

Sudbury's town center construction extended through fall

By Brittney McNamara/Daily News Staff

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SUDBURY – The construction snarling traffic in town center is now set to continue into the fall, Director of Public Works William Place said.

Earlier this week, Sudbury announced the town center reconstruction project - slated to end this month - has been delayed, extending the projected end date to Nov. 1. Place said unexpected utility lines underground and a long winter set back the project timetable.

Crews started work last fall rebuilding the intersection at Rte. 27 and Concord Road to improve traffic flow and make the intersection safer. Delays early on caused work to run into the cold months, when Place said crews had to stop working for longer than they had expected.

“That winter really put us off by two months,” Place said. “We got a late start. It did that to everybody in the construction industry.”

Once work resumed, crews found buried utility lines that they did not expect to run into. Because the intersection is old, sometimes plans outlining underground utilities are off, Place said..

When crews encountered an unexpected line, Place said they then had to confirm what company the wires belonged to and get representatives to say whether the lines were active. Getting the various companies out to the work site, he said, pushed back the project even further.

“We found stuff that wasn’t supposed to be there,” he said. “It takes time for verification, for companies to come out and say (yes or no), it’s live.”

Place said town officials decided to push the end date back last week when they reassessed the progress. They agreed Nov. 1 seemed realistic, Place said, though paving may not be done until next spring. Place said the major work would be done and crews would be gone, but cosmetic additions may have to wait for warmer weather.

A big incentive to wrap work up this fall, Place said, is the start of school. Place said traffic at the intersection tends to back up more than usual. To alleviate that burden at least a little, Place said crews will likely push their start time back to 9 a.m. from the current 7 a.m. so they aren't working while students are rushing to class.

While the project continues past the original August end date, Place said the contractors are doing what they can to wrap up.

"We're doing the best we can under the circumstances," he said.

Brittney McNamara can be reached at 508-490-7463 or by email at bmcnamara@wickedlocal.com. Follow her on Twitter at [@bmcnamara_MW](https://twitter.com/bmcnamara_MW).

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