

# Verboort area roads re-open with new roundabout intersections

The newly-rebuilt sections of Martin, Verboort and Cornelius-Schefflin Roads, north of Cornelius, have been re-opened following a four-month closure to construct major safety improvements. Traffic roundabouts have been built at the intersections of Verboort and Cornelius-Schefflin Road and

Verboort Road and Martin-Marsh Roads to improve the safety and flow of traffic at these intersections, making it easier for different types of vehicles to travel throughout the corridor.

A roundabout, for those unfamiliar with the design, is a circular intersection that allows traffic flow in one direction around a central island, uses yield control at entrances, and gives priority to vehicles inside. Time-proven and very popular in Europe and the eastern U.S., the design naturally produces lower speeds, fewer conflict points and much safer operation. In addition to the roundabouts, improvements were made to Martin Road south of Verboort Road. Funding for this project came from the Washington County Major Streets Transportation Improvement Program, most recently approved by voters in 1995. Roundabouts were the

choice of citizens and property owners who served on the Project Advisory Committee, for several reasons – safety, traffic flow, minimizing agricultural and environmental impacts, and price (lower construction and maintenance costs and no electric signals to maintain). Driving through the roundabouts is simple. Drivers should slow down as they approach and yield to traffic that is already in the circle. Once in the roundabout you have the right-of-way; look for your desti-

nation and exit the circle; if you miss it, you can drive around and take it the next time.

The roundabouts are designed to handle large vehicles, such as trucks and farm equipment, with sufficient pavement width to accommodate them. Farmers on the PAC were in favor of them because a roundabout eliminates the need to come to a complete stop, as they must at a normal intersection, and they could make the "corners" without turning into an oncoming traffic lane.

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## Family bike ride set for B-V Trail

River City Bicycles is sponsoring a Banks-Vernonia State Trail Family Bike Ride on Sunday, October 19, from 10:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

This moderate, 16-mile ride is especially designed for parents with small children (in trailers, on tag-along bikes or on their own bikes). Discover the Banks-Vernonia State Trail, a multi-use regional trail winding its way along an abandoned railroad between Banks and Vernonia.

The trail is partially paved and partially hard-packed gravel, so mountain or hybrid bikes are recommended. Helmets are required. From westbound Hwy. 26, turn right on Fisher Rd., go up the hill and turn right

at the bend. For more information, call 360-573-5059.

## Friends of Banks-Vernonia Trail hold annual meeting

The annual meeting of the Friends of Banks-Vernonia Trail, Inc. will be held Thursday, October 23, at 7:00 p.m. at the Brown Derby Restaurant, 181 S. Main Street, in Banks.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect directors for 2004-2006, officers for 2003-2004 and address any other business brought to the meeting.

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