



## NEWS ADVISORY

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For immediate release

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### **City Celebrates Lolo Street Project Thursday**

Join City Council representatives Dave Strohmaier and Jason Wiener along with neighborhood residents and City staff members on Thursday at lunchtime for a ribbon-cutting celebration of the completion of new sidewalks and other improvements to Lolo Street.

The event will take place at noon at the corner of Lolo Street and Cales Court just west of the bridge over Rattlesnake Creek. Speakers will include the Ward 1 representatives; neighborhood resident Harold Hoem, who served on the work group that produced the Rattlesnake Valley Transportation Summit Study in 2011; Allison Depuy, neighborhood resident and sidewalk proponent whose school-aged children use the new sidewalks; and Steve King, director of the Public Works Department.

The project, literally decades in the making, brought sidewalks, curbs and gutters, drainage structures and new pavement to the street, along with sewer connections. It was done in two phases, from the bridge east to Rattlesnake Drive in 2009 and from the bridge west to Duncan Drive this summer.

Lolo Street is the only east-west through street above the foot of the Rattlesnake Valley. This project makes the busy street a continuous safe walkway across the valley for walkers, runners, kids on their way to school and other travelers. Neighborhood residents use the route, as well as people from other neighborhoods who visit to hike, attend school events or visit the valley's winery.

“Whether you're pushing a baby stroller, walking your kids to school, commuting to work on foot, or just getting some exercise, sidewalks knit our community together and are essential components of pedestrian safety,” Strohmaier said. “It's been a long haul, but after years of work and planning, we finally have curbs and sidewalks along the full length of Lolo Street--the major east-west connection in the Rattlesnake. I'm proud to have been a part of this effort, and I thank everyone who has made this day a reality.”

Project manager Doug Harby of the City's Engineering Department worked for years to get the pieces to fall into place as the area developed. The Rattlesnake Sewer project had to be completed and utilities in place. The western end of the street has a narrow right-of-way. That fact combined with a historic rock wall on the north side of the street led to sidewalks on only the south side of the street west of the bridge.

The project cost approximately \$380,000 and was funded by CTEP money (Community Transportation Enhancement Program), gas tax funds and assessments to adjacent property owners with the addition of City labor and equipment.

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Ginny Merriam, Public Information/Communications Director, 552-6007; 546-7692