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At cost of over \$4 million, massive repairs begin on the Walk of Fame

FROM CITY NEWS SERVICE

Repair work has begun on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, it was announced Thursday.

The first repairs — which started just after Labor Day — are taking place on the north side of Hollywood Boulevard, west of Highland Avenue, and west to an area in front of the Dolby Theatre.

The construction has been divided into three phases to minimize the impacts on surrounding retail businesses, the Metro station, and the community, according to the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

The first two phases will be completed before the end of the year, while the third phase will be delayed until next March in order to avoid conflict with the holiday season and the 2013 Academy Awards, officials said.

The first stages of construction will include complete removal and replacement of the more than

2,450 five-pointed terrazzo and brass stars embedded in the sidewalk.

The soil and structural section below the surface will be removed and replaced, and the historic aspects of the panels will be preserved and reused.

Sections of broken curbs also will be removed and replaced, the chamber announced.

As a result, DASH and Metro bus stops in the area will be temporarily relocated. The west-bound lane adjacent to the curb will be closed for the duration of the first two phases of the project, and then reopened until the third phase begins, when it will be closed again until final completion.

"This is just the beginning," said Jeff Briggs, who serves on the Hollywood Historic Trust board and who was chamber chair when the task force first began its efforts about six years ago.

Facelift on Walk of Fame

WALK OF FAME FROM PAGE 1

"Now that we have been able to commence work in this location, we can much more rapidly get to other portions of the Walk needing attention," he said. "This includes along Vine (Street) and virtually the entirety of the Walk."

The restoration was originally estimated to cost about \$4 million, but it was later determined that costs would exceed that amount, and it was decided to begin work at the locations with the worst damage and to address other areas as funding was raised, officials said.

Country stars Rascal Flatts are scheduled on Monday to receive the 2,480th star on the Walk of Fame.



PHOTO BY GARY MCCARTHY

The first stages of Walk of Fame construction will include complete removal and replacement of the more than 2,450 five-pointed terrazzo and brass stars embedded in the sidewalk.