

# Day, Raymond street improvements slated for October completion

By Robert Koch 6:21 pm EDT, Thursday, July 12, 2018



Photo: Alex Von Kleydorff / Hearst Connecticut Media

Construction continues at the intersection of Raymond and Day St. at the Washington Village complex on Tuesday July 10, 2018 in Norwalk Conn.

**NORWALK** — The intersection of Day and Raymond streets stands 6 feet higher than it did a year ago. New sidewalks and underground conduits to carry electric, telecommunications and other utility lines are largely in place.

The roughly \$8 million infrastructure improvement project — related to the nearby reconstruction of Washington Village — began last October and is moving toward completion this October, according to Drew Berndlmaier,

senior civil engineer in the Norwalk Department of Public Works.

“The light’s at the end of the tunnel,” Berndlmaier said. “We still have some underground work to do, but we have a good idea of what’s underground. We don’t expect any surprises that might impact our ability to finish. We anticipate the end of October for completion and opening of the roads.”

Construction manager O&G Industries is spearheading the project with help from site contractor K&W Construction, various subcontractors and utility companies such as Frontier Communications, according to Berndlmaier. He described installation of underground conduits to carry the utilities as the most difficult part of the project.

“Once the underground work is all finished, the surface goes much, much quicker,” Berndlmaier said.

The infrastructure improvement project is intended to relocate above-ground utilities underground to protect them from storms and to raise the intersection of Day and Raymond streets to provide safe egress in an area that floods easily.

“It was meant to sustain a certain elevation to go from these developments across the intersection,” Berndlmaier said. “Even Ryan Park, which is also under construction — they have a ridge being built along here to sustain that higher elevation.”

Washington Village, a public-housing complex between Day and Water streets and now largely vacant amid reconstruction, had flooded frequently, including during Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

The infrastructure improvement project, which Berndlmaier said is being paid for with state grants and Norwalk Redevelopment Agency funds, is occurring amid major residential development.

The Norwalk Housing Authority, developer Trinity Financial and contractor

Dimeo Construction Co. are moving toward completion of the first two phases of the Washington Village Transformation Plan. The project will raze Washington Village and its 136 apartments and build 273 apartments in five new buildings with a mixture of workforce, public-housing and market-rate apartments.

As part of phase one, a new 10-unit building has opened at 13 Day St. with a conditional certificate of occupancy pending completion of the nearby road and infrastructure work. A new 70-unit building is nearing completion at 20 Day St., according to Norwalk Chief Building Official Bill Ireland.

The rebuilding of Ryan Park, also underway, is part of the Washington Village reconstruction.

Maritime Village, a new 57-unit residential building developed by Spinnaker Real Estate Partners, is complete and effectively full. Spinnaker paid for some of the new sidewalks. That development has a conditional certificate of occupancy pending completion of the nearby road and infrastructure work, according to Ireland.