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PRESS RELEASE

Construction work will impact Ridgewood View Park and adjacent neighborhood

The ongoing OR 217 Modernization Project will be building a retaining wall on the east side of OR 217

Emery & Sons Construction, a contractor for the Oregon Department of Transportation, will be constructing a retaining wall along the east side of OR 217 as part of the ongoing OR 217 Modernization Project.

ODOT has determined that the most efficient place to access the construction area for this wall is in Ridgewood View Park, located above OR 217 northbound near Wilshire St. Ridgewood View Park is operated by Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District. A temporary 25-foot wide accessway will be placed along the northern edge of the park to move heavy equipment from Ardenwood Street to the construction site. A staging area will also be placed in the park next to the accessway for storage and assembly of construction materials and equipment. Both the accessway and the staging area will be fenced.

While these are in place, a portion of the path around the northern part of the park will be closed to public use. The swing set in this area will remain open.

Additionally, construction vehicles will access Ridgewood View Park throughout the 3-month construction period via SW Wilshire Street, 98th Avenue, and Ardenwood Street. Agreements have been reached with Washington County and the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District to temporarily use these streets and the park.

This work is scheduled to begin on February 1, 2010, and be complete by April 30, 2010.

Nearby residents may experience some daytime noise and disruption resulting from occasional movement of materials and equipment to and from the construction site. On-street parking will

also be restricted one day at the beginning and one day at the end of construction as the large construction equipment is moved through the neighborhood and the park to the construction site.

Park Improvements

After construction on this portion is complete in the spring, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District intends to make several improvements to the park with funds received from ODOT. Improvements include overlaying paved paths in the park, paving gravel paths, reconstructing the path from the park to Ridgewood Elementary School to improve its grade, constructing a new paved path from SW Meade Street, and clearing brush along the paths. Questions about these improvements may be directed to THPRD's Director of Communications and Development, Bob Wayt, at 503-645-6433 or bwayt@thprd.org.

Project information can be found at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/hwy217/>

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