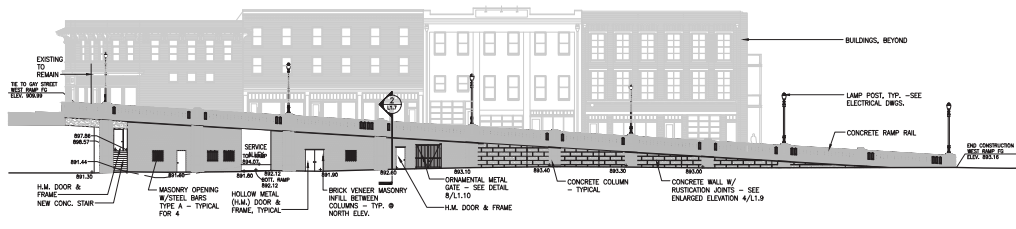
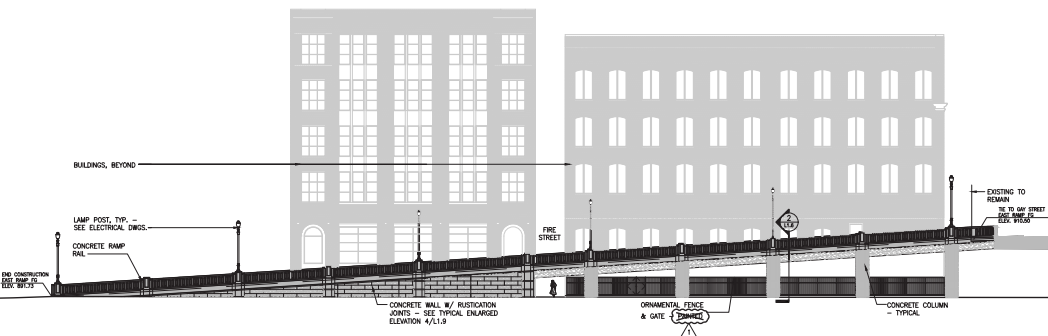


# Historic

## JACKSON AVENUE

## RAMPS REPLACEMENT PROJECT



In the coming weeks, a team led by Bell & Associates Construction will begin demolishing and replacing the Jackson Avenue ramps connecting to Gay Street – an \$8.2 million overall project, the largest single piece in a series of major upgrades in the area. The demolition and reconstruction portion of the work is \$6.5 million, and it is scheduled to be completed in one year (by fall 2020). Earlier costs included design work and right-of-way acquisition.

# PUBLIC MEETING

5:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 5, 2019, at Jackson Terminal, 213 W. Jackson Ave.

# JACKSON AVENUE FAQs

Here are some Frequently Asked Questions about the Jackson Avenue ramps replacement project.

## **What's happening, and why?**

During the demolition and construction, Jackson Avenue will be closed in the Old City near where Gay Street passes overhead. The 100-year-old ramps are structurally deficient. If not replaced, the ramps will continue to deteriorate.

The current plan is for the contractor to begin demolition on the west-side ramp. But soon afterward, crews will start taking down the east-side ramp. In order to finish the project as quickly as possible, work will be underway simultaneously on both ramps.

During the project, access will be maintained to area businesses and to the City's parking lot on West Jackson Avenue. But motorists wishing to park in the lot should turn onto West Jackson from Broadway. There will be no through traffic to the West Jackson lot from Central Street/East Jackson.

However, east-west pedestrian access through the construction zone will be maintained during the project.

To access Gay Street from Jackson, or vice versa, pedestrians should use a metal staircase at the southern end of the Gay Street Viaduct, across from the Emporium Center.

## **Aren't the Emporium and other buildings near Gay and Jackson physically connected to the ramps?**

Yes. That's why companies with expertise in replacement of bridges – notably, historic bridges – were required to do the work.

The demolition will be done slowly and carefully. Literally, a piece of hydraulic equipment will be used to saw apart the bridge from the sides of the buildings.

That's the first step in the demolition. Don't expect any dramatic implosions at any point: Because of the close proximity to neighboring buildings, the old ramps will be taken down piece by piece.

## **When will the work be done? Will there be noise and dust?**

Normal work hours will be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. If work is to be done on a weekend, City officials will coordinate around scheduled events in the neighborhood as much as possible. Look for notifications on the City Blog: [www.knoxvilletn.gov/cityblog](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/cityblog).

Both the City and the project contract crews recognize that the Old City and surrounding area is both a popular entertainment and dining destination, as well as home to hundreds of residents. Containing noise within designated hours and limiting dust are priorities. The specialized equipment being used, along with routine spraying down with water of the work site, is expected to control dust as much as possible.

## **Will this Jackson Avenue ramps replacement overlap with the state's plans to rebuild the nearby Broadway Viaduct over the rail lines?**

Yes. The Tennessee Department of Transportation is planning to tear down and rebuild the bridge spanning the tracks - a \$30 million-plus project. That work may begin later this year. A map of recommended detour routes for through traffic on Broadway is available.

## **What about the historic bricks in the Jackson Avenue ramps?**

Yes - the bricks will be reused for the replacement ramps.

# JACKSON AVENUE SCHEDULE

**August 2019** Contractor administrative work prior to construction

**September 2019** KUB electric work begins

**October 2019** Demolition and construction begins on West and East ramps

**Summer 2020** Landscape and lighting installation begins

**Fall 2020** Work scheduled to be complete

**For more details: Visit  
[www.knoxvilletn.gov/JacksonAvenue](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/JacksonAvenue)**