

Joe Orr extension in works

By Mike Nolan | April 9, 2015

An extension of Joe Orr Road east of Torrence Avenue to Burnham Avenue in Lynwood is among the road projects planned by the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways.

It's the second phase of a project to rebuild, realign and extend Joe Orr through Chicago Heights and Lynwood.

The county plans to spend \$38 million this year on projects in 28 communities, including Glenwood, Harvey, Homewood, Palos Hills and Tinley Park, according to a news release.

The one-mile extension of Joe Orr Road east to Burnham follows the reconstruction and realignment of a two-mile section, completed in the fall of 2012, of Joe Orr from Stony Island Avenue to Torrence. Part of that earlier work involved moving the intersection of Joe Orr and Torrence south of its original location to better align Joe Orr for the planned extension through to Burnham.

Another major project planned by the county this year, which has already gotten under way, is the reconstruction of Center Street between 159th and 171st streets in Harvey. The work will add lanes and also relieve chronic flooding along Center, which is a major truck route and the entrance to Canadian National Railway's Gateway intermodal terminal.

Other street repair and resurfacing projects are planned along Kedzie Avenue, from 175th to 183rd streets in Hazel Crest and Homewood, 103rd and 107th streets from 88th Avenue to Kean Avenue in Palos Hills, and Sauk Trail from Cicero Avenue to Governors Highway in Richton Park.

The county said it will also make bridge repairs where Cottage Grove Avenue passes over North Creek in Glenwood, on Roberts Road where it crosses Stony Creek in Palos Hills, and to Ridgeland Avenue at Interstate 80 in Tinley Park.

Separately, the Illinois Department of Transportation said that, weather permitting, work will start April 15 on a traffic signal modernization project at Illinois Route 394 and Richton Road in Crete. Installation of new signals will mean temporary shoulder closures at the intersection and work is expected to be completed sometime this summer.