

Old Town main drag re-opened to traffic

By Paul Burgarino

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Christmas came a week early for residents and merchants in Pittsburg's downtown.

This afternoon, Railroad Avenue between Fifth and Seventh streets was reopened to through traffic.

City Manager Marc Grisham said that people have told him they're really happy the road reopened and that they've been waiting an "awful long time."

The much-anticipated Railroad Avenue streetscape project was originally to be completed by this summer, but complications because sewer lines and power utilities beneath the street were older and in worse condition than anticipated, caused unforeseen replacement work and delays, said Joe Sbranti, assistant city manager for development services. Line breaks also delayed work while repairs were performed, he said.

Having Railroad reopened "gives better access for everyone and at the same time gives people a chance to drive through and get a better sense of what (Old Town Pittsburg) will be like when completed," Grisham said.

Work on the roughly \$10.5 million Railroad streetscape is not complete. Early next year, "less essential" details of street benches, planters and decorative brick on sidewalks, ornamental streetlights and raised crosswalks will be added, Sbranti said. Palm trees will be planted in the spring.

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