

## **Council to determine charges property owners will face for improvements done in road project**

A preliminary resolution calling for special assessments to cover a portion of the cost of new sidewalks, curbs and gutters for the Highway 33 project was to be considered by the Port Washington Common Council Wednesday night.

The preliminary assessments, which cover work on highway 33 and LL, as well as Freeman Drive, range from \$196 for a residential lot to \$27,600 for the Aurora Advanced Healthcare property, according to the resolution.

Ozaukee County would also be assessed \$65,600 for work along its land fronting Highway LL, according to the resolution.

The assessments total \$295,000.

Before the assessments become final, a public hearing will be held. Property owners would be notified both of the meeting and the assessment charges and terms.

Property owners are typically given five years to pay the assessments.

A number of assessments are for land in the Town of Port Washington. The city traditionally holds such assessments until these properties are annexed into the city.

Construction crews recently removed the Highway LL embankment on the south side of Highway 33 and are continuing to work on a stormwater detention pond in that area, Port Public Works Director Rob Vanden Noven said.

The embankment on the north side will be removed "very soon," he said.

Crews will begin installing curbs between Northwoods Road and Sweetwater Drive on Thursday, Aug. 25, he said, noting storm sewers have already been installed in that area.

All of the storm sewer work is expected to be completed by mid September, Vanden Noven said.

The \$12 million Highway 33 project, which extends from Tower Drive in Port Washington west to an area east of Highway W in Saukville, involves replacing the two-lane road with a four-lane divided highway, complete with turn lanes, curb and gutter, sidewalks, bike lanes, landscaping and new lighting.

The Highway LL overpass will be replaced by a roundabout, one of three traffic circles included in the project. The others are in Saukville at Northwoods Road and Market Street.

## **Port's Hwy. 33 assessments total \$295,000**

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While the bulk of the work will be done this year, several parts of the project, including rebuilding the road between Portview and Tower drives in Port Washington, won't be completed until spring 2012.

Officials said recently that work on the project is four to six weeks behind the contractor's schedule, adding they are looking at their options to get the project back on schedule.

A priority for the state is opening Highway LL and the roundabouts by the end of the year, Vanden Noven told the Common Council recently.

"It is a near certainty that traffic over winter will be over the newly constructed eastbound lanes," he said, adding the westbound lanes probably won't be completed until next year.