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## Orange Street Underpass Sidewalk Repairs Begin October 13 One Side to Remain Open to Pedestrian and Bike Traffic

In response to the emergency closure of the Northside Pedestrian Bridge, City Street Maintenance crews will be replacing broken, deteriorated sidewalk portions in the Orange Street underpass beginning Wednesday, October 13. The project, which is expected to be completed by October 27, will make the underpass safer and more accessible for pedestrians and cyclists. One side of the underpass sidewalk will remain open during construction.

Sidewalks on the west side of the underpass, from N. 2nd Street W. through the underpass, will be closed from October 13 to approximately October 24. The east side underpass sidewalk will remain open and available to pedestrians and bicyclists. Vehicle lanes will remain open except when crews pour new concrete for the sidewalk on October 18 and 19. On those dates, southbound vehicle traffic will be detoured down N. 5th Street W. from approximately 10 a.m. to noon. We suggest drivers use an alternate route during these times if possible.

When the west sidewalk reopens around October 24, the east sidewalk will be closed for minor repairs, with work expected to be completed on Thursday, October 27.

Since the Orange Street underpass is a critical detour route for pedestrians and bicyclists who used the Northside Pedestrian Bridge before its closure, City crews began looking at the area's

sidewalk conditions and the infrastructure's ability to accommodate the additional traffic. The City worked with the Montana Department of Transportation to devise a plan to make the repairs right away.

While it is unfortunate that one side of the underpass sidewalk will not be available during the two weeks of construction, the long-term benefit will be safer pedestrian and bicycle access. If construction crews did not make these improvements now, the work would have to be delayed until next spring when warmer weather would allow for the concrete installation.

Sidewalk closure maps and a street traffic detour map are available on the City's website at <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2839/Right-of-Way-Infrastructure-Projects>.

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