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Construction on Hall Road expected to end Friday

Crews will return in April for second leg of \$60 million, two-year road project

By Mitch Hotts, The Macomb Daily

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In what is sure to be welcome news to motorists and business owners, the first year of a two-year construction project on Hall Road is expected to conclude Friday.

That's the word from the Michigan Department of Transportation officials who say they hope to open all lanes of traffic by the end of the week.

Other work in the \$60 million roadwork program will be wrapped up in the next couple of weeks, according to Jim Petronski, a construction engineer for MDOT.

“We made a promise to the business community at the start of this project to be out of their way in time for the Christmas shopping season,” he said. “We’ve noticed traffic already picking up at some of the shopping centers.”

The scope of the nearly 4-mile construction program runs from M-53 to Romeo Plank Road. Engineers broke the project down into two phases, with the first section -- M-53 to Garfield -- being done this year.

Crews will return in the spring 2018 to work between Garfield and Romeo Plank roads, including adding a fourth lane for both sides of Hall Road.

Road crews -- under the direction of Warren-based Iafrate Construction, the main contractor -- worked to rebuild four miles of the eastbound and westbound lanes; install modernized traffic signals; make improvements to drainage, ramp and sidewalks; and add trees, shrubs and other aesthetic enhancements. Concrete roads were replaced by an asphalt surface.

The road was built about 25 years ago.

About 43,000 drivers using the Hall Road stretch between M-53 and Romeo Plank to patronize restaurants, shopping centers, jewelry stores, medical facilities, the center campus of Macomb Community College.

MDOT worked to keep all businesses in the corridor accessible while construction was underway in one of the busiest shopping strips in the areas including Lakeside Mall and the Mall at Partridge Creek.

While business leaders dreaded seeing the orange barrels and detour signs, one said MDOT did a good job in keeping the lines of communication open via media reports and social media.

“MDOT kept us informed of what they were doing every week like clockwork,” said Melanie Davis, president and CEO of the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce & Industry. “People were cautiously optimistic, our members were understanding. But we’re glad to see the worst is over -- and right before the holiday season.”

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