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MILLER CREEK ROUNDABOUT GRAND OPENING SET FOR NOVEMBER 4

The City and County of Missoula invite news reporters and the public to help celebrate the new Miller Creek roundabout with a ribbon-cutting on Thursday, Nov. 4, at 12:30 p.m.

The recently completed reconstruction of portions of Miller Creek Road and Upper and Lower Miller Creek roads is bringing better traffic flow and increased safety from the old Miller Creek Y intersection to Briggs Street. It added traffic capacity by doubling the northbound travel lanes on Miller Creek Road, with links to Brooks Street. It also added bicycle lanes on both sides of the roadways, along with landscaped boulevard sidewalks. The new roundabout at the intersection of Lower and Upper Miller Creek Roads replaced the one-way stop for greater efficiency and safety. The reduced grade of the hill that begins Upper Miller Creek also increased safety for travelers by making it easier to slow down and come to a stop as needed. The roundabout also has new lighting, and the streets have new storm drains that improve road drainage.

“This locally funded project will improve access and utility services to this growing neighborhood for years to come,” said Public Works Director Steve King. “We appreciate the partnership with Missoula County and area residents and developers to accomplish these enhancements.”

This \$2.96 million project was funded

- through cooperation with Missoula County, which created the Miller Creek Transportation Mitigation Fund (\$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, authorized by the Missoula City Council, and
- with \$400,000 from the City Sewer Development Fee Fund.

The work was accomplished with no Special Improvement District charges or assessments for property owners.

The project was possible because of forward-thinking decision makers in our community, said Missoula County Commissioner Jean Curtiss. When the agricultural land in the Linda Vista/Miller Creek area began to develop as a residential neighborhood, County officials recognized this growth would have a negative impact on the main route out of the valley, especially the intersection where Upper and Lower Miller Creek meet and at the intersection with Highway 93. The County collected mitigation fees from each new subdivision lot approved in the area and segregated that money to be used for transportation improvements in the future.

“We appreciate the involvement of area residents in the discussion and design of this road improvement,” Curtiss said. “The result is a reflection of what can happen when the citizens, the City and the County look for solutions together. This multi-modal project will improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers.”

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 area developers. Additionally, new curbs and sidewalks will be constructed on the south side of Lower Miller Creek Road from the roundabout intersection to Linda Vista Boulevard as part of these overall area improvements.

The general contractor on the project was LS Jensen Construction and Paving. The engineering firm hired for design and construction services was WGM Group.

Speakers at Thursday’s event will include Mayor John Engen and County Commissioner Jean Curtiss. Parking will be available in the area east of the roundabout.

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Also available for interviews:

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