



Irving Heritage Crossing Project Continues Progress

As the city prepares to welcome Burger King, National Insurance Centers and other new businesses to Irving Boulevard, demolition crews are busy readying Heritage Crossing for restoration, renewal and revitalization. By summer, two old transmission shops, a funeral home and a vacant building located in downtown will have joined the annals of Irving history.

Current Activity

Like the McDonald's, which opened last year, the Burger King restaurant will be larger than most on the food chain. The all-new 3,700-square-foot restaurant will be located at 200 W. Irving Blvd., the former home of Arby's.

In alignment with the city's Heritage Crossing Design Guidelines, this Burger King will be a stone and stucco structure positioned close to the boulevard with outdoor seating, landscaping, lighting and other streetscape amenities designed to encourage pedestrian activity along the boulevard. Nearly 50 individuals will be employed by the restaurant, which is scheduled to have its grand opening this May.

By March, the old Greyhound building at the corner of Irving Boulevard and Nursery Road will be totally renovated to become the home to National Insurance Centers. The existing concrete block building will be clad with a new stone facing featuring cast stone coping, ceramic tile inserts, wall sconce lighting and a new canopy. The site will be enhanced with new paving, steps and landscaping to improve the overall streetscape experience.

"We're seeing a renewed interest from investors, businesses and developers in Irving's downtown area," said Irving Boulevard Redevelopment Program Director Kevin Kass. "Burger King and National Insurance Centers are just two of many businesses that understand the potential of this area."

Business Recruitment

Kass is part of the Heritage Crossing Team, which is led by Community Services Director Paul Gooch and includes Development Officer Doug Janeway. Joining this leadership team is Management Operations Director Teresa Adrian, who will assist with new business recruitment.

Resident Input

The Heritage Crossing Communications Committee, appointed by Mayor Herbert A. Gears, provides community oversight of the redevelopment initiative and communicates updates to residents and businesses.

Meetings are generally held at 6 p.m. the second Monday of each month at the Community Building at the Chamber of Commerce Information Center, 135 S. Jefferson St. At the next meeting on Feb. 7, city staff will present strategies that address downtown parking and streetscaping needs along with a proposal to enhance storefronts along Main Street.

Residents can expect to hear about a town hall meeting scheduled to take place early spring. For more information, visit www.cityofirving.org or call (972) 721-2590.