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# CITY OF BIDDEFORD, MAINE

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## **Lincoln Street Redevelopment to Include Construction in Downtown**

**BIDDEFORD** — Residents are warned to anticipate street closures and traffic pattern changes in Biddeford’s downtown as the City undertakes a major construction project this fall. The work, which is expected to begin the week of August 20, will improve Lincoln Street in preparation for the upcoming Lincoln Mill redevelopment project.

The extensive construction project includes removing the old street pavement, raising the elevation of the road, and completely repaving the street. Additionally, new granite curbing and sidewalks will be installed along both sides of the street, as well as additional underground utility conduits, new sewer piping, and LED street lighting. While some parts of the project can be completed with minimal disruptions to travel in the downtown, the repaving portion of the project will lead to road closures.

“Part of the street will have to be closed from Main Street to Pearl Street during the repaving process,” explained Tom Milligan, Biddeford’s engineer, “but people will still be able to get onto the street by driving up Lincoln from Elm Street. We’ll have plenty of signs up to make sure that these detours are clear.”

Drivers should expect delays and slower traffic speeds on the street throughout the construction and seek alternate routes when possible. However, businesses in the area will remain open even when access to the street is limited.

The project is the Phase II portion of the Lincoln Street Reconstruction Project, taking place between Main Street and Pearl Street. Phase I work included removal of the old sidewalk on the easterly side of the street, rehabilitating portions of the existing granite wall, and installing underground utility conduit and facilities under the sidewalk in preparation for placing utilities underground.

Updates to Lincoln Street were required as part of the Joint Development Agreement between the City of Biddeford and LHL Holdings, LLC, the corporation that will be redeveloping the Lincoln Mill. LHL Holdings, LLC is expected to invest over \$40 million into the currently unused structure.

The first phase of the Lincoln Hotel and Lofts redevelopment project will convert the old textile mill building into 181 housing units with a meeting space, a restaurant, a fitness center, a New York City-style lobby and a rooftop pool. When completed, the project will be a great addition to the other mill conversion projects such as the Pepperell Mill Campus, The Lofts at Saco Falls, The Mill at Saco Falls, and Riverdam Mill.

“With this kind of major project coming into the downtown, these improvements became a necessity,” City Manager James Bennett said. “We can’t have this \$40 million revitalization project come into our community without the proper infrastructure in place to support it.”

Work on Lincoln Street is expected to continue through mid-November, but the date of completion is flexible based on weather and other factors. Construction updates will be posted on [www.biddefordmaine.org](http://www.biddefordmaine.org) as they are made available.

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