

Buckled road set to be 'redone'



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BRYAN TUCK/THE ADVOCATE

A section of Chemin Metairie Parkway in Youngsville remains closed after its surface began to deteriorate recently.

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YOUNGSVILLE — Contractors are preparing to rip up the asphalt on all 3 miles of the new Chemin Metairie Parkway extension in Youngsville after a portion of the road began buckling only a few months after it opened.

The \$10 million road opened in November, but the city closed about a 2,000-foot section in June when the asphalt began buckling and breaking apart.

At a meeting this week, the road contractor, Glenn Lege Construction, and engineering firm, C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, agreed to replace the top layer of asphalt on the entire road and conduct further testing to see if more extensive repairs are needed, Youngsville City CEO Rick Garner said Friday.

Garner said the contractor will first replace the section of road that has been closed because of the buckling.

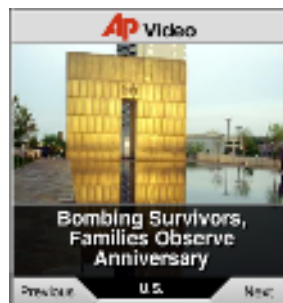
"It's a hazard right now to drive on," he said.

The remainder of the road has yet to have problems, but Garner said it could be only a matter of time.

"It's the same material that is on the rest of the road, so it is obviously suspect," he said.

Garner said that while the top layer of asphalt is being removed, the engineering firm plans to conduct testing to determine if there are problems in the base layer of the road.

"Based on what they find, they will make a decision on whether that will need to be removed," he said.



Still uncertain is what caused the road to fail.

The problem has been linked to moisture that affected how the top layer of asphalt adheres to the road's base layer, Garner said.

"The contention is how the moisture got there," he said.

Garner said no timeline has been set as to when the closed section of road will reopen or how road closures will be handled while the remainder of the road is being repaired.

The road opened in November and runs about 3 miles, beginning near the new Rouse's Market at La. 92 west of Youngsville and then traveling south of the city to La. 89.

The next planned phase of Chemin Metairie will stretch from La. 89 to U.S. 90.

The road is expected to relieve congestion in the quickly growing Youngsville area.

Garner had no estimates for how much it will cost to repair the road but said the city will not pay for the work.

"We have already paid for the road," he said.