

NE Division Street Accessibility Improvements Project

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q: Why and how was NE Division Street prioritized?

A: The City of Bend established the Barrier Removal Request process in 2004 to allow citizens to identify barriers to access in our community. Missing sidewalk and curb ramps in your neighborhood were identified through this process and then prioritized by volunteer members of the City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee (COBAAC) and the Central Oregon Coalition for Access (COCA).

Q: Why is this work necessary?

A: Beyond being an important public investment in our community and keeping people safe, federal law, regulations, and previous legal settlements with the US Department of Justice (DOJ) require that the City of Bend continue to make progress on increasing access for everyone in our community. While you may have not personally witnessed someone walking along or crossing NE Division Street, the City has received numerous requests for this infrastructure.

Q: I rent or own property along NE Division Street. Will there be any impacts from this work to my property?

A: Not every property will have work directly in front of it. The project is being designed so that the proposed improvements fit within the City-owned right of way. To see a map showing the areas of the planned improvements, please visit the project website at www.bendoregon.gov/improveaccess

There may be limited instances where the City will need to acquire a temporary construction easement, permanent easement, or right of way dedication. In these cases the City will contact property owners directly.

More generally, landscaping or irrigation sprinklers that extend beyond your property into City-owned right of way may need to be adjusted in some locations. These adjustments will be made by the City and its contractor at no cost to you. Additionally, access to your property will still be provided during construction.

Q: When will this work occur and how can I receive updates?

A: The planned improvements are currently being designed and construction is planned for summer of 2020. Stay up to date at the project website at www.bendoregon.gov/improveaccess and/or please e-mail the City's project manager for this work, Brad Tower, at btower@bendoregon.gov to be added to an e-mail update list.

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Q: How much will this work cost and how is it paid for?

A: The cost to construct the planned sidewalk and curb ramp improvements are estimated to be between \$400,000 and \$500,000. They will be paid for by the City's Accessibility Construction Fund. This fund primarily receives revenue from a franchise fee included on water and sewer bills that contributes more than \$600,000 towards sidewalk and curb ramp improvements such as these.

Q: How does this project fit in with other transportation investments by the City?

A: The City has heard a clear message from the community that transportation – such as traffic congestion and neighborhood street safety – are top concerns. The City is working to provide safe, reliable, transportation options. The Empire Corridor improvements are under way, and we're about to start Murphy Corridor improvements, both of which will provide new road extensions to improve east-west connections across Bend, help address traffic congestion, and provide safer walking and biking routes.

With the recent adoption of the 2019-2021 budget, the City Council also approved funding for several major transportation projects including the Neff Road/Purcell Boulevard intersection, Reed Market Road/Bond Street roundabout, Highway 20/Greenwood Avenue sidewalks, Newport Avenue from College Way to 9th Street improvements, Simpson Avenue/Columbia Street intersection, Butler Market Road/Wells Acres Road roundabout and more.

The City's current five-year capital improvement program allocates more than \$70 million to design and construct transportation projects including those listed above.

Q: What about other City priorities such as filling pot holes and paving?

A: The City is currently investing more in paving than ever before. This is approximately \$7 million in 2019 and includes 125 lane miles of streets. In addition to re-paving, in recent years City crews have filled thousands of potholes and annually sweep several thousand lane miles of Bend's streets. Information about how the City prioritizes streets for maintenance is available here: www.bendoregon.gov/streetpreservation

Q: I have other concerns in my neighborhood that this project isn't addressing. How can I tell the City?

A: Other questions and concerns such as potholes, storm drains, snow removal, traffic speed, including on other streets can be submitted to the City using our Citizen Service Request system at: www.bendoregon.gov/servicerequest

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Q: Who can I speak with about the planned work?

A: The City's Project Engineer/Manager for this work is Brad Tower. He can be contacted at **541-323-8528** or at btower@bendoregon.gov. For general accessibility questions, including how to submit a Barrier Removal Request, please contact the City's Accessibility Manager Karin Morris at 541-693-2141 or at kmorris@bendoregon.gov.

This FAQ and additional project information available at:
www.bendoregon.gov/improveaccess



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc. please contact Brad Tower at btower@bendoregon.gov, 541-388-8528; Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.