

Traffic headaches to last until November

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WAYNESBURG - Some of the road construction that has snarled traffic through the borough will be finished soon, but motorists will have to contend with tie-ups on High Street until November.

That's when crews are expected to finish the streetscape project through the borough's main thoroughfare.

The main contractor, SET Inc., completed the Washington Street portion of the project a few weeks ago. Workers have since moved to High Street, where they have demolished sidewalks on the southern portion of the road, on a three-block section from Cumberland to Washington streets.

"It's a headache, and it's going to be a headache for a while," Mayor Blair Zimmerman said during a brief council meeting Monday. "But, if you look at Washington Street, you'll see how beautiful it's going to be. It will be worth it."

Under the project, sidewalks are being revamped and new streetlights and trees will be added to make the borough's downtown a more attractive place to shop. The borough received a \$1.6 million federal grant to help pay for it, but up to \$200,000 of the borough's money will be used to pay for cost overruns and engineering fees.

Project managers have been able to maintain two lanes through the construction zone because crews will work on one side of High Street at a time. However, traffic is slowed and parking is prohibited through the area.

Two other construction projects also caused drivers problems this summer, but at least one of them should be over soon. Workers are nearly finished replacing Southwestern Pennsylvania Water Authority's line on Morgan Street.

Work also is progressing on a state Department of Transportation project to install hundreds of handicapped accessible curb cuts on Morris, Richhill, Greene and High streets.

"It's progress, and progress isn't always pleasant," Zimmerman said. Copyright Observer Publishing Co.