



(May 22, 2009) North Water Avenue between Franklin Street and Main Street re-opened today featuring many of elements of the new face of downtown. Vehicular traffic may now travel straight through downtown from Broadway/Hwy 31 to South Water and beyond.

"We are incredibly excited to have this section of North Water open again, both to show off part of our new downtown and to relieve some of the frustration businesses and customers have experienced with the construction," said Mayor Jo Ann Graves. "This is yet another milestone in the progress of the Downtown Streetscape project and we appreciate everyone's patience and anticipation."

The road has yet to receive a final topping of asphalt, so it may appear unfinished or rough in places, particularly while crossing the concrete intersection at Public Square and North Water. The final topping of asphalt and permanent striping will be done at the end of the project when all the heavy equipment related to the project is no longer moving through the various parts of the streetscape. Landscaping will also be added toward the end of the entire project.

"We uncovered many unknowns in this section of the streetscape," Mayor Graves explained. "Given that Gallatin is more than 200 years old, there were water lines, utilities and other sub-surface issues we did not know about until we removed the old road. The good part of the process is that we now have new infrastructure that should take us well into our next century."

Streetscape work continues on Public Square around the Courthouse. That area will include new concrete and brick sidewalks with landscape islands, a new concrete roadway and performance plaza area. That section of streetscape is anticipated to be complete by the end of June or early July.

For updates and progress photos of the work, please visit the City's website at www.gallatinonthemove.com and click on the "Downtown" link found on the menu bar.

###