

City of Florence gives Highway 101 water, sewer infrastructure update

FLORENCE—Earthworks Excavation has completed installing all the new water and sewer lines for the City of Florence’s Highway 101 Water and Sewer Infrastructure Improvement Project. The contractor is now completing sidewalk and driveway repairs, as well as landscaping cleanup at the new water meter and fire hydrant locations.

During the next couple of weeks, the contractor’s crews will be hard at work on finishing several roadway trench and permanent pavement repairs throughout the project limits. The trench preparation and paving will result in lane closures, potential detours or closures of certain road segments.

Below please find updates on specific project areas and the projected timeline for these projects.

Concrete Sidewalk and Drive-

way Repairs: The contractor will be completing concrete sidewalk and driveway repairs April 10 to 12. There should be limited disruption to the motoring public and businesses.

Highways 101 and 126: Final project completion, including permanent pavement repairs, road striping and replacement of damaged traffic signal loops, is expected no later than Thursday, April 26. Lane closures will be necessary during paving. Businesses in the area are open during construction.

• **Maple Street to Highway 126:** The contractor will be saw cutting to clean the trench edges and then milling (grinding) the entire width of the trench to prepare for the final paving.

The contractor has targeted April 16 to 17 to perform this work. Final paving is scheduled for April 17 to

18, weather dependent.

Once paving is completed, the contractor will be reinstalling the traffic signal loops. The traffic signal loop is an inductive loop which is a simply a coil of wire embedded into the road’s surface. To install the loop, the new asphalt must be in place, the contractor will cut a groove in the asphalt with a saw. The wire is placed in the groove and sealed with a rubbery compound. This is anticipated to take place on April 26.

• **Highway 101 to Quince Street:** The contractor will be saw cutting to clean the trench edges and then milling the entire width of the trench to prepare for the final paving. The contractor has targeted April 16 to 17 to perform this work. Final paving is scheduled for April 17 to 18, weather dependent.

• **Seventh Street Crossing of Highway 101:** The contractor will be saw cutting to clean the trench edges and then milling the entire width of the trench to prepare for the final paving. The contractor has targeted April 19 to 23 to perform this work, including final paving. Final paving is weather dependent.

• **Rhododendron Drive (Fifth Street) Crossing of Highway 101:** The contractor will be saw cutting to clean the trench edges and then milling the entire width of the trench to prepare for the final paving. The contractor has targeted April 19 to 23 to perform this work, including final paving. Final paving is weather dependent.

• **Eighth Street between Quince Street and Highway 101:** The contractor will be saw cutting to provide clean trench edges April 23 to 24.

Paving is scheduled to take place April 24 to 25, weather dependent.

• **Maple Street between Second Street and Highway 101:** The contractor will be saw cutting to provide clean trench edges April 23 to 24. Paving is scheduled to take place April 24 to 25, weather dependent.

• **Fifth Street (Rhododendron Drive) east of Highway 101:** The contractor will be saw cutting to provide clean trench edges April 23 to 24. Paving is scheduled to take place April 24 to 25, weather dependent.

Once paving is completed, the contractor will be reinstalling the traffic signal loops. This work is anticipated to be completed by April 26th.

To keep the work zone safe for both the workers and the public, long areas of transition are required. This means that driveway

entrances to the businesses may not always look accessible. The contractor will continue to post “Business Open” signs so that the public know that they can access driveways within the lane closure area.

In addition, if people have concerns with access or need special accommodations for deliveries, they should contact:

• **Kyle Howard,** Earthworks Excavation, at 503-812-9201

• **Sean Selig,** Public Works Inspector, at 541-999-0867

Florence Public Works would like to extend thanks to the public and businesses for their patience as staff completes this important project that will provide improved water supplies for fire suppression and improved sanitary sewer service to the community.

City contractors to begin annual backflow testing

FLORENCE—In April, the City of Florence will begin the annual testing of residential premise isolation backflow assemblies throughout the city. These tests are

required for compliance through the City Code and the Oregon Administrative Rules to help protect the water system.

The city is in contract with Olson LLC to perform these tests during the spring. Olson personnel will be conducting the tests during the next

several weeks in order to complete the testing cycle in a timely manner.

If the Olson LLC personnel look familiar, they are. Olson LLC has been completing the city’s residential backflow assembly testing for the last several years. They also working with Consolidated Supply Co. on the

city’s water meter upgrade project.

For most of Florence’s residential customers, the testing of the premise isolation backflow prevention assembly is simple and quick. Most customers won’t even know that the testing crew has been to their residence. The testing of the backflow assembly does require the water to be turned off for a few minutes while the test procedure is performed.

surized system, with water typically flowing in only one direction. A sudden drop in pressure somewhere in the system can reverse the flow and suck substances in to the water system that could potentially cause contamination of the drinking water. This is known as backflow.

The city makes every effort to maintain positive system pressure; however, unplanned events such as main breaks and firefighting activities might cause backflow to occur.

A cross connection is any plumbing arrangement where potable (drinking) water pipes are connected to a piping system or fixture that carries non-potable water or harmful substances. Any cross connection poses a contamination risk to the water system and must be controlled by a backflow prevention device.

Hot tubs, auxiliary water systems such as wells, and fire sprinkler and irrigation systems are some common situations where a cross connection might be present.

Safeguarding the Water Supply

Our cross connection and backflow program seeks to eliminate cross connections wherever possible or assure that backflow protection devices are installed and assist property owners in complying with state regulations. Oregon plumbing code dictates when property owners must install a backflow prevention device. Under Oregon Administrative Rule 333-061-0070, the city is responsible for assuring that required backflow devices are installed correctly and tested regularly.

Backflow prevention assemblies are mechanical devices, and like all mechanical devices, can malfunction or wear out. Consequently, all backflow assemblies installed must be tested by a certified backflow tester annually to make sure they are working as designed and the results submitted to the city.

Contact the City of Florence’s Backflow Prevention Program staff to determine if your property is required to have a backflow device at 541-997-4106.

The city’s testing procedure is to knock on the door to let the customer know what the crew is doing. If water is being used, the contractor will move to the next location until the water is no longer being used.

In the event nobody answers the door, the installer visually inspects the meter to make sure there isn’t an appliance using water or to make sure the homeowner isn’t busy and didn’t hear the door knock.

Florence and its contractors also realize that there are some customers who don’t answer the door because they assume the installer is a solicitor. In these cases, the crew relies on the visual inspection of the meter to avoid a disruption.

Olson LLC strives to time the 2-minute water interruption for backflow assembly test to be between usage intervals by the homeowner so no one is without water or inconvenienced. There can be rare occasions when an expansion tank is installed in the home, that a shower or appliance can be started with the water turned off at the street. Water will appear to be available for a short time. This is rare and the contractor tries to avoid the situation.

The City of Florence and Olson LLC extend their apologies if a customer has experienced a surprising water interruption. It is the highest priority of the city and Olson LLC to avoid interruptions and surprises due to the testing of these devices.

Residents are encouraged to call the City of Florence Public Works office with any concerns and questions at 541-997-4106.

Backflow and Cross Connection

The city’s water system is a pres-



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