



District Update

From Mayor Walter Maddox

District 5 | 2015

The people of District 5 know better than most the pain and devastation of April 27, 2011. In less than six minutes, thousands of homes and businesses were severely damaged and/or destroyed. Making matters worse, 70 percent of the homes destroyed were rental with a median income of less than \$25,000.

When we embarked on Tuscaloosa Forward in 2011, the community participated by the thousands and created an ambitious rebuilding plan that honored all those who lost so much.

Once Tuscaloosa Forward was adopted in fall 2011, we had over \$100 million in proposed projects, but not one dime to begin the engineering, property acquisition and ultimately construction. It would have been easy for the Tuscaloosa Forward Plan to be placed on a shelf to collect dust; however, in the last 45 months, thanks to a visionary city council and a talented staff, we have secured tens of millions which has resulted in a new police precinct, a new fire station, the re-alignment of 25th Avenue East, the Tuscaloosa Tennis Facility, a partnership with Habitat for Humanity, plus dozens of less noticeable but hugely important projects and improvements.

Space prevents me from reviewing all our efforts, but below are updates on several major projects.

JUANITA DRIVE — The engineering plans are being finalized and coordinated with Alabama Power to initiate utility relocations. We are also working with ALDOT to obtain permit for right turn lane onto University Boulevard. Lastly, the city attorney's office is continuing with easement acquisition. Construction likely will commence in 2016 with a project cost of nearly \$1 million.

ALBERTA PARKWAY PHASE 1A — The construction is coming to an end on this phase (25th Avenue East — 26th Avenue East). This phase was designed to realign and upgrade utilities in the area of the Alberta Parkway Project.

ALBERTA PARKWAY PHASE 1B — The bids for this project were opened on April 28 and were well within the \$3 million budget. The construction should start this summer. The project area is from 25th Avenue East to 23rd Avenue East in and around the existing 7th Street East.

STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT — This project is designed to rebuild 30 city streets that were severely damaged by debris removal following the April 27 tornado. It is a \$6 million dollar project and the environmental clearance is underway as well as the final design and plans. Assuming environmental clearance, this project should advertise late summer with construction starting in the fall.

ROSEWOOD SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS — This project recently advertised for bids and the bid opening is scheduled for June 16. The project is intended to vastly upgrade sewer capacity in the Rosewood areas of District 5. The estimated construction cost is \$600,000. Construction is expected to start in late summer.

McFARLAND BLVD & 15TH STREET IMPROVEMENTS — This ALDOT project will add turn lanes from 13th Street East to 15th Street East on McFarland Boulevard. In addition, access points will be realigned to increase safety and improve traffic flow. The project cost is about \$6 million with a 20 percent City match. The utility relocation portion of this project has begun and the entire project, according to ALDOT, is scheduled to be complete by fall 2016.

UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD BRIDGE (OVER KICKER ROAD) — This \$4.9 million ALDOT project is significantly underway. According to ALDOT, it's expected to be complete by December.

ALBERTA CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY — This is one of the most exciting projects in our recovery. It will be located next to the East Police Precinct and will serve as a broadband technology hub and digital library for the community. This \$2.8 million project will likely be under construction in late 2015 or early 2016.

Thanks in large part to securing disaster recovery grants, District 5 has and will see tens of millions of dollars of investment in the recovery zone. This investment should generate numerous public sector investments in the future. I want to personally thank Councilor Kip Tyner for his relentless and unyielding advocacy for Alberta.

I look forward to seeing you at the District 5 Mayor's Night Out on Thursday, July 9 at 5:15pm at Fire Station Four.



Thursday, July 9
5:15 - 6:30 p.m.
Fire Station Four



Above, top down: Mayor Maddox, Councilor Tyner and members of the fire department uncouple a hose at the dedication of Fire Station Four. Mayor Maddox, City staff and volunteers help build Habitat for Humanity's 100th home in Tuscaloosa.

Mayor Walter Maddox
P.O. Box 2089
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403
mayor@tuscaloosa.com



205-248-5001



@WalterMaddox
@TuscaloosaCity

Tuscaloosa **311**.com

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