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**\*\*Press Release\*\***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Progress Update on Pedestrian Bridge Construction**

**Umatilla, OR- MAY 28, 2024**—Construction of the Pedestrian Bridge, aimed at reconnecting the South Hill area with the main parts of The City, is steadily advancing towards completion. The project marks a significant milestone in enhancing accessibility and connectivity for residents, linking key areas such as City Hall, the Umatilla Public Library, schools, and City parks.

Substantial advancements have been achieved in the construction. In-water work began May 6th. Legacy contractors have successfully assembled the flotation necessary to maneuver the bridge pieces into place. The bridge is now being lifted to its final position atop the abutments. This critical phase of construction is expected to be accomplished no later than June 21st, bringing the project closer to its culmination.

It's crucial to note that the project's timeline is strictly governed by the in-water work permit issued by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Department of State Lands (DSL), and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). These agencies have meticulously determined the dates for river access based on comprehensive assessments, considering various factors, including impacts on fish and anglers. We are unwavering in our commitment to adhere to these guidelines, ensuring minimal environmental and stakeholder disruption.

Notably, the pathway associated with the bridge is nearing completion, with the majority of work already finished. A retaining wall, paving, lighting, and benches have been installed. However, some final touches remain, including hydroseeding along the pathway's edges and construction of the final approximate 120 feet of trail that connects it to the bridge.

“The completion of this project is eagerly anticipated by the community as it will not only provide a safe and convenient route for pedestrians but also serve as a vital link between neighborhoods and essential amenities,” expressed Scott Coleman, Public Works Director.

As construction activities are ongoing, we kindly request the public to avoid the area designated as a construction zone for safety reasons. Your cooperation and understanding during this phase are greatly appreciated.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for later this year; more information will follow soon. For more on this project and other City projects, we encourage you to visit our website at <https://www.umatilla-city.org/city-projects>.

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