

## Bulk of Scherm work to finish this year

By Steve Vied, Messenger-Inquirer

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People who use Scherm Road can look forward to getting their road back by the end of this year — but they shouldn't expect to drive on finished asphalt or see a finished walking and biking path on the south side of the road's western end, a city official said last week.

"We will have it open to traffic by the end of the year, widened all the way to Barron Drive, but it may or may not have the final (asphalt) surface and we may or may not have the Greenbelt (trail) done," said City Engineer Joe Schepers.

Everything that is not completed by the end of December will have to wait until the spring construction season begins, Schepers said. Asphalt can be put down in November and even early December, depending on the temperature, and the base coat can go down at cooler temperatures than the top coat, he said.



John Dunham, Messenger-Inquirer/jdunham@messenger-inquirer.com, 926-0123 City of Owensboro's construction inspector Jeff King pitches a shovelful of gravel while spot cleaning the road Friday afternoon before Scherm Road opened to traffic. He was waiting on the contractor to pick up the construction barrel, pylons and detour signs. Photo by John Dunham, M-I

The contractor intends to start on the walking and biking trail this fall, Schepers said.

The second phase of the overall \$10 million Scherm Ditch drainage improvement project job has progressed without major surprises or difficulties, Schepers said.

"We ran into some old bridge abutments, and one was quite large," Schepers said. The abutments had to be dug out and removed.

Do-All Construction Co. of Caneyville was awarded a \$5.4 million contract for the second phase of the Scherm Ditch project. When it is complete, Scherm Road will have been widened to three lanes from South Griffith Avenue west to Lewis Lane. The rest of Scherm Road to Barron Drive will remain a two-lane street, but curbs and gutters will be built from South Griffith to Barron.

A 10-foot-wide shared-use path with a 5-foot grass strip between the road and the paved path will be built from South Griffith to Barron Drive on a previously owned city right-of-way. Large box culverts have been placed under the road to carry more storm water. An 18-acre flood basin was built at Scherm Road and Barron Drive during the first phase of the project.

Last week, the city announced that Scherm Road would open to through traffic from South Griffith to Royal Drive starting Oct. 15 but will be closed to through traffic from Barron Drive to Surrey Drive East starting today as work continues toward the west.

Under its contract, Do-All Construction has until May 22 to finish the \$5.4 million second phase of the Scherm project, which began almost two years ago.

Meanwhile across town, the Harsh ditch drainage improvement project along Veach Road is all but finished, Schepers said, and will be completely wrapped up by the end of this year.

Drainage projects on the Harsh, Goetz, Scherm and Devins ditches were all financed by a \$23 million low-interest loan from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority.

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