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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Powerline/Madison Road Improvements Beginning Soon

Umatilla, OR- MAY 27, 2025— The City of Umatilla is excited to announce the start of the Powerline/Madison Road Improvement Project, aimed at improving safety, reducing traffic, and making roads more accessible for residents and businesses.

J-U-B Engineers developed the design plans for the project, and Tapani Inc. has been awarded the construction contract. Tapani will work closely with the City throughout the project to bring these improvements to life. This project will be funded with a combination of City funds and a partnership with the Port of Umatilla through a \$2 million contribution of their HB 2017 funding package.

Construction on the upcoming infrastructure project is set to begin on May 27, 2025, starting with staking and survey work. Preliminary road work will follow shortly after, beginning on June 2. The project is expected to span several months as crews work to improve key transportation routes in the area. According to the construction timeline, Madison Street is slated for substantial completion by the end of August, while work on Powerline Road is expected to wrap up by the end of October.

The project will focus on two main areas:

- Widening Powerline Road 1,800 feet north of Pine Tree Avenue
- Rebuilding 1,300 feet of Madison Street from Powerline Road to McFarland Avenue

Work will include:

- Removing old pavement, curbs, sidewalks, and driveways
- Moving utilities like hydrants and water services
- Installing new curbs, sidewalks, and pavement

- Adding streetlights, signs, and new road markings

The City of Umatilla is taking the lead in improving traffic flow and pedestrian safety near local schools by working to ensure that the necessary road improvements are in place as the Umatilla School District advances its own campus upgrades.

This project is part of a larger, six-year plan to enhance Powerline Road. Future phases will continue to improve sections of the road to support growth and ensure long-term safety.

“This project is a critical step in building a safer, more connected Umatilla,” said Scott Coleman, Public Works Director. “By coordinating infrastructure improvements alongside the school district expansion, we’re not just reacting to growth—we’re planning for it. These upgrades will ease traffic, enhance pedestrian safety, and support the needs of families, businesses, and future development”.

During construction, residents living on Madison Street will experience the most significant impacts due to road closures. Madison Street will be closed to all thru traffic, including access from all side streets, for the duration of the project. Local traffic will still be permitted, and the City, in coordination with contractors, will work to maintain access for residents whenever possible. Nearby streets, including Jefferson and Grant, may also be affected periodically due to construction and increased traffic due to alternative routes. Temporary detours and lane closures will be in place throughout the duration of the project. Planned alternative routes include Pierce Avenue to Van Buren Drive to McFarland Avenue, as well as Tyler Avenue to Van Buren Drive to McFarland Avenue. Residents along these detour routes should anticipate heavier traffic and increased street use. As construction activity intensifies, drivers are urged to slow down, watch for workers, and plan their commutes accordingly. The City remains committed to minimizing disruptions and will provide regular updates to keep the public informed as work progresses.

For more on this project and other City projects, we encourage you to visit our website at <https://www.umatilla-city.org/city-projects>.

About the City of Umatilla

The City of Umatilla is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for its residents through thoughtful urban planning, community engagement, and sustainable development initiatives. With a focus on innovation and inclusiveness, Umatilla strives to create vibrant, accessible spaces that foster a sense of belonging and well-being for all.

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