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## **MILLER CREEK PROJECT BEGINS THIS MONTH**

### **Public meeting set for March 25**

The City of Missoula's Miller Creek Road Improvement Project will begin in earnest by the end of this month, bringing better traffic flow and increased safety from the Miller Creek Y intersection to Briggs Street.

The public is invited to an informational meeting on the project on Thursday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m. at the Linda Vista Golf Course Clubhouse at 4915 Lower Miller Creek Road. Public Works Director Steve King, City Engineer Kevin Slovarp and representatives from contractor LS Jensen and project engineer WGM Group will present information about the scope, construction phasing, traffic control and schedule and will answer questions.

The project will add traffic capacity for the Miller Creek Area by doubling the road lanes from the Y intersection to Briggs with links to Brooks Street. It will also add bicycle lanes and shoulders on both sides of the roadway, along with landscaped boulevard sidewalks. The project will include a new roundabout intersection, which will be more efficient and safer than the current one-way stop.

"The project will greatly improve traffic capacity and public convenience for all modes of transportation," said Public Works Director Steve King.

The grade of the hill that approaches Upper Miller Creek will be reduced for increased safety for travelers going into the Y intersection. The roundabout intersection will receive new lighting, and new storm drains will improve road drainage.

This \$2.96 million project is being funded

- through cooperation with Missoula County, which created the Miller Creek Transportation Mitigation Fund for \$800,000,
- with \$340,000 from the Miller Creek McCarthy Fund,

- by past and future transportation impact fees paid as a condition of subdivision development by area developers Maloney Properties LLC and Twite Family Partnership, at \$1.2 million,
- with \$220,000 from the City of Missoula's Traffic Impact Fee Fund, recently authorized by the Missoula City Council, and
- with \$400,000 from the City Sewer Development Fee Fund.

The work is being accomplished with no Special Improvement District charges for property owners.

This project is part of \$5 million in improvements coming to the area, including future reconstruction of Upper Miller Creek Road, a Missoula County project, and sewer and water main work, a project of the area developers. Additionally, new curbs and sidewalks will be constructed from the Y intersection to Linda Vista Boulevard as part of these overall area improvements.

Utility relocation is underway. General contractor LS Jensen Construction and Paving expects to start earth work by the end of March. The project is expected to be completed this fall. Drivers can expect clearly marked road closures, detours and speed reduction zones. Detours will also affect Upper Miller Creek, Linda Vista Boulevard and Gharrett Street.

"It's a win-win," King said. "The neighborhood is growing and needs transportation improvements. And the current residents will benefit from the new road features also."

Also available for interviews:

Kevin Slovarp, City Engineer, 552-6345  
Lloyd Twite, Twite Family Partnership, 240-2581 (interviews only, not for public distribution)

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