

SAFE from A1

ODOT'S primary focus was elementary schools, then middle schools and finally high schools. Because Cottage Grove had already assessed and made plans to improve the area between its elementary and middle schools, the city was a strong contender for the grant.

Under the SRTS grant agreement, there are five identified routes: East Harrison Avenue from South River Road to South Third Street; South Fourth Street from Central Pacific Railroad to Grant Avenue; Grant Avenue from South Fourth Street to South Sixth Street; Fillmore Avenue from South Fourth Street to South Sixth Street; and Taylor Avenue from South Fourth Street to South Eighth Street.

Previously, these locations had been identified as areas of concern in street analyses by city staff. Initial concerns about the safety of routes to Lincoln Middle School were raised in public testimony in October 2015 by a city police officer who advised the city to pay attention to the corner of South Fourth

Street and Fillmore Avenue, a high-traffic area next to the middle school with no crosswalk.

In a subsequent public hearing in 2018 regarding the project, a resident mentioned seeing a student hit by a car at that very intersection, though the student reportedly continued walking from the incident, which was not reported.

With the project now substantially completed, the identified routes of concern provide safer walking and biking to and from both Lincoln Middle School and Harrison Elementary School.

Among the improvements, sidewalks have been upgraded to city standards to span five feet and uneven sidewalk panels have been corrected to remove tripping hazards.

Crossing ramps for the sidewalks have been brought up to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, a key requirement as part of the SRTS grant.

A drop-off area was also added at Lincoln Middle School and the removal of vegetation has improved line of site around corners

such as on Fourth Street.

Streets within the project's parameters have seen a marked improvement, too.

In December 2019, the Cottage Grove City Council listened to an informational report on the city's road quality.

Project management company Emerio Design graded Cottage Grove's streets as "fair," though pointed out key areas where the city needed work.

The report indicated that to maintain the city's current "fair" grade over the next 10 years, the maintenance budget would have to nearly triple from its then \$500,000 a year to \$1.4 million.

Road improvement has often been a point of tension between some residents and city officials.

One silver lining from SRTS project has been bringing several roads up to 100 in their PCI (pavement condition index) score, the highest mark, which has enabled the city to maintain a "fair" rating.

Approximately three quarters of a mile of streets were improved in the project.

When it initially launched, the project had a stated completion date of Jan. 31, 2020, though several unforeseen factors (including a pandemic) have pushed that back.

One adjustment made in April 2020 was the pairing of the SRTS project with the Fillmore Stormwater Outfall project.

It had been determined that some aged water, sewer and storm lines needed their upgrading prioritized as they ran underneath the planned sites for SRTS construction.

Because the SRTS grant does not cover infrastructure upgrades or street paving, though, it was originally budgeted separately as a capital improvement project.

However, the stormwater project was in very close proximity of SRTS construction and tied into the existing the storm system. As any future problems with the aging stormwater lines would mean digging up the new sidewalks, the city included the line upgrades within the larger scheme of the project.

"It was just better to do it all at once," said Brads-

by.

The original bid for both projects was nearly \$3.5 million, but the expenditures are currently around \$4.1 million, meaning the project is approaching \$800,000 over budget.

The city tries to keep most construction projects within 10 percent of the bid price, said Bradsby, however the SRTS and Fillmore Stormwater Outfall project has nearly doubled that threshold.

Part of the story of that discrepancy is told in change orders. In all, there were 10.

One substantial change order involved removing poles to install underground utilities.

In its Feb. 22 meeting this year, the Cottage Grove City Council approved extra work items totaling \$95,868 for the Safe Routes to School and Fillmore Storm Water Project.

The lion's share of the change order (\$93,438) went toward furnishing and setting electrical vault and furnishing and

installing conduit and sweeps for Pacific Power, Charter Communication and CenturyLink, moving the companies' lines underground.

Bradsby explained at the council meeting that the cost of moving overhead power would normally be handled by the companies, but moving underground made it the city's cost per the franchise agreement. He recommended considering this in future franchise agreements.

At the time, City Manager Richard Meyers and Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart assured that the change would be covered by the grant and not a burden on taxpayers as the work fell under the category of an ADA issue.

Also, the city was reimbursed another \$84,575 from South Lane School District for the repaving of the district's bus barn area.

Other change orders included dealing with a waterline break, removing trees and various utilities work.



Anytime. Anywhere. Any day...

Matt Bjornn, Agent
Bus: 541-942-2623
www.bjornninsurance.com

That's when you can count on State Farm®.
I know life doesn't come with a schedule. That's why at State Farm you can always count on me for whatever you need – 24/7, 365. **GET TO A BETTER STATE™.** CALL ME TODAY.

 **State Farm™**

1101198.1 State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL



**Free Appraisals
I'll Come to You!**

BUY & SELL

Gold, Silver, Scrap, Men's Jewelry, Costume Jewelry, Pieces & Parts. Even Junk!

25+ Years Experience

**2001 Franklin #3
Eugene, Oregon**



The Jewelry Girl, LLC
LISA RUSSELL
(541)556-9598

TURNING 65 AND NEED HELP WITH YOUR MEDICARE CHOICES?



*Call Paul to
help simplify
the complicated.*

541-517-7362

Paul Henrichs ~ Independent Agent
coverage4oregon@gmail.com

W I L D F I R E S A F E T Y

T I P S & C O L O R I N G A C T I V I T Y

Fire Prevention with Campfire Safety

In the United States, nearly nine out of 10 wildfires are caused by people not being careful. Help Smokey prevent these types of fires by learning to be careful and helping others do the same. Make sure that the grownups building your next campfire follow all the rules below, and tell them to check out Campfire Safety to learn even more. Make sure you are at a site that allows campfires Make sure there are no burn bans and it's not too windy Dig a pit away from overhanging branches Circle the pit with rocks Clear a 10-foot area around the pit down to the dirt, removing anything that could catch on fire Stack extra wood upwind and away from fire After lighting, throw the match into the fire Never leave a campfire unattended; an adult should supervise the campfire at all times Keep a bucket of water and shovel nearby Never put anything but wood into the fire Do not pull sticks out of the fire Do not sit on the fire ring or rocks around the campfire. They will heat up quickly and they'll stay hot for a long time When it's time to put the fire out, dump lots of water on it, stir it with a

shovel, then dump more water on it. Make sure it is COLD before leaving the campsite. If it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave! And remember, Smokey's friends never play with matches, lighters, lighter fluid or other flammable liquids. If you find any of these items, tell a grownup where they are. If you see younger children playing with them, tell them to stop, and then tell a grownup. Kids who help prevent wildfires deserve a Smokey Bear Hug.

This message brought to you by these sponsors:

- Overhead Door Company*
- The Bookmine*
- Starfire Lumber Company*
- Hoyer Accounting*
- Adventure! Children's Museum*
- South Lane County Fire and Rescue*
- Lane Electric*
- Fort Rock Construction*
- Old Mill Farm Store*
- Dave's Pump & Construction*
- Roger's & Son*
- Pinocchio's Pizza*
- Brad's Cottage Grove Chevrolet*
- Hitch Pro & Tow*
- Kalapuya Books*

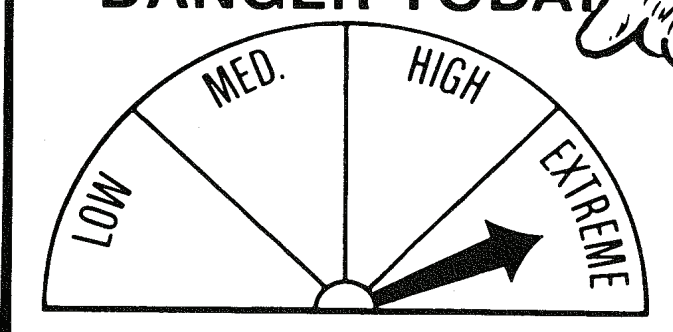
It's Fire Danger Time Again, Folks!



KEEP OREGON GREEN®

FOREST FIRE DANGER TODAY

LOW MED. HIGH EXTREME





KEEP OREGON GREEN!®
A Public Service of Keep Oregon Green Association.