

US-24: Telegraph Road Reconstruction

Context

A 4.5 mile, six-lane boulevard section of Telegraph Road in the city of Taylor was reconstructed in 2001–2002.

Purpose and Description

The purpose of the project was to reconstruct a portion of Telegraph Road (US-24). The northbound lanes had to be completed first so they could be used as a detour route for the I-75 northbound reconstruction in 2002. Additional goals included improving access management and reconstructing deteriorated pavement.



Public Engagement

When MDOT initiated the project, the city saw an opportunity to simultaneously complete much needed infrastructure work along the same section including water main replacement, utility pole relocations, sidewalk installation, and aesthetic improvements. Careful coordination was required to meet the city's needs while meeting the tight schedule to complete the portion of US-24 needed for the I-75 detour. Public information meetings were held to share information about the project with residents and businesses. The meetings helped generate public understanding and support for the project and helped alleviate concerns about impacts to businesses during construction. Using the services of a single contractor for both portions of the construction project allowed efficient coordination between MDOT and the city of Taylor.

Context Sensitive Solutions Approach

The project included both social and environmental context sensitive design approaches:

- Utility poles moved underground to increase safety and improve aesthetics
- Curb and gutter added to help manage driveway access and improve traffic safety
- Speed limit reduced from 50 mph to 45 mph to maintain continuity in pavement section and avoid aesthetic impacts
- Storm drain installed to retain flows from US-24 prior to discharge into Winters Drain
- Outlets to open drainage courses set back to allow flows to drain across grassy ditch to help remove contaminants before they reach Frank and Poet or the Sexton-Kilfoil Drains



Outcome

The result of the project was a win-win situation for MDOT and the city of Taylor. The project was completed on schedule and the city accomplished its infrastructure work. Reconstruction of US-24 Telegraph Road provided the foundation for future economic growth along the corridor. The city has built the Taylor Sport Complex and Telegraph Tomorrow, an intergovernmental group, is leading an effort to develop a regional approach to coordinate design guidelines, overlay zoning regulations, and landscape standards for a 23-mile stretch of Telegraph Road.

Funding

MDOT funded the \$37 million reconstruction effort and the City of Taylor funded \$10 million of infrastructure improvements.

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