

Around Town

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By Billy Ray McKelvy

De Queen Mayor

The project to widen Hwy. 70 through De Queen is headed into the home stretch.

Official completion date for the project is still October 30, 2007. No extension has been granted for the project, although it may be requested before the project is complete.

Motorists will notice some big changes on the east end of the construction project this week. The west entrance to Wal-Mart will be closed and the stoplight at the intersection will be removed. Another stoplight will be installed but it will be several weeks before it will be in operation. Until then, traffic on U.S. Hwy. 70 will have the right of way.

Meanwhile traffic to the store will be switched to the east entrance. Delivery trucks may hold up traffic while they cross the new, higher highway surface.

In addition to building the new road, contractors will be relocating a sewer line that runs in the area of the west entrance.

Motorists should use caution while work is underway in this area.

The project has been completed west of the railroad overpass, which gives a hint of what the finished project will be like.

According to the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, the new five-lane highway should handle De Queen's traffic needs for the next 25 years.