

GROW



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CURB APPEAL

How Pelham Hopes to Spruce up Highway 31

The City of Pelham and the Pelham Community Development Authority (CDA) recently revised the Highway 31 Redevelopment Plan to regulate land development regulations as well as planning and zoning codes to better influence the aesthetics of the City's main business district. "What the revisions will do is allow the CDA to look at a larger area for the acquisition of blighted and vacant properties, like the Welborn Street property, and spend time and funding to clean it up, remove dilapidated buildings, and prepare the property for future redevelopment. These efforts undertaken by the CDA will save the private sector developer valuable time and money, which could be an incentive for choosing to develop our site versus a site that is not 'build-ready,'" explained Michael Simon, the City's Director of Economic Development.

Simon said some exciting upgrades will happen within the next one to two years. "The City is working with a consultant, Alabama Power, and the Alabama Department of Transportation on a project to evaluate current conditions, and ways to upgrade and enhance the lighting and median accesses on Highway 31," Simon suggested the project could cost as much as five million dollars to make improvements from the southern boundary to the northern city line. Because of the price tag, the project could be broken up into phases. "Lighting alone is a very important piece of creating an attractive, safe, and inviting community."

Simon also commended the progress being made by the City's Zoning and Code Enforcement Divisions to enforce regulations designed to keep the city looking its best.



Widening Could Ease Congestion

Drivers who use a busy stretch of Highway 261 will finally get some much-needed relief from the daily traffic congestion in the area. According to André Bittas, Director of Development Services and Public Works for the City of Pelham, the roadway from Highway 31 to Bearden Road will be widened to five lanes. "This will reduce traffic congestion and improve traffic movements and safety," stated Bittas.

Bittas said this project has been in the works for 10-15 years, but after a funding agreement was reached between Pelham, Helena, Hoover, and Shelby County, the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) is scheduled to begin work soon. "The design is complete, and ALDOT is currently working on the right-of-way acquisition. Construction will begin as soon as the acquisitions and utility relocations are complete." Bittas estimated the work will begin in late 2023, or early 2024.

Capital Projects and How They Affect You

The City of Pelham has more than 90 capital improvement projects on the books. Some are under construction, and others include future projects that are in the planning and design stages. What does this mean for you? Capital improvement projects are generally bigger projects that will bring greater amenities, updated facilities, and improvements that will lead to a better quality of life.

Some of the projects include improved drainage, and water main and sewer plant upgrades. There are plans for our parks, including new dog park and trail lighting, playground upgrades, new pickleball courts at the Senior Center, and eventually, a splash pad. Other projects are necessary building repairs like new roofs, HVAC replacements, and additional parking.

To see a complete list of the projects, and where they stand, [follow this link](#). To learn more about the 2023 fiscal year budget, [click here](#).



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