

Gateway for long-anticipated college campus is underway



Construction work officially kicked off this week on University Way — one of the major thoroughfares for a master-planned project called Verano.

The road will serve as the main boulevard off of Loop 410 South that feeds in to one of the major elements of Verano: The new Texas A&M University campus.

The start of construction on University Way marks a major step forward in the development of the long-awaited Texas A&M campus, says Paul Basaldua, director of business development for locally based civil construction firm Yantis Co. — which was awarded the contract to build the thoroughfare.

The road work, adds Basaldua, also heralds the start of the larger Verano community — which will encompass 2,700 acres of land along South Loop 410 bordered by Pleasanton Road and South Zarzamora Street.

As previously reported by the Business Journal, Verano is one of the latest projects for Austin-based town-planning firm Gateway Planning Group. Gateway President Scott Polikov, who spoke with the Business Journal this past summer about Verano, pointed out that the project will feature a mix of high- and low-density housing, a town center, commercial development, a sports complex and a retirement facility — as well as the university campus.

Polikov also noted in the previous story that Verano is proof that the City South initiative, which was approved by the City Council in 2002, “is getting legs.”