

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Thomas Waterfront Groundbreaking Ceremonies Set For Tuesday

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ST. THOMAS -- Governor Kenneth Mapp has invited the community to learn more about what Government House described as "exciting upgrades" planned for the Charlotte Amalie Waterfront at a groundbreaking ceremony set for Tuesday.

The official groundbreaking for the Veterans Drive Improvement Project is set for 10 a.m. on the eastern end of the waterfront near the Lover's Lane intersection at William Hastie Park, Government House said in a Saturday release.

Mr. Mapp said the project, which has been on the books for over 30 years, will transform the waterfront for both residents and visitors, making it both more pedestrian friendly and

aesthetically pleasing.

Department of Public Works Commissioner Nelson Petty said the project will help to alleviate existing traffic congestion, provide future roadway capacity, improve safety for motorists and pedestrians, as well as help to better highlight important historical sites such as the Fort Christian Museum.

“This project received its first environmental approval in October of 1984,” Mr. Petty said. “Over the past 34 years there have been numerous revisions leading to the final approval last year.”

The Veterans Drive Improvement Project consists of the construction of two additional lanes along the existing Veterans Drive and the construction of a pedestrian promenade supported by a new concrete sea wall. The project also includes bastions at various locations along the promenade; landscaping both on the promenade and in the new median, as well as enhanced pedestrian lighting.

Mr. Petty said the first phase of the Veterans Drive Project begins near the Lucinda Millin intersection and ends just west of the Hospital Gade intersection (Fort Christian Parking Lot). He acknowledged that construction will mean some disruption and inconvenience to the traveling public.

“Please be patient as we work in this area,” Mr. Petty said. “I believe these tremendous improvements to our infrastructure and waterfront will truly be worth any temporary inconvenience.”