Welcome to the fourth edition of the Mobile TIGER Grant Broad Street Improvement Project’s RECONNECTING newsletter. In this issue, you will find news on what is happening now and what is coming next, as well as information on pavement layers.

At Lyons Street, water, sanitary sewer, and gas lines were relocated.

The roadbed along the southbound lanes from State Street to Lawrence Street has been built up through the base course and prepared for asphalt.

Sidewalks and curbs are almost complete in the area. Why are sidewalks necessary? Look for an article in the next edition of the newsletter.
WHAT TO EXPECT

Asphalt buildup along the southbound lanes from State Street to Lawrence Street is almost complete. Workers will add the final surface near the end of the project.

To allow workers to continue with utility line installation, drivers will notice a new traffic pattern. Southbound traffic will remain in the outside southbound lane, while northbound traffic will move to the inside lane of the southbound side between Lawrence and St. Anthony streets.

Areas north and south of State Street will notice a lot of work being done. Crews will be relocating water, sanitary sewer, gas, and power south of State Street. Meanwhile contractors will remove the existing concrete road and curb north of State Street to prepare the area for the new road.

PHOTO GALLERY

PAVEMENT LAYERS EXPLAINED

Throughout the project, crews have been tearing up roadway and putting down new roadway in its place. Have you ever wondered why roads must be torn up so much?

Asphalt pavement may look like a solid slab of black material that makes up our roads, but upon closer inspection, it isn’t as simple. There are four layers that make up a roadway. Each layer is needed to meet special requirements and be considered a solid roadway.

The bottom layer is made up of a clean, compacted subgrade material such as clay or similar materials. Once that layer is compacted, the crews place the second layer, the base course, of rock and lime, or other suitable material.

On top of that is the first layer of asphalt, which is called the structure course. This is a mixture of aggregate and a tar-like substance called bitumen. Lastly, crews place the friction course or the riding surface. This layer has a skid-resistant textured design to allow water to drain from the road, helping to reduce water pooling on the roadway.

So, the next time you’re driving on Broad Street, take a moment to think of all the layers your car is driving on and how they are designed to provide a safe and durable riding surface.