



City of Tualatin

City of Tualatin ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Work Begins on Tualatin's Long-Awaited Garden Corner Curves Project

Work is just getting underway to construct transportation improvements along the Garden Corner Curves corridor. The project will upgrade the corridor that follows SW 105th Avenue/Blake Street/108th Avenue between Avery and Willow Streets.

Over the years, pedestrians and bicycles have shared this narrow, constrained roadway with vehicles. The road has sharp curves and limited visibility, offering little or no shoulder. Steep banks and ditches loom just beyond the pavement edge.

The improvements at Garden Corner Curves will include widening the roadway and adding a new off-road shared use path, flashing beacons at Moratoc Drive and Blake/108th, a high visibility raised crossing, and a driver feedback sign that displays vehicle speed. "This will be a great improvement for the community, and we will be very glad to see it under construction", says Mike McCarthy, P.E., principal transportation engineer for the City of Tualatin.

Project construction began in late August, and will extend into 2021. To replace a culvert under 105th Avenue and protect fish habitat in Hedges Creek, this "in-water work" can only occur between July 15 and September 30 next year.

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The Garden Corner Curves project was designed with extensive input from the community. Julie Makarowsky, a project neighbor, has been advocating for these improvements since moving to Tualatin in 2001. From her vantage point, she has witnessed a number of accidents and close calls. The City's engineering team met with neighbors and held public workshops and tours to gather input.

City Councilor Robert Kellogg initially got involved in Tualatin civic life as the Ibach Citizen Involvement Organization's first president, promoting solutions for his neighborhood's #1 priority – Garden Corner Curves. At the recent virtual groundbreaking ceremony, Councilor Kellogg said: "When the Ibach CIO first petitioned the City in 2012, this is just what we had in mind".

Julie Makarowsky echoes Kellogg's enthusiasm, and is also looking forward to celebrating completion of "an improvement for generations to come". "I never thought anything would happen – I'm super super excited."

The Garden Corner Curves project is being constructed by Moore Excavation, Inc. (Fairview). The anticipated cost is \$3 million. It will be funded by the \$20 million *Tualatin Moving Forward* bond program approved by voters in May 2018. Seven projects have been completed and another fifteen projects are underway this year.

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