

# Transformation in Hermiston

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
EO Media Group

## Hermiston Area Regional Transit route



### ● Hermiston HART bus stops\*

Location	A.M.	P.M.	Location	A.M.	P.M.
1. Hermiston Plaza	9:10, 10:40	1:10, 2:45	18. Walmart (South side of building)	9:50, 11:20	1:50, 3:25
2. S.W. Seventh Street and W. Moore Ave.	9:14, 10:44	1:14, 2:49	19. Fiesta Foods (South front of building)	9:53, 11:23	1:53, 3:28
3. S.W. Ninth Street and W. Johns Ave.	9:16, 10:46	1:16, 2:51	20. N.E. Sixth Street and E. Montana Ave.	9:57, 11:27	1:57, 3:32
4. S.W. 11th Street and W. Joseph Ave.	9:17, 10:47	1:17, 2:52	21. N.E. Aspen Drive (The Aspens)	9:59, 11:29	1:59, 3:34
5. S.W. 11th Street and W. Division Ave.	9:19, 10:49	1:19, 2:54	22. N.E. Fourth Street and E. Dogwood Ave.	10:01, 11:31	2:01, 3:36
6. N.W. 11th Street and W. Ridgeway Ave.	9:21, 10:51	1:21, 2:56	23. N.E. Fourth Street and Catherine Ave.	10:02, 11:32	2:02, 3:37
7. N.W. Butte Drive and W. Ridgeway Ave.	9:23, 10:53	1:23, 2:58	24. N.E. Fourth Street and Gladys Ave.	10:03, 11:33	2:03, 3:38
8. N.W. Third Street and W. Ridgeway Ave.	9:24, 10:54	1:24, 2:59	25. S.E. Fifth Street and E. Highland Ave.	10:05, 11:35	2:05, 3:40
9. S.W. Third Street and W. Orchard Ave.	9:26, 10:56	1:26, 3:01	26. S.E. Columbia Drive	10:08, 11:38	2:08, 3:43
10. S.W. Seventh Street and W. Orchard Ave.	9:27, 10:57	1:27, 3:02	27. N.E. 13th Street and N.E. Madrona Drive	10:13, 11:43	2:13, 3:48
11. S.W. 10th Street and W. Orchard Ave.	9:29, 10:59	1:29, 3:04	28. N.E. 10th Street and E. Ridgeway Ave.	10:15, 11:45	2:15, 3:50
12. Riverfront Park	9:34, 11:04	1:34, 3:09	29. S.E. Seventh Street and Diagonal Road	10:18, 11:48	2:18, 3:53
13. S.W. 15th Street and W. Sunland Ave.	9:38, 11:08	1:38, 3:13	30. City Hall	10:19, 11:49	2:19, 3:54
14. S.W. 11th Street and W. Division Ave.	9:40, 11:10	1:40, 3:15	31. S.W. Third Street and W. Orchard Ave.	10:21, 11:51	2:21, 3:56
15. N.W. 11th Street and W. Hartley Ave.	9:42, 11:12	1:42, 3:17	32. S. First Street and Highland Ave.	10:23, 11:53	2:23, 3:58
16. Good Shepherd Medical Center	9:45, 11:15	1:45, 3:20	33. Hermiston Plaza	10:25, 11:55	2:25, 4:00
17. W. Elm Ave. (Next to Butte Park)	9:47, 11:17	1:47, 3:22			

\*Effective Jan. 3 through March 31



A Kayak Public Transit bus picks up passengers in 2015 at Roy Raley Park in Pendleton.

or early 2018, Smith said. It will cost approximately \$650,000. About \$150,000 will come from the city, and \$513,000 from ODOT.

Smith said the project will take a while to complete, as working through ODOT means the city has to deal with some right-of-way issues.

The city will also make some small changes to other parks — Smith said there are plans to upgrade playground equipment at Sunset and Greenwood parks this year.

The city will also undertake its first phase of the festival street project in 2017.

“We’re trying to set up a place that can be a central gathering place,” Smith said. “I recently came from managing cities in the Midwest, and they often had courthouse squares. We’re trying to make an area conducive to community events, but still keep streets functional.”

Smith said the project is still being designed, but the phases — there are three — have been identified by location. The first will be in front of city hall, where a pedestrian-friendly, curbside street will be constructed. The second will continue that

project north, to the future site of the senior center on Ridgeway Avenue. The final phase will be centered around the arch on Second Street, in front of the Hermiston Conference Center.

Phase one, Smith said, will cost about a million dollars. The city plans to be done with the design by fall of 2017, and start construction on the first phase after that.

**Activities**  
 The city will oversee the development of a new senior center building on Ridgeway Avenue — a 7,200-square-foot facility with a full-service commercial kitchen, a large dining room, breakout rooms and a reception area, among other amenities.

The project will cost \$1.6 million, with most of the funds from a community development block grant. The city will pursue funding opportunities for a parking lot, which will cost about \$200,000, and will also pay for a basement — \$550,000 — with funds from its own reserves.

Vigina Beebe of the Hermiston Senior Center said she hopes the new center will allow for more programs. “We want to see more

activities,” she said. “But we have to have more participation — people willing to organize. We’re having a

heck of a time with that.” Beebe said part of the reason for that problem is that currently, only one group can use the center at any time — but with the new center, which will have multiple meeting rooms, she hopes that will change.

The city and county will also oversee the development of two projects at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center this year.

A rodeo arena and some barns will be constructed in 2017, closing out the first phase of the center’s development plans. EOTEC also had a grand opening in 2016 for the events center.

Smith, who is a member of the EOTEC board, said the rodeo arena and the barns will each cost about \$4 million, and are funded by the city, Umatilla County, state grants and local business owners. Funds will also come from the \$3 million sale of the former Umatilla County Fairgrounds (on Orchard Street) from the city to the Hermiston School District.

EOTEC is the result of an intergovernmental agreement between the city and the county, and has a board of directors, including employees from the city, county and local businesses, as well as representatives from the fair.

The benefits of moving the fair — and other events — to the EOTEC facility were many, Smith said.

“The underground infrastructure at the existing fairgrounds is dilapidated,” he said. “And the city has grown up around the fairgrounds — there’s limited parking and it’s completely surrounded. There’s limited possibility for the event to grow.”

He added that the current EOTEC space has more than twice the acreage of the Umatilla County Fairgrounds.

In the future, he said, plans for EOTEC include an amphitheater and an indoor riding arena.

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