PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

City of Woodland Plans Scott Avenue Improvements
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Since the construction of I-5 in the 1960s, East and West Scott Avenues have been blocked to through traffic, forcing motorists to use parallel surface streets to reach freeway underpasses. Now, a half-century later, planning for reconnection of this major Woodland street is underway.

Preliminary engineering design work started this summer. It will identify the most effective way to reconnect the street for direct east-west travel and to reduce traffic congestion at existing freeway interchanges. This design work is funded by a $2 million federal grant.

The City of Woodland expects to choose a preferred alternative for crossing over or under I-5 by spring of 2014. Once the preferred alternative is chosen, the City will complete the state and federal permitting process required for the preferred alternative. Once permits are received, the City will proceed with seeking funding for final design and construction, according to Woodland Public Works Director Bart Stepp.

“A reconnected Scott Avenue is a critical piece of transportation infrastructure for the Woodland community,” said Port of Woodland Commissioner Paul Cline. "The Port of Woodland relies on its connection to Interstate 5, and Woodland’s industrial area is growing. Reconnecting Scott Avenue will improve freight mobility, increase safety and reduce congestion. From the perspective of industrial job growth, this project must happen,” he said

“When this connection is restored, we will once again have an east-west arterial street that better serves residents, businesses, and the Port of Woodland, while also relieving traffic congestion at the SR 503 freeway underpass,” Woodland Mayor Grover Laseke said.

To learn more about the project, the City invites residents to visit a special project website at www.scottreconnect.com. The website currently features five preliminary alternatives developed to date, and allows visitors to ask questions and submit comments. The site will be updated regularly and serve as an information hub as design progresses, according to Stepp. “The website provides a convenient way for people to stay up to date on the project. We encourage people to visit the site often, and share their thoughts,” he said.

The City will also hold an open house on December 10th from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at the New Council Chambers at 200 E. Scott Avenue for people to view alternative designs, he said.

Contact Bart Stepp, Public Works Director at 360-225-7999 for more information.