



Public Works

Monthly Report

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March 2020

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Maintenance

After completing APWA re-accreditation tasks, Maintenance staff got back to work on the day-to-day business of keeping the City moving in March. That is, until we all went into COVID-19 response mode. As always, staff stepped up to help in all sorts of ways. We have had several staff members filling roles in both the Emergency Operations Center and the Department Operations Center, and all our crews have devised and implemented plans to keep our staff safe while performing our mission-essential functions. Potholes are still being filled, fleet vehicles are still being serviced and vendors are still being paid, all while maintaining CDC distancing guidelines. Division management could not be prouder of our teams and their willingness to do the right thing, even when no one is watching.

Engineering

GIS System Architecture Design

The Engineering Division has contracted with a GIS consultant to examine the current and future IT infrastructure to support a City-wide GIS program. This effort was funded through the Telecommunications Tax Projects Program and the professional services will be performed by a nationally recognized GIS consultant (GIS, Inc.) from Birmingham, Alabama.

The need for the GIS System Architecture Design was identified as a high priority by the GIS Technical Team (a city-wide committee) as part of their “2019 GIS Initiatives” document. The key outcome for this work will provide the strategic approach for the City to organize our servers and utilize “ArcGIS Enterprise” software to publish, store, synchronize and serve GIS data to both internal and external users. Another key outcome of this project will ensure the public can efficiently view public-facing GIS data, maps and apps.

The consulting services started on April 1, with three days of interviews with a variety of City staff. The consultant will deliver a final report within the next four weeks. The funding provided by the telecommunications tax projects program will also support technical training to implement the recommended system design.

PeaceHealth Rides Remains Open

Enhanced cleaning and operational changes help keep bike share staff and users safe.

PeaceHealth Rides bike share service continues to be available. The City of Eugene views bike share as an essential service to provide a transportation option for people to access their basic needs. We are continuing to actively monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and will update our approach based on the latest CDC and local regulatory guidelines.

We are also taking necessary steps to help keep our community safe and healthy, and to ensure the safety of PeaceHealth Rides users:

Keeping bikes clean

We have increased the frequency of cleaning, and we are disinfecting all bikes coming in and out of our workshop. Staff responsible for handling the bikes are wearing gloves and washing hands often. We will be vigilant in our cleaning process, but we also encourage riders to clean the handles of their bike before and after use (for instance with a disinfectant wipe) if they choose.

Sharing advice to stay healthy

We're reminding everyone who uses PeaceHealth Rides to follow guidance from public health authorities. If you're sick, stay home and away from others. Remember to continue social distancing while riding, remaining at least six feet away from others at all times. Always wash your hands before and after your ride and consider wearing gloves while riding.

Reducing operational levels

At this time, bikes will still be operational. However, you may experience reduced availability of bikes as our staffing levels may fluctuate based on decisions we make to protect the health of our team members or due to illness. Please continue to report bikes that have issues (using the PeaceHealth Rides app or bike controller) for our fleet team to address. You may also experience a delay in response from our customer service team, but we will do our best to respond as quickly as we can given the level of staff support available.

As a reminder, the University of Oregon is moving to modified operations as part of COVID-19 precautions. Therefore, use of our bike share stations on campus are limited to students and employees to help protect everyone's safety. However, all other stations off campus are publicly accessible to the community. We appreciate our users being mindful of the change.

Thank you for joining us as we all work to help keep our community safe!

Key Milestones Met for Franklin Boulevard Transformation Project

Progress continues on the project to redesign Franklin Boulevard as a more livable street with better walking, biking and EmX facilities that support the City's land use vision for the Walnut Station Specific Plan area. On Tuesday, March 10, the preferred design concept for Franklin Boulevard was revealed at a public open house with over 90 people at the UO Ford Alumni Center. Attendees of the open house were able to see and comment on the selected "preferred alternative."

The main task for the next couple of months is partnering with the City of Springfield on a \$25 million federal BUILD grant application to rebuild sections of Franklin Boulevard in both cities. To



support the BUILD grant application, Eugene and Springfield staff had scheduled a site tour with Oregon staff from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) whose support is key to a successful application. As this was no longer a possibility, City of Eugene project manager Larisa Varela, City Engineer Jenifer Willer and their Springfield counterparts held a virtual project tour for FHWA staff on April 2. This went extremely well and the FHWA staff were very supportive of the project.

For additional information about the Franklin Boulevard Transformation project, please visit the project website or contact Larisa Varela, Transportation Planner, at LVarela@eugene-or.gov or (541) 501-0351.

Parks and Open Space

Outreach Teams Assist Unhoused During Pandemic

With the goal of limiting the spread of COVID-19, the City has started an outreach program to ensure basic needs are being met for those experiencing homelessness, allowing them to stay in place as much as possible.

The outreach teams, which include Parks Ambassadors and members of the Illicit Activity team, started canvassing the parks and rights-of-way at the end of March, passing out food, water, hygiene supplies and providing tents to individuals who can't find shelter. They've also been providing education and up-to-date information on COVID-19.

These strategies support efforts to "flatten the curve" by reducing the need for people to travel around the community to access basic needs and shelter, consistent with CDC guidelines.



Riverfront Park Construction Begins as Scheduled

Eugene's Downtown Riverfront Park project is moving forward into the construction phase as scheduled. While it's possible slowdowns in the global economy may cause delays in availability of materials and supplies for the project, at this point the project is on its original timeline. The contractor intends to mobilize on-site at the end of April, keeping this legacy project on track to be completed in the spring of 2021.

Maintaining construction projects is a key piece of the City's continuation of operations. City contracts are an important component of a healthy local economy and a significant part

of the community's long term recovery effort. These efforts will focus on employment recovery, implementing stimulus dollars, allowing the continuation of large public and private projects, and utilizing our existing programs and tools for development and business assistance.

In addition to the Riverfront Park, other projects that POS staff are diligently continuing work to advance are the Amazon Running Trail North renovation, the Skinner Butte mid-elevation trail, West Bank Path rehabilitation and Pre's Rock safety enhancements.

Wastewater

Staff Continue to Provide Critical Services During 'Stay Home, Stay Healthy'

The safety and well-being of our Wastewater staff and our community has always been a top priority, along with making sure that the water stays clean. The treatment plant operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year to collect and clean wastewater before returning it to the Willamette River. When you flush the toilet or run the faucet, we are on the job making sure that things run smoothly! In response to evolving information related to COVID-19, Wastewater staff have implemented decisive measures to help protect health and safety of all.



We are operating under reduced on-site staffing to provide essential services in alignment with the 'Stay Home, Stay Healthy' statewide order. Everyone in the community can help us to protect our wastewater system, public health, and the environment by flushing only toilet paper. Practicing good hygiene and keeping surfaces clean is essential now more than ever. If using baby wipes, disinfecting wipes, paper towels or anything that isn't actual toilet paper, they must go directly into the trash when you are done. Only toilet paper is designed to breakdown in the wastewater system. Wipes and other products clog pipes and pumps, increase maintenance, and can cause sewer backups and sanitary sewer overflows.



Monty O'Connor – Wastewater Collection Certification

Monty O'Connor became our most recent certified collection system operator upon receipt of his Wastewater Collection Grade I certification by the State of Oregon. Oregon law requires wastewater systems, which includes the collection system, to be under the responsible control and direction of certified operators. Trained and certified operators are necessary to ensure that the systems are operated in a manner that fully protects public health and the environment. The certification of operators helps improve facility operation and ensure compliance, protect the public's investment in the facilities, and instill public confidence in the safety and certainty of services. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) administers the program. Certification is issued only to operators who meet experience requirements and pass the certification exam.

Monty has worked for the City of Eugene since 2010 and is a Wastewater Technician II on the pump station crew.
