



NEWS ADVISORY

Sept. 3, 2013

For immediate release

NEW ROUNDABOUT COMING TO TOOLE/SCOTT/SPRUCE Construction Starts Sept. 3; Watch for Detours

The intersection of Toole Avenue, Scott Street and West Spruce Street is undergoing a makeover. The all-new Toole/Scott/Spruce Urban Mini-Roundabout will debut in four to six weeks.

Construction begins Tuesday, Sept 3. Detours will take traffic around the intersection on Cooper and Pine streets.

The roundabout aims to solve two problems: general traffic congestion and southbound Scott Street traffic experiencing long waits to turn left at peak hours. Spruce Street-Toole Avenue is a significant east-west route, and Scott Street is a significant north-south collector street. The City's Engineering staff looked at traffic patterns and considered requests for a traffic signal before settling on the roundabout as the solution.

Roundabouts move traffic more freely than signals do. They also eliminate stopped, idling cars, thus saving fuel and decreasing pollutants. And they promote slightly fewer and much less intense traffic accidents.

An urban mini-roundabout is a design that fits a smaller space. It features a center island that is raised as a deflection for lighter vehicles but allows trucks and buses to drive onto it if needed to make the curve. This project will also feature refuge islands for pedestrians, which also help direct traffic into the roundabout. The intersection where Toole Avenue comes into West Spruce Street east of the roundabout will be planted with five new trees and prepared with topsoil and mulch for a future neighborhood landscaping project done by the Northside/Westside Neighborhood Council.

Questions? Please contact: Doug Harby, Construction Projects Manager, Engineering Division, Development Services, 552-6091; dharby@ci.missoula.mt.us

To see a photo, go here: <http://mt-missoula.civicplus.com/Archive.aspx?ADID=7131>

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Ginny Merriam, Public Information/Communications Director, 552-6007 office; 546-7692 cell