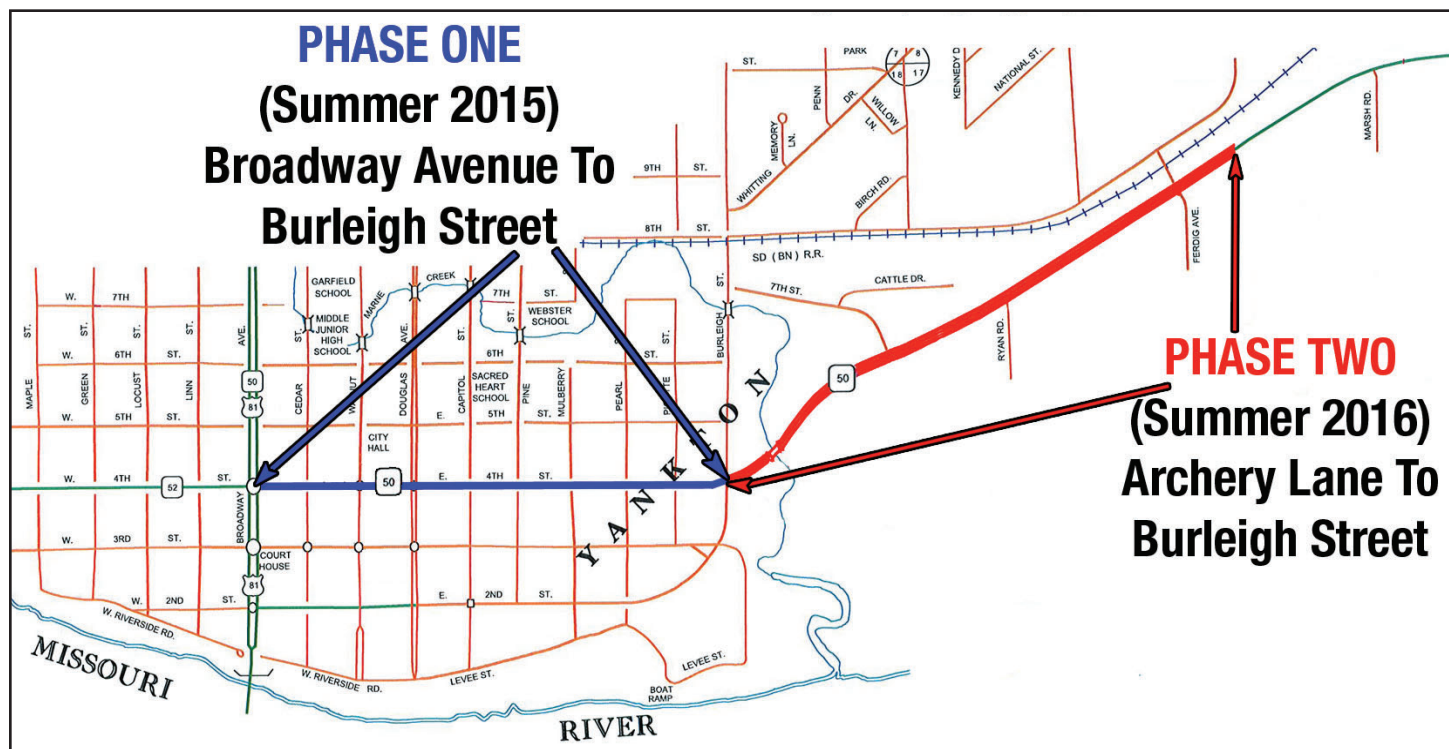




PRESS & DAKOTAN



Highway 50 Project Set To Hit The Road



Information: S.D. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRAPHIC BY: SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D
Road Construction season is almost upon us and a two-year plan to revamp Highway 50 through Yankton is set to begin. The project will be completed in two phases with the stretch of road from Broadway Avenue to Burleigh Street to be completed this summer and from Burleigh Street to Archery Lane planned for next summer.

Drivers License Fee Increase On The Horizon

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — A reader recently asked an interesting question: Can a South Dakota motorist renew his driver license early and avoid the price increases that take effect July 1?

The answer is yes — but only if the license would need to be renewed soon.

"He can renew up to 180 days before the expiration date. He can renew early and avoid the increase," said Tony Mangan, a spokesman for the state Department of Public Safety.

Come July 1, driver license applications and renewals will increase to \$28 from the present \$20, while commercial driver license applications become \$33, up from \$25.

The knowledge test for a commercial license increases to \$15 from the current \$10, as do duplicates and changes in names and addresses for either type of driver license.

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Two-Year Process Begins With Bid-Letting Today

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Dir is finally about to be turned on a two-year plan to revamp the Highway 50 through the city of Yankton.

Ron Peterson, area engineer with the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) said this will be a major overhaul of the highway.

"It's total reconstruction of the highway," Peterson said. "We're going to take out the pavement, the curb and gutter, the storm sewer, streetlights, sidewalk and everything will be gone. The city is also going to put in some underground utilities — some water and sewer upgrades — while we've got the pavement torn up."

The project will be completed in two phases. Construction will be done on the stretch between Highway 81/Broadway Ave. and Burleigh St. this year with construction on the second phase, Marne Creek to Archery Lane, commencing in 2016.



Peterson

During construction, east/west traffic will be reduced from four to two lanes on Highway 50.

Among the changes, the highway will be expanded to five lanes in phase one (four traffic lanes and a turning lane in the middle) with lane width being reduced from 12-feet to 11-feet.

Peterson said there's a reason for the lane width reductions.

"Narrower lanes tend to calm traffic or keep it a bit slower so they're not speeding through town," he said.

Other additions include a new traffic signal with pedestrian crossing technology that will be installed at Douglas Ave. and historic street lighting along the phase one stretch.

Peterson said the entire project is estimated at \$10 million with bid letting set for today (Wednesday) at 10 a.m. The

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Lauren Hanson, executive director of the United Way, is hoping the community will make one last big donation to help the group meet its fundraising goal of \$500,000. Currently, \$15,000 short, the group is holding one final promotion this weekend at HyVee to reach the goal.

United Way Sprinting To A New Fundraising Record

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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For Lauren Hanson, the finish line isn't found on a track — it's waiting at the supermarket.

The finish line can be found Thursday at the Hy-Vee entrances in Yankton. There, Hanson — executive director for United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton — will join with others to reach United Way's \$500,000 goal for its annual fund drive.

The promotion from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. marks the "LAST BLAST" final campaign push. United Way staff, board members and the Heart Club committee will seek to raise the final \$15,000 of what has already become a record-breaking effort.

This year's drive set a goal 6 percent higher than last year, Hanson said.

"The old record was last year, when we set a goal of \$470,000 and reached \$468,000," she said. "This year is the most we have ever raised. We're not quite at goal, but we have accomplished a lot. I truly believe we will reach our goal and celebrate on Thursday. We'll see what we are capable of as a community and how caring



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Club Collecting Crayons For Haiti

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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A dedication to giving has long inspired Gordon and Betty Siebring of George, Iowa.

The couple, active Kiwanis members, had made several trips to the impoverished nation of Haiti on humanitarian trips where many things seemed wrong, but one fact stood out to them: while many Haitians could read, most could not write.

"The country of Haiti and the people living there are very poor," Gordon Siebring said during Tuesday's Yankton Kiwanis Club meeting. "Many of them live on less than \$600 per year. While there are many missions and mission schools there, they cannot afford to purchase school supplies. So, many of the youth had learned to read, but never to write because they didn't have any writing utensils."

Siebring said it wasn't until after his fifth trip to the country

he had the idea of collecting used crayons to send to Haiti.

"It just seems that we have so much in our country, our kids get new backpacks, new crayons, new pencils, new notebooks, new jeans and shoes every year and I started to wonder what was happening to the school supplies at the end of the school year," he said. "It was — most of it anyway — when the kids cleaned out their lockers going into the landfill. I decided to see if we could collect the used supplies and send them to Haiti."

The simple idea of collecting used school supplies — which he started with the help of the George, Iowa, Kiwanis club — soon spread to include 14 northwest Iowa Kiwanis clubs, and then to Sioux Falls, Yankton

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