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Truman Parkway Construction Temporarily Halted After Gas Line Ruptures

By Tuquyen Mach



Construction on the long-awaited completion of the Truman Parkway has stopped as state officials investigate how workers managed to hit gas lines not once, but twice last week.

A spokeswoman for the Georgia Department of Transportation said construction will resume after the department meets with the contractor and Atlanta Gas Light. Jill Nagel with GDOT said they wanted to make sure construction can safely resume.

The issues started on Tuesday, when construction crews working on the project ruptured a gas line. Traffic on White Bluff Road had to be rerouted for a few hours and some apartments in nearby Clover Village and Vernon Marsh were evacuated as a precaution. The next day, crews in a different area also ruptured a gas line and forced a second closure of White Bluff Road.

The contractor reportedly told Chatham County officials that the gas lines were not marked by Georgia 811, the service that marks utility lines, and that Atlanta Gas Light did not turn over their maps.

Georgia Public Service Commissioner Tim Echols tells News 3 utility companies don't normally turn over maps, and he said maps are typically not the best resource because utilities can shift over time.

Echols said an investigator has been assigned to look into the case, and they won't know who is at fault until after the investigation is complete.

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The state investigator is set to be in Savannah on Wednesday, Echols said.

According to GDOT, the contractor has called a meeting this week with the department, Atlanta Gas Light and city and county officials to discuss the issue.

Chatham County Commission Chairman Pete Liakakis said Monday the GDOT wants to make sure all parties involved have accurate information in order to safely resume work on the expansion.

Nagel said they do not expect this temporary halt to delay completion of the project, which is set for 2013.