

## **Mayor: South Muncie gateway work starts soon** 3/31/14



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The new South Muncie gateway, including a roundabout, will be installed at the intersection of Madison and Walnut Streets, with working starting in April. / Kurt Hostetler/The Star Press



Written by

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**MUNCIE** — The long-awaited south Muncie gateway project won't be awaited much longer.

Work on the nearly \$2 million project will begin April 7, Mayor Dennis Tyler told The Star Press.

The project, which is paid for in part with federal funds, will include a roundabout at Walnut and Madison [streets](#), a sidewalk, ornamental street lights, a rain garden and bioswales, which help manage water runoff.

The project stretches north from the planned roundabout to Madison Street's intersection with 28th Street.

“All the work is projected to be completed by the end of the year,” Tyler said in an announcement.

The southside gateway project has been in the planning stages for several years. Since he came into [office](#) in January 2012, Tyler has cited it as a needed boost to the south side.

A southside resident and booster said Saturday she was glad to hear the project was about to begin.

“That’s great,” said Joyce Bates, a member of the South Muncie Community Development Corporation. “We’ve waited so long and gone through so many different things trying to get this.”

The South Muncie group, which meets each month in a church meeting room near the site of the proposed roundabout, keeps tabs on the project as well as southside development. Bates said they had heard the mayor wanted to meet with the group soon.

“That could have something to do with it,” she said.

According to details released by Tyler, a decorative “Muncie” stone sign already at the intersection will be used in the roundabout, as will flagpoles.

The contractor on the project, E&B Paving, will complete the project in several phases with traffic limitations and lane restrictions.

A section of Walnut near the intersection will be closed for about two and a half months beginning “almost immediately,” Tyler said. Following that, Madison and Walnut in the vicinity of the intersection will be closed for about three and a half months.

“Local traffic and businesses will be accommodated during construction,” Tyler said.