

DISCOVER



What drivers should know about the State Park Road construction project.

MOVING FORWARD

State Park Road Construction Update

Although there have been delays due to weather, Shelby County's State Park Road construction project is about 50-percent complete. "The percentage is deceiving because that number can change drastically depending on the weather," said Trey Gauntt, Manager of Facilities and General Services for Shelby County. "When the temperature is below 40 degrees, you can't pave, but we're progressing when the weather cooperates.

Gauntt said he expects construction to be complete by the end of May, and definitely before the start of the World Games this summer. Many visitors and locals alike are expected to attend competition events scheduled at Oak Mountain State Park the week of July 11th.

One important detail Gauntt wants drivers to know is the electronic message boards placed at each end of State Park Road will contain valuable information as the contractor progresses on the roundabout near the entrance of Oak Mountain State Park. "There will be significant traffic delays, so keep an eye on the message boards for warnings as you plan your commute," Gauntt said. Once the roundabout is complete, engineers say traffic flow should improve, as many drivers use State Park Road as they travel to and from I-65.

In addition to the roundabout, the new project will feature wider, paved shoulders and a bike/pedestrian lane to connect John Finley Drive to Highway 119.



Parking Solutions

Site preparation is underway for a new parking area adjacent to the Pelham Civic Complex and Ice Arena.

The additional parking is needed because of the limited spaces available for Complex use in the large lot between the Complex and Oak Mountain Amphitheater. For years, an agreement between the two facilities allows the Pelham Civic Complex and Ice Arena to utilize 40 spaces in the lot. "The real problem is that when both the Amphitheater and Civic Complex have events occurring simultaneously, there isn't sufficient parking," said acting City Engineer Chris Cousins.

The City of Pelham recently purchased the land adjacent to the Civic Complex at the corner of Amphitheater Road and Highway 31 to construct additional parking. To bring the site up to an acceptable grade, a large amount of fill material will be required. "The work currently ongoing involves taking advantage of excess dirt for the State Park Road project and The Canopy project. The contractors on these projects are hauling and placing their excess material on the city property," said Cousins. "This will allow the City to save a significant amount of money over having to pay a contractor to haul in the material."

Site design will begin once hauling is complete and project planners have an accurate measure of how much the site has been raised by the material being brought in. Cousins explained the process: "To allow for natural settlement and consolidation to occur, we will plant grass on the site and allow it to sit for a while. We don't have a construction schedule yet, but construction is not budgeted for the fiscal year 2022. My guess is that construction won't begin until mid to late 2023."

Planners hope the area will allow for between 173 and 360 spaces, but the final number of spaces will depend on how much the site is raised. Steve St. John, Executive Director of the Pelham Civic Complex and Ice Arena expressed his optimism for the new parking area. "This additional parking should relieve some of the parking issues we face when both facilities have events on the same days. There have been events at the PCC where we use all of the parking. More is better!"