

Intersection project falls behind sked

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Work on the downtown Valley Springs intersection improvement project is falling behind schedule.

The construction schedule released when the latest round of work began in July called for Phase 1 to be completed Aug. 25. Phase 1 consisted of site clearing, demolition of existing facilities, earthwork, new storm drainage system, installation of new curb, gutter and sidewalks, paving and new street light installation.

The next phase calls for a new, temporary traffic pattern. Phase 2, which was scheduled to begin Aug. 27, has the barrier rail being reset to the southwest corner of the intersection. Phase 2 traffic will be directed onto the new improvements built in phase 1.

Phase 2 was scheduled to last until Sept. 27. Phase 2 of new construction is slated to include similar improvement completed in Phase 1.

Phase 3, the final phase of construction, was scheduled from Sept. 28 to Oct. 23. According to the Calaveras County Department of Public Works, the Phase 2 barrier will be removed from the site and the final traffic alignment will be in effect. Following removal of the barrier rail, traffic will be using the new and final alignment. Two new islands will be constructed to provide pedestrian access to intersection crosswalks.

The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors back in June accepted the low bid of \$1.2 million from George Reed Inc. of Modesto to complete the State Route 12/26 intersection improvement project.

Improvements to the intersection consist of widening SR 12/26 with the addition of a free right movement from northbound SR26 onto eastbound SR 12/26, a left turn pocket from westbound SR12/26 onto southbound SR26, as well as providing pedestrian facilities.

Nearly 90 percent of the cost is being paid from federal funds with a 10 percent match coming from county funds already collected through Road Impact Mitigation fees paid for by previous development.

District 1 Supervisor Cliff Edson plans to organize a committee of volunteers to work on creating an attractive downtown center once the intersection project is completed. He can be contacted at cedson@co.calaveras.ca.us.