

Closure of Stark Street for new culvert begins June 22

A short section of SE Stark Street near Mt. Hood Community College is scheduled to close from June 22 until early October to allow a contractor to replace a culvert that carries Beaver Creek under the road.

Construction will close a 500-foot long section of SE Stark Street near the creek. Driveways to nearby businesses and the college will remain open. Detour routes will be posted for different modes of transportation between SW 257th Drive/NE Kane Road and S Troutdale Road. The detours are:

- Motor vehicles less than 40 feet long: NE 17th St./Cochran Road
- Trucks longer than 40 feet: NE Division St./SE Division Drive
- Bicyclists and pedestrians: SW Corbeth Lane to SE Stark St.

TriMet's 80 Kane/Troutdale Road bus route will use the NE 17th St./Cochran Road detour.

Replacing the undersized concrete box culvert and fish ladder with an open bottom arch culvert will improve upstream migration for salmon and the downstream movement of wood and sediment. Recent fish studies found that Beaver Creek is an important salmon stream, producing 5% of juvenile coho salmon produced in the Sandy River. Multnomah County plans to improve two other culverts on Beaver Creek in 2018 that are fish barriers. This will open several upstream miles of stream habitat in Beaver Creek to threatened coho salmon and steelhead trout.

The new culvert will be longer, to match the future width of Stark Street. In 2021, the county plans to widen Stark Street between Kane Road/257th and Troutdale Road to two lanes in each direction, along with sidewalks and bike lanes. The section of the road that crosses the creek currently has two lanes and no sidewalks or bike lanes. The road widening project will not require a long road closure.

Multnomah County encourages the public to support local businesses during construction. "This project will have positive long-term impacts for safety and development in Troutdale, as well as environmental benefits," said County Commissioner Lori Stegmann, who represents east county. "We know that some local businesses are concerned about construction impacts. We're placing extra signs to remind the public that businesses are open during construction and doing everything we can to shorten the timeline for road closure. Please continue to support our local businesses near the project this summer."

Multnomah County maintains this section of Stark Street and 300 miles of roads and bridges. For information, visit www.multco.us/roads/webform/stark-street-culvert-replacement or contact Mike Pullen in the Communications Office, mike.j.pullen@multco.us, 503-209-4111.