

ROUNDAABOUT:
Communication will be key to project

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Council workshop, Gary Farnsworth of ODOT presented the latest — and hopefully final — draft of the intergovernmental agreement (IGA). City attorney Steve Bryant has reviewed and approved the draft, the Council reviewed it favorably with Farnsworth, and now the only thing left is a review by the State of Oregon’s attorney. If there are no more changes, the IGA will be ready for signatures by all parties involved.

Once the agreement is finalized, planning can begin for the construction of a single-lane roundabout with a truck bypass lane for extra-long or large loads, a concession to the freight industry.

The IGA serves as the basic agreement between the City and State for the project. It outlines the partnership, assures public outreach, describes funding sources, who owns what when the project is completed, and spells out responsibilities for post-construction maintenance. This first IGA is only one of several that will be required during the project.

As with the Cascade Avenue project, ODOT will ensure there is continual community outreach with open communication and transparency in all phases of the construction project. The total cost of the project, the time involved, and the impact on the citizens and merchants, as well as through traffic, all have to be considered. One very big challenge will be keeping the traffic flowing through downtown on Cascade and not diverting it to outlying streets, thus impacting downtown businesses.

The actual management

of the construction is one of the biggest challenges facing ODOT. They will construct a matrix to explore alternatives — from closing everything down for a specific time to limit the overall construction time, to spreading it out over four to six months. ODOT plans to have business owners help them figure out the best approach. They are looking for support in managing all phases of the project from the City Council and staff, the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce, the merchants and the citizens of Sisters.

ODOT is currently targeting winter 2016-17 to begin work. The bulk of construction could take place from January through spring 2017. A harsh winter could throw a wrench in the works with weather-related delays, something that didn’t happen on the Cascade Avenue project. If all goes well, the roundabout would be ready for the summer 2017 tourist season.

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— Gary Farnsworth

Public Works Director Paul Bertagna concurred: “There will be access challenges on the west side of town.”

If the construction is done in stages, the approach used on Cascade, it can spread the difficulties of construction out and possibly increase costs. If concrete is chosen for the road material, it is difficult to install during the winter and takes more time. However, concrete is preferable to asphalt due to its longevity, thus reducing the need

for more frequent repairs and their impact on traffic.

Farnsworth urged the council to hold a public hearing on the roundabout as soon as feasibly possible and he will be there to answer questions.

“Citizens’ questions help clarify some of the design elements of a project,” he said.

The Council and the citizens will be engaged in in-depth discussions with ODOT throughout the design phase, much as they were with Cascade. The type of decorative landscaping and illumination to be used in the roundabout is just one discussion that will take place.

The total proposed cost for the project is \$3,192,599, with the City’s share being \$360,000, or just over 10 percent of the total cost.

The councilors were supportive of the agreement and the total project.

“Let’s finish it up (the agreement) and get it on deck,” said Councilor David Asson.

Councilor Amy Bergstahler asked for ODOT display materials on the project for the lobby of City Hall. She also suggested project notifications be sent out in City utility bills.

Bertagna, who will act as the City’s construction manager for the project, assured council there will be ample information and signage. He especially highlighted the importance of adequate notifications and updates to the businesses located in the vicinity of the project.

Farnsworth also indicated that ODOT representative Rex Holloway will be onsite periodically during each week of the project to answer questions and hear concerns.

Farnsworth said the ODOT website will have up-to-date construction information available throughout the project.

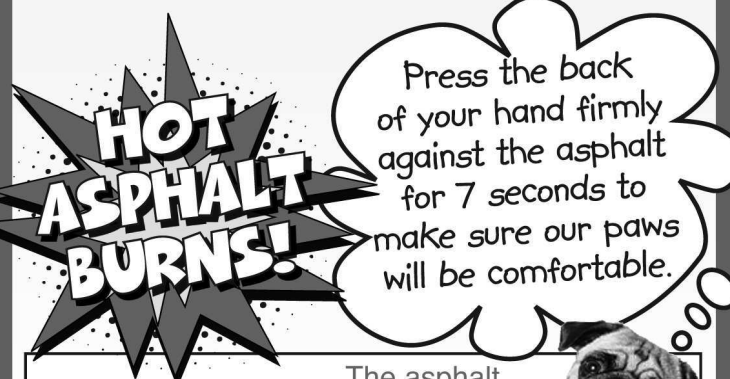
PROTECT YOUR PETS FROM EXTREME HEAT!



Estimated Vehicle Interior Air Temperature v. Elapsed Time

Elapsed Time	Outside Air Temperature (F)					
	70	75	80	85	90	95
0 minutes	70	75	80	85	90	95
10 minutes	89	94	99	104	109	114
20 minutes	99	104	109	114	119	124
30 minutes	104	109	114	119	124	129
40 minutes	108	113	118	123	128	133
50 minutes	111	116	121	126	131	136
60 minutes	113	118	123	128	133	138
> 1 hour	115	120	125	130	135	140

Department of Geosciences, San Francisco State University



When the air temperature is...	The asphalt temperature has been measured at...
77° F	125° F
86° F	135° F
87° F	143° F

These temperature correlations represent worst-scenario variables: direct sun, no wind, very low humidity, and high radiant energy.

**At 125° F, skin destruction can occur in 60 seconds.
An egg can fry in 5 minutes at 131° F.**

Data Source: Berens J. Thermal contact burns from streets and highways. Journal of American Medical Association; 214 (11): 2025-2027



FurryFriendsFoundation.org

Concert in the park...



PHOTO BY LYNN WOODWARD

Some 500 people enjoyed a free concert at Fir Street Park by Keith Greeninger and Anna Tivel, presented by the Sisters Folk Festival on Saturday.