Bethel Road Update

-Mark Dorsey, Public Works Director

The City is very aware of the Bethel Road maintenance needs, but the amount of City-wide transportation maintenance/repair and capital improvement need far exceeds the current revenue amounts collected to perform the work. With that being said, there are several ongoing maintenance tasks that have been performed within the Bethel Corridor since the 2012 annexation: roadside ditch cleaning; grading/gravelling of the shoulders; and the installation of six additional streetlights in 2014. And currently, continued pothole repairs (removing cold-mix asphalt with hot-mix asphalt) are underway.

In 2014, the City hired a consultant for the design of the 2015 Bethel Road Pavement Repair Plan, such that mill and fills (asphalt grind-outs with sub-grade repairs and asphalt patching) and an asphalt overlay with curb ramp reconstruction as required for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance at the Bethel & Lund intersection. The City advertised the 2015 Bethel Road Pavement Repair Plan for bid on February 2015, with sealed bids due on April 3, 2015. The Bethel Road Pavement Repair Plan covers all repair and overlay work mentioned above, from the southerly City limit at Fred Meyers to the Mile Hill Roundabout (SR 166) via five separate bid schedules, whereby any or all bid schedules will be accepted, depending on bid price when compared against the approved 2015 Budget project allocation. The overall Bethel Road Pavement Repair Plan could take three budget years or more to complete, given current transportation revenue funding sources, with the intended outcome being a drivable surface for a 10- to 20-year period. The actual Bethel Road Corridor Reconstruction/Improvement Plan project is currently scheduled for 2025-2027.

Two important issues need to be recognized:

1. The cost for these types of pavement repair and maintenance projects run in the millions of dollars, and the cost for a corridor reconstruction/improvement project runs in the tens of millions of dollars. The City has not yet developed or adopted a consistent transportation revenue plan (transportation impact fees, transportation benefit district, etc.)

2. The City is obligated to complete federally funded projects previously committed to before taking on the reconstruction/improvement phase of the Bethel Corridor. That effort will start with the Corridor redesign phase, that will involve a public process currently scheduled to begin in 2017. It is anticipated that a continuous 3-lane widening with bike lanes, sidewalks, overhead utility undergrounding and specific controlled intersection improvements (either signals or roundabouts) will reduce the overall project cost (final design, land acquisition, construction and construction administration) of the current Kitsap County prepared 2006 Bethel Corridor Plan.

As mentioned above, the City is currently obligated to complete two federally funded projects initiated in 2005, before tackling the Bethel Corridor Reconstruction/Improvement Plan project. The two remain projects are the Tremont Street Widening Project and the Bay Street Pedestrian Pathway Project. They must be completed within established timelines, since federal funding have

Upcoming Events

-Clerk’s Office

- Work Study Session, March 17, City Hall, 7:00 p.m.
- Council Meeting, March 24, City Hall, 7:00 p.m.
- Port Orchard Farmers Market, April 4, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Saturdays
- Port Orchard First Saturday Art Walk, April 4, 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

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already been contributed and expended on these projects.

The **Tremont Street Widening Project** is a federally funded capacity and safety-based improvement project, and City staff (Planning, Public Works and Finance) are working on a funding plan to complete the project (final design and right-of-way acquisition is complete). In the meantime, the Public Works Department is tasked with maintaining project activity with the Washington State Department of Transportation, seeking viable funding partners (e.g. Transportation Improvement Board) for the construction phase of the project, and working to bring the Transportation Impact Fee/Transportation Benefit District conversation to the Port Orchard City Council.

The **Bay Street Pedestrian Pathway Project** is a federally funded water-oriented, multi-modal enhancement project using previously acquired funding specific to that type of project (bike and pedestrians improvements). Right-of-way certification is needed in order for the City to apply for and secure the required construction funding. The right-of-way phase is just now getting started. The City has successfully built two of the eleven segments of the pathway with State grant funding, and will be completing another segment – Segment No. 4 Pedestrian Pathway Bridge at Black Jack Creek – this summer, using State grant funding sources.

The City does have a strategy in place to address all of the City’s transportation needs, but it does take time to fund these large dollar projects, and the traditional funding sources are either dwindling or becoming competitive to the point of being outside the City’s ability to score satisfactorily to receive funds. This is yet another important consideration during the Transportation Impact Fees and Transportation Benefit District discussions.

**Spring Cleaning and Projects**

*Kathy Woodside, Code Enforcement*

It’s that time of year that we start coming out of our homes and starting looking at the projects for the summer season. How big are your projects? Are you doing the projects yourself? Have you been watching home improvement shows that never let on there is an inspector sitting on the side lines making sure it is up to code? Let see if we can help point you in the right direction for some of those projects.

How about a new storage shed? Sheds are a unique, because it is a structure that would not require a permit if it is 200 square feet in area or less, but there are some things that you need to know. All properties have building setbacks that must be met, even if a building permit is not required. The setbacks can vary depending on whether it is a side yard or rear yard and depending on the zoning of your property. In order to measure your setback, you will need to identify your property line. In addition, you may have an Homeowners Association (HOA), which has rules concerning the placement of outbuildings. If you plan to run power to your shed, you will need an electrical permit. If your property contains critical areas such as steep slopes or wetlands, you may need to have the project reviewed for compliance with other City regulations.

Maybe you decide to change out the old windows, replace an exterior door, or change your siding. All of these actions require a permit. By obtaining a permit, the city will inspect the improvements to ensure that the installation is done correctly and sealed properly. Moisture problems related to improper installations could cause rot and molds that can be very costly in the long run, which may negatively affect the health of your family.

How is your roof looking? For a residential site, if your project is over 2,100 sq ft or if some of the sheathing needs replacing, it will require a permit. In this neck of the woods, the condition of your roof is very important.

Decks may or may not require a permit. If the deck is over 200 sq ft, higher than 30 inches above the ground, or attached to the house, it would require a permit. It is important to understand the rail spacing, strength, and supports to ensure safety for your children, grandkids, or your next outdoor party guests.

Have you looked at the vegetation next to your street and sidewalk? Are the plants or trees interfering with the use of a sidewalk, on street parking, street signs, or lanes of travel? Did you know you are responsible to keep these areas clear to ensure visibility to motorists and for public access and use? Did you know that you need City permission to remove street trees?

Remember, City staff is here to help you with your projects, while creating a safe and healthy environment. Give us a call to ask questions or to find out if you need a permit. Department of Community Development (360) 874-5533.