Vegas vs. Dubai](#) Yahoo!

[9 New Luxury Hotels With Mind-Blowing Views](#) Details.com

[The Top 5 Most Overrated Summer Destinations](#) MainStreet

More from Dallasnews.com

[Fort Worth doctor with Ebola known for 'compassionate heart'](#) News

[Allen ISD board to consider up to \\$2 million for stadium repairs](#) The Scoop Blog

[Cowlishaw: Ray Rice incident is 'appalling;' where's NFL's outrage when stars hit women?](#) Sports

Recommended by

Comments

To post a comment, log into your chosen social network and then add your comment below. Your comments are subject to our [Terms of Service](#) and the privacy policy and terms of service of your social network. If you do not want to comment with a social network, please consider writing a [letter to the editor](#).

1 Comment

Sort [Subscribe](#) [RSS](#)



Bill

8 hours ago

and just like the clown show in dallas and surrounding areas, there will be 10 new lights on houston street, and you'll have to stop are every one of them. dfw's motto should be "we have ten thousand traffic light's and you 'll see DFW metroplex one light at a time".

Reply Share

0 2