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PROSPECT BRIDGE WORK TO BEGIN WEDNESDAY Short Detours Set for Local Traffic

A City of Missoula contractor will begin work Wednesday, Nov. 7, on the bridge over Grant Creek on Prospect Drive. Vehicle and pedestrian traffic will be routed from Old Quarry Road through the Elk Foundation parking lot to Stone Ridge during construction, which is tentatively scheduled to wrap up Nov. 21. Speed restrictions will be strictly enforced on this detour, and violators will face double fines to ensure safety.

High spring runoff in 2011 compromised the eastern abutment of the bridge, where traffic approaches, by washing away protective rock fill, or riprap. The bridge itself was unharmed, and additional temporary riprap has protected the approach since; however, a permanent repair is necessary to prevent further damage.

Missoula County has worked to obtain three permits necessary for the work – a County floodplain permit, a US Army Corps of Engineers permit and a Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks permit – and they were granted in October.

“We want to do the work when the water is low,” said City Engineer Kevin Slovarp, “and have the repairs in place for next spring’s runoff.”

The \$64,745 project involves removal of the old approach, roadway and riprap, followed by installation of a new concrete wall on the east side of the creek to protect the foundation of the abutment. Once the concrete is cured, the approach will be reconstructed and new pavement and sidewalks installed.

DJ&A Consulting Engineers designed the project, and Western Excavating is the contractor.

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