

Good afternoon residents, Mayor Cannon here, and it's time for the weekly City update.

In this week's address, we will discuss the following:

Willowcreek road lane striping, Crisman Road construction, Central Avenue East, Fallen Timbers and we will also discuss a budget committee meeting that took place this past week here at City Hall.

Willowcreek Road has been, needless to say, a lengthy project. When it came to the striping of traffic lanes and turning lanes there was an unforeseen complication. The INDOR approved painting crew, a team specifically for lane striping, had a malfunction with one of their trucks that was to be used in our project.

Once fixed, they had several area projects that were also waiting, ahead of Willowcreek Road. The crew was working promptly to expedite this process and have now completed most striping Willowcreek Road.

Truly, Willowcreek Road is one of Portage's most traveled streets in the City. The painting of these lines was a project that not only was needed for our newly paved gateway but added yet another piece of "beautification" to this corridor.

You will still continue to see some traffic crews working on the finishing touches of Willowcreek Road. As in the past, I want to ask for the continued patience of each resident. Thank you.

Now some real straight talk. After spending millions of dollars to beautify our downtown district, Crosswalks were painted with specialized road paint tinted red. The application of specialized road paint was not applied correctly. We take full responsibility for this, and the crosswalks in our downtown district will be corrected.

And just for information sake, the crosswalks on Willowcreek from Central to Lute have a 3 year application warranty.

The Crisman Road project, currently underway, from Route 20 South to Old Porter Road is moving forward well. Crews again have been working consistently to alleviate the stresses of traffic when it comes to new infrastructure projects like this. The project is set in place to have those traveling from North of Route 20 into Portage, and those who live here, to experience a new "Welcome to Portage" gateway. What does this mean? In short, an upscale, updated and beautiful area of landscaping, infrastructure and development that will welcome both residents into their City, and visitors into our community.

Central Avenue East is also continuing with great advancements. If you haven't seen the new curb placement, asphalt and sidewalks, I encourage you to take a look! The intersection at Hamstrom and Central Avenue is also starting to really come together. Traffic was recently switched from the East side of Hamstrom to the West and should be completed soon.

Fallen Timbers is advancing extremely fast now. Without hesitancy, I am confident that this project will be over prior to November- weather permitting. Resident's, I know you

have been displaced long enough, and I know you have been patient enough; however, I want to continue to ask that you remain patient throughout the finishing touches of this reconstruction. Thank you.

The Budget Committee, made up of 3 council members, met this past Friday here at City Hall. The goal of this committee, as in its name, is to build, maintain, and ensure that the budget set for Portage is both feasible, and maintainable. The budget for the City of Portage is required to be sent to the State by November 1st. As I have said in the past the budget process is broken. Our 2020 budget process has not been different. Cooperation with the mayors office, clerk treasurers office and budget committee has been rocky to say the least. Revenue estimates for 2020 are unpredictable due to state tax caps. As with 2019 budget, property tax caps reduced our state property tax collection by 2 million dollars. I continue to push for the committee to find areas that can either be diminished or cut from the budget. In doing so, this allows for the City to flourish; or rather be well maintained financially.

Whether dealing with budget constraints, job creation or our infrastructure, I continue to work hard every day to ensure that Portage is remaining on the right track.

As in week's past, I continue to leave you with a closing message. This week, an inspiring quote from Brian Tracy, a public speaker. "Make your life a masterpiece; imagine no limitations on what you can be, have or do."

Thanks for tuning in this week. Take care and God bless.