

Helen & Alan Berg Good Governance Award Project Description:

‘Hermiston Projects’ Website

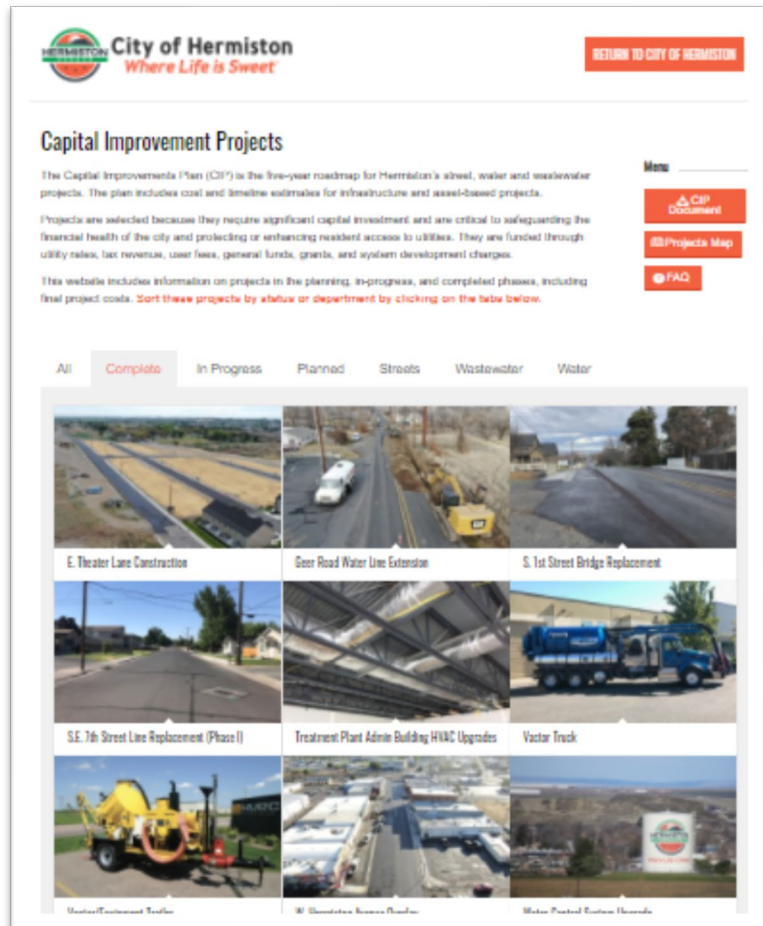
The City of Hermiston debuted the Hermiston Projects website (www.hermistonprojects.com) in January 2020, the culmination of nearly three years of effort to increase public transparency in capital planning and investment in water, sewer and street improvements.

The plan itself began in 2017 with the compilation of necessary system improvements and development of a sustainable funding plan. The City Council Public Infrastructure Committee hosted several work sessions to refine the plan in 2018, and the City Council adopted its first comprehensive water, sewer, and street Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) in January 2019, outlining \$20 million in investment over five years. The CIP was a tangible - albeit voluminous - document to show the public how their funds would be used for long-term infrastructure work.

The plan’s development and implementation received local media coverage and the document was posted to the city’s website, but the complexity and density of the projects made overall

comprehension of the scope of the project and individual project tracking difficult for residents.

City staff began to discuss ways to make the CIP plan more accessible and transparent to the public. Hermiston Mayor Dave Drotzmann noticed an example of a transparent online CIP from nearby Walla Walla, Washington (population 30,000) called www.gowallawalla.us. The site presented a simplified breakdown of the daunting 200-page CIP document into an accessible form. Hermiston staff spent 2019 developing www.hermistonprojects.com using the same model.




The new website categorizes projects by both department and status, enabling the public to review planned, in progress, and completed projects. An interactive map also shows the location of work that will have an impact on transportation as a way to alert residents of upcoming work and inform them of the purpose of each project.

Each project page includes descriptions, cost projections, timelines, photos, and links to media coverage. The language is simplified from the original document into bullet points highlighting the steps of each project and its value to the public. Once a project is live, the timeline is updated with major milestones and any media reports to document the development. Each project is also marked with its original ID for quick reference with the CIP document.

This user-friendly web format acts as an easily referenced library of past projects, as well as a sharable source of ongoing projects to news media and social media channels. The site is updated regularly, and when a project concludes a final cost and explanation for savings or overrun is included.

E. Theater Lane Construction



East Theater Lane between N.E. 8th and N.E. 10th Streets.

PROJECT STATUS:
Complete

PROJECT MILESTONES

September 2019
City Council approved adding the project to scope of work for Anderson Perry, the contractor building the nearby water tower.

November 2019
Hermiston voters approve school bond measure to fund new school near site.

Media: bit.ly/HermTheater

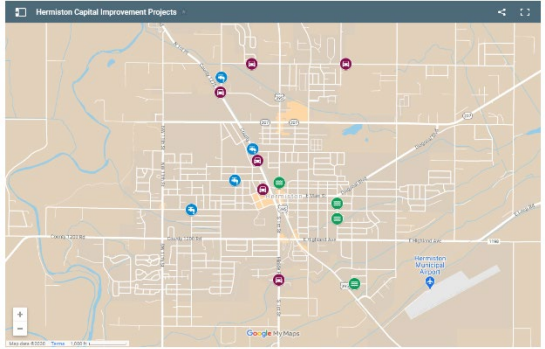
DESCRIPTION

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| PROJECT ID: | ST 3.0 |
| ESTIMATED COST: | \$630,000 |
| ACTUAL COST: | \$474,570.25* |

- Replaces gravel road between N.E. 8th and N.E. 10th streets with asphalt.
- Current sidewalks will meet ADA standards
- Centerline stripes and crosswalks will be added
- Work will be coordinated with water, sewer and outside utilities to make sure work is done conc

Projects Map

Capital Improvement Projects include street, water and wastewater system development. The map below shows construction projects on public right of way.



Media Coverage of Website:

[City of Hermiston launches website to help residents track Capital Improvement Projects](#)

The public can sort these projects by their status or department, and each profile includes cost estimates, descriptions, benefit explanations, and timelines. The site allows residents to follow road closures and other temporary disruptions of services during construction. – *NBC Right Now, Feb. 24*

[La ciudad de Hermiston lanza un sitio web para ayudar a los residentes a rastrear los proyectos de mejora de capital](#)

Hermistonprojects.com incluye un mapa interactivo con ubicaciones e información detallada sobre proyectos y otros gastos de capital que se encuentran en las etapas de planificación, actualmente en curso o ya se han completado. – *Telemundo Tri-Cities*

[Our View – A tip of the hat, a kick in the pants](#)

A tip of the hat to the city of Hermiston for its new website on capital improvements — hermistonprojects.com — that adds a level of government transparency. The city didn't have to create such a website, but the fact it did shows officials want to give local voters as much information as possible. - *East Oregonian, Feb. 29*

Media Coverage of Projects Featured on Website:

[City to negotiate for land at Geer/Harper Intersection](#)

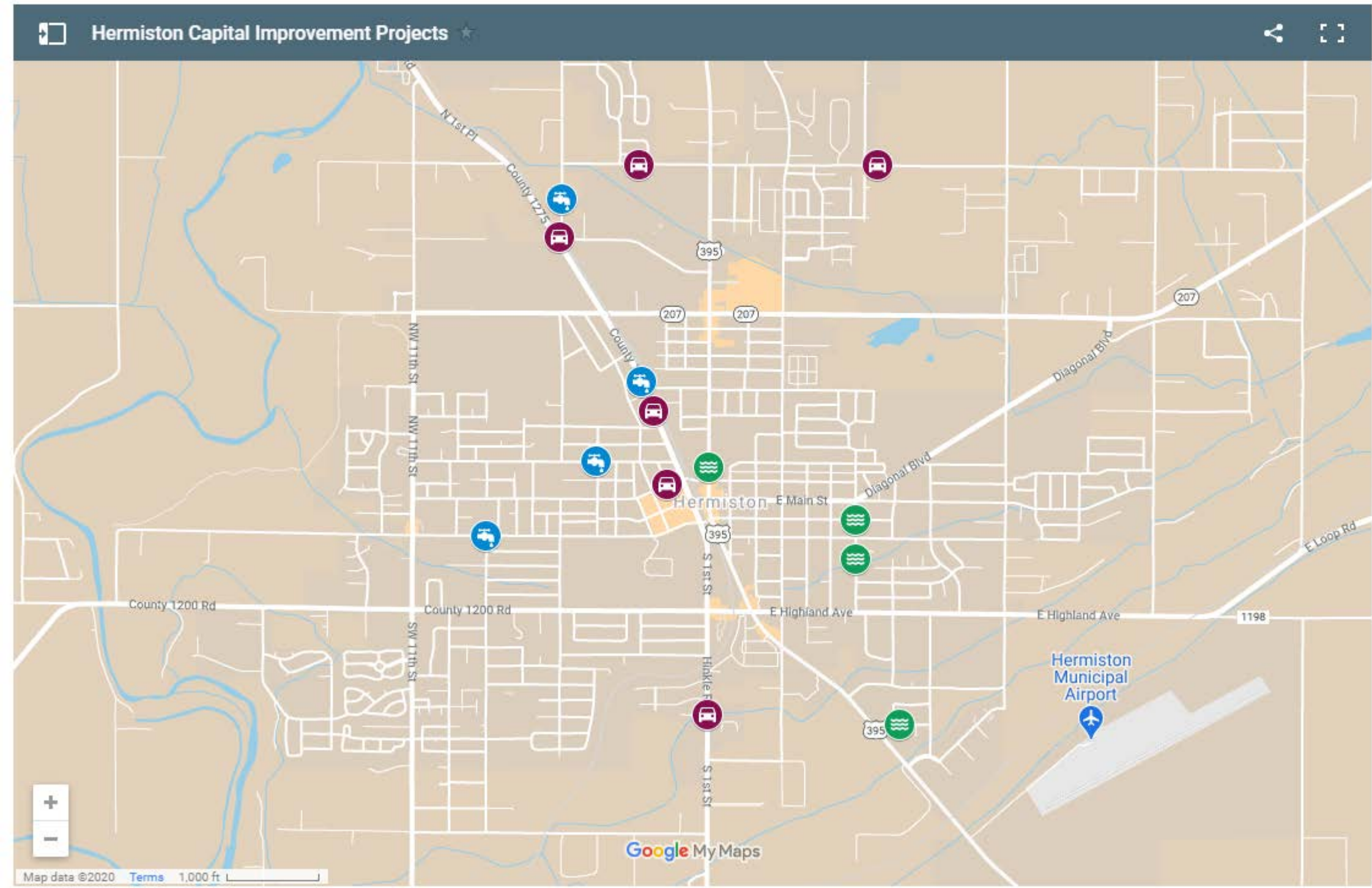
The city council discussed the proposed \$1.5 million project on Monday. Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan said the Y-shaped intersection is confusing and has had at least nine reported crashes since 2004, but the biggest problem is there is not much room for cars to “stack” up when the intersection gets busy, particularly if multiple people want to turn onto River Road. – *East Oregonian, Jan. 28*

[Newly Paved Theater Lane Opens Up Housing Development Opportunities](#)

East Theater Lane will soon re-open as a fully paved road, the latest project in the Capital Improvement Plan that will unlock housing development potential in northeast Hermiston. – *Northeast Oregon Now, May 11*

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Capital Improvement Projects

The Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) is the five-year roadmap for Hermiston's street, water and wastewater projects. The plan includes cost and timeline estimates for infrastructure and asset-based projects.

Projects are selected because they require significant capital investment and are critical to safeguarding the financial health of the city and protecting or enhancing resident access to utilities. They are funded through utility rates, tax revenue, user fees, general funds, grants, and system development charges.

This website includes information on projects in the planning, in-progress, and completed phases, including final project costs. [Sort these projects by status or department by clicking on the tabs below.](#)

Menu

CIP Document

Projects Map

FAQ

All **Complete** In Progress Planned Streets Wastewater Water



E. Theater Lane Construction



Geer Road Water Line Extension



S. 1st Street Bridge Replacement



S.E. 7th Street Lane Replacement (Phase I)



Treatment Plant Admin Building HVAC Upgrades



Water Truck



Water/Equipment Trailer



W. Hermiston Avenue Overlay



Water Control System Upgrade

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February 2020

Contractor begins placing processing base rock. This process should take 2-3 weeks to be ready for placing asphalt.

March 2020

COVID-19 pandemic causes chaos in construction industry. Washington Governor