

City Council June 9, 2021

Mayor and Council - Following the last City Council meeting there was information posted on Facebook regarding the signalization project commencing on the Molalla Avenue and Main Street/Hwy 211 intersection. This information was specifically requested by the Mayor and I distributed the information to the Mayor and all Councilors prior to the last meeting. However, this document was posted on Facebook by the Mayor and specifically altered to remove item #6. Item 6 was the portion of the memo that provided accurate and helpful information to the community, especially those impacted by the pending construction.

This incident has created ramifications throughout my staff. It not only undermines the effectiveness of staff but also limits our ability to connect with the community as an agency. I believe Council and Staff are on the same team. The community needs to see that process in action.

Under no circumstances do we believe we are perfect and incapable of making mistakes. However, we do work hard everyday for the betterment of Molalla. Our track record of the annually improving fiscal health of this community should indicate to anyone paying attention that we are fully committed to our roles for this community.

The past twelve months plus have been hard on everyone. But discussions of the way things used to be, do not help this community move ahead. Good things are happening here in this community, and we should not be tearing it all down and contributing to community unrest.

Democracy thrives off an informed and active community. The information should be accurate, we need to be leaders in this accuracy provision and the community should be seeking this accurate information.



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Scott Keyser

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May 26, 2021

TO: Dan Huff, City Manager

FROM: Gerald Fisher, Public Works Director

RE: Facts about OR211 – Molalla Avenue Signal Project

This memo is in response to misinformation currently being spread by individuals on Facebook regarding the signal project at OR 211 and Molalla Avenue. Here are a few facts regarding the project and these facts are shared to clear up any misconception about the signal project.

Fact 1 – This project is a requirement of the Cascade Center Development to address traffic congestion and the future failure of the existing intersection once the Cascade Center Development is open for business.

Fact 2 – The City is not in charge of this project. ODOT is the permitting and regulatory authority over OR 211 and all its intersections with City streets. The City has no jurisdiction over the configuration of the intersection or design and construction requirements to upgrade the intersection.

Fact 3 – City staff have on numerous occasions discussed the project and provided both verbal and written updates to the City Council at Council meetings. City staff have provided this information on the City's website and published updates regarding the project as the information has become available. City staff attended two lunch hour meetings at the Chamber of Commerce to answer business owner and property owner questions about the project. Those meetings were held on March 3, 2020 and March 9, 2020.

Fact 4 – The City allowed for a temporary closure of a small section of Molalla Avenue to vehicle traffic and allowed for night-time work to expedite construction of the signal. Signals typically take 9 months to a year or more to construct and the developer is proposing to do the work in 4 months or less.

Fact 5 – The temporary closure of Molalla Avenue to vehicle traffic will not impact the ability of businesses within the construction area to receive foot traffic. Pedestrian traffic access will remain in place during construction of the project and vehicle detours will allow for circulation around the work and access to local businesses.

Fact 7 – Construction of this project is not redirecting funds that could be used to fill potholes on OR 211. OR 211 is a state highway under the control and responsibility of ODOT. The City does not and can not make maintenance improvements and pothole repairs to a state highway. ODOT is not contributing funding to the construction of the new signal. The cost of the signal is shared between the developer and the City and the ongoing maintenance cost will be shared by ODOT and the City.

I decided to stop at these key seven facts because the rest of the misinformation being spread by individuals on Facebook is not worth responding to because they are not based in any facts or actual knowledge about the signal project. I am certain that the City Council is and will be approached about this project and hopefully this information will get back out to eliminate belief in the rumors being spread around by certain individuals.

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Fact 5 – The temporary closure of Molalla Avenue to vehicle traffic will not impact the ability of businesses within the construction area to receive foot traffic. Pedestrian traffic access will remain in place during construction of the project and vehicle detours will allow for circulation around the work and access to local businesses.

Fact 6 – The contractor has agreed to work with local businesses in the effected area for deliveries and will be contacting those businesses to provide contact information for coordination and to address any concerns business or property owner may have during the signal construction.

Fact 7 – Construction of this project is not redirecting funds that could be used to fill potholes on OR 211. OR 211 is a state highway under the control and responsibility of ODOT. The City does not and can not make maintenance improvements and pothole repairs to a state highway. ODOT is not contributing funding to the construction of the new signal. The cost of the signal is shared between the developer and the City and the ongoing maintenance cost will be shared by ODOT and the City.

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