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Fifth Street extension project into Civic Center Plaza starting next week

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By JARREL WADE World Staff Writer | 3 comments

The broken fountain in downtown's Civic Center Plaza isn't long for this world.

Work is scheduled to begin next week on a Fifth Street extension project that will bring the roadway from Denver Avenue into the plaza with a circular drive, eliminating the fountain that has long stood in disrepair.

"It's going to be a good-looking roadway and area," said Paul Zachary, director of the city's engineering services department. "It will be pedestrian-friendly and easy for drivers. It's going to dress it up."

The roadway extension is just the first phase of the entire project, which city officials hope to fund in the future for added aesthetic improvements to the plaza and additional street access.

But the first phase, which is scheduled for a 9:30 a.m. groundbreaking Wednesday by local leaders, is all about the road and adding support to the infrastructure.

"The part that no one is really going to get to see is the structural work we're going to be doing down below," Zachary said.

The plaza is at ground level, but is actually held up by supports over a parking area.

"It's really more a bridge job than a road job," Zachary said.

The first phase of the project will add the roadway, supporting infrastructure and repairs to several stairways that connect the multilevel structure, Zachary said.

The estimated cost of the project is about \$5.5 million, with the city paying for the bulk of the project through surplus 2008 Fix Our Streets money. About a fifth of the project will be paid through agreements with Tulsa County, the Tulsa City-County Library and the Aloft Tulsa

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Downtown hotel, [as previously reported](#).

According to a news release, the project will also provide access for traffic and emergency vehicles to the Tulsa County Courthouse, Tulsa Central Library and the Aloft hotel, which have had less-direct access.

Construction is scheduled to begin Monday, and city officials hope to have the road opened and project completed to coincide with the reopening of Central Library in June.

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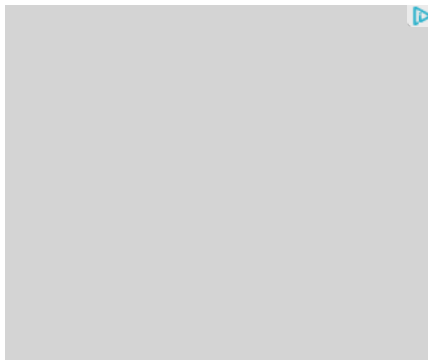
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