

Pathway tunnel to be open for winter use



Crews have finished installing the new pathway tunnel in the Hidden Ranch subdivision, creating a better line-of-sight for pathway users passing through the structure. BRADLY J. BONER / NEWS&GUIDE

By Kevin Huelsmann, Jackson Hole, Wyo.

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Construction crews installed the second piece of an underpass tunnel along the Russ Garaman Pathway this month.

Crews now are building retaining walls for the project, finishing utility work and repairing the site to its original condition, which includes backfilling around the tunnel, replanting vegetation and repairing a portion of pathway, said Jackson Hole Community Pathways Coordinator Brian Schilling.

Schilling said the work is expected to continue into November but pathway users should be able to travel through the tunnel this winter.

"We should be able to get the pathway and tunnel to a point where people can use it over the winter," Schilling said.

During construction, pathway users have been diverted through a nearby neighborhood as part of a detour.

The project is being completed by Westwood Curtis Construction, which won the contract for the project this summer with a bid of about \$478,000.

The entire project is expected to cost about \$578,000, which is being paid for by a \$400,000 state transportation grant and money approved in this year's specific purpose excise tax election, Schilling said.

The new tunnel is expected to be wider and provide a safer route for pathway users.

"We're replacing an undersized pipe culvert with a tunnel that meets modern design standards and guidelines," Schilling said. "The old tunnel definitely did not come close to meeting [American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials] design standards and guidelines."

Just as the new tunnel is nearing completion, town street crews are slated this week to remove the bike corral from in front of Pearl Street Bagels.

The corral, installed in June, is being removed for the winter and is expected to be re-installed next spring.

The corral was part of a pilot project — deemed to be successful by Schilling — to test the feasibility of the

structure.

The corral took the place of one parking spot in front of Pearl Street Bagels and was an attempt to promote non-motorized transportation and relieve some congestion along the sidewalk.

Schilling said two additional business have requested bike corrals to be installed next year and the town is taking applications for any other interested businesses.

Anyone interested in having a bike corral installed should call Schilling at 732-8573 or e-mail him at bschilling@ci.jackson.wy.us.