

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WOODSIDE BOULEVARD PROJECT UPDATE Irrigation System and Grass Seed Mix Approved

(Hailey, Idaho) – The Woodside Boulevard Project picked up speed after the asphalt was milled off the entire boulevard in late June. Utility companies brought in more resources at that time in an effort to stay ahead of Knife River's work. Knife River has also brought in more resources, and is working concurrently in several areas from the roundabout at the north to Snowbank.

Irrigation System and Landscape Elements

Hailey officials acted to accelerate the planned irrigation system to install this project component at the most optimum and correct time: during construction following installation of curb and sidewalks.

The construction contract, as it was prepared for bid in 2011, contains construction of the hardscape elements and irrigation system backbone. The full build-out of the irrigation system and trees were not included in the construction contract because of the city's effort to keep immediate expenses manageable, and obtain a bid which we could accept. Grasses were included; it is a federal requirement that erosion control following construction be completed through the planting of grass.

The City had planned to pursue other grants and funding methods to later install the irrigation system and trees, a combined cost in excess of \$500,000. The city had planned to install the irrigation system and trees together, as the irrigation would be vital to the survival of the trees.

Irrigation System Installation Accelerated

As the project evolved, Mayor Haemmerle and the Hailey City Council determined that the best time to install the irrigation system is when the project is under construction, before grasses are planted, to prevent the ground from later being disturbed. Mayor Haemmerle was equally concerned that if the landscaping strip is not easily identifiable as such, with grasses barely hanging onto life without an irrigation system, weeds would begin to take over and the area would be easily mistaken for a parking strip rather than a landscaping strip. Mayor Haemmerle gave direction to staff in February, 2012 to design and bid an irrigation system for installation this season. Funds were identified by which to pay for this project. Eggers Landscaping designed the system in the following months, and a bid was obtained from All Season's Landscaping, a subcontractor of Knife River. The irrigation system installation will begin next week.

Landscape Strip Grasses

A grass mix of 60% tall fescue and 40% blue fescue will be planted in late summer. This very low-maintenance mix of grasses grows 6-8 inches tall, is drought tolerant, requires very little fertilizer, and

can be mown or unmown. The blue fescue will deepen the color tone of the landscape strip. During the two-year period in which the grass firmly establishes itself, the irrigation system will be a vital element.



Tall & Blue Fescue



These grasses will be complementary to trees. The trees remain an unfunded, but not overlooked, portion of this project. With roughly 20,000 lineal feet of landscaping strip, more than 500 trees could be planted along Woodside Boulevard. City Staff has written grant applications and worked with other funding sources to identify resources by which to obtain these trees. A Woodside tree species guide has been developed by the Hailey Tree Committee. In spring of 2013, Hailey will be working with residents to facilitate tree plantings in their areas. Until then, however, we must ask that residents allow the grasses to take root and not disturb them by any landscaping activities or parking in the landscape strip.

Parking in the Landscape Strip Prohibited: Parking in the landscape strip is now, and will remain, prohibited. Broken sprinkler heads, weeds, and thwarted grasses will result from inappropriate parking. The Hailey Police Department will strictly enforce the parking regulations on the boulevard.

Closed Areas Knife River will continue to work for the next several weeks in the following areas:

- At the roundabout, with Fox Acres closed to through traffic. Road barriers should only be crossed by residents who need access to their driveways.
- Through-traffic travelling to the Community Campus will take detours primarily using Baldy View or Sunrise. Traffic will be slowed in these intersection at times as ½ the travel lanes through these intersection will be under construction.
- At Laurelwood. When Laurelwood is closed, Moonlight will be open.

- In Segment 3, which is the area from Moonlight Drive to Snowbank. Traffic control signs are now being moved to Segment 3, and traffic will be routed from the east side of the boulevard to Countryside, Shenandoah, and Glenbrook through Laurelwood, primarily, or Moonlight, if there remains activity at Laurelwood.
- Access to Shenandoah from the south will be closed to through-traffic. Motorists should utilize Flowing Wells or Berrycreek to access the boulevard from the east to travel southward.

Schedule Milestones

The schedule will continue to be modified throughout the construction project. The current scheduled milestones include:

June 26 – Traffic Signal activated

June 26 to August 30 – Closure of Fox Acres intersection for work on roundabout

June 26 to August 30 – North Woodside concentrated construction, with increasingly less construction in progress until paving occurs. After July 20, the work in the northern Segments 1 and 2 will be minimal.

Mid July into August– Central Woodside from Moonlight to South Shenandoah

August and September – south Woodside, south of Shenandoah.

September - paving of entire boulevard

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