

Adobe Road project needs rights of way

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By Kurt Schauppner
The Desert Trail

TWENTYNINE PALMS — Acquisition of rights of way is all that separates the city of Twentynine Palms from the beginning of a \$4 million project to rebuild the roadway and add curbs, gutters, sidewalks as well as a bike path on the west side of Adobe Road from Amboy Road to the front gate of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.

"The engineering drawings are done," City Manager Michael Tree said.

"Because we are putting curb, gutter, sidewalk and a bike trail on the west side, we need to acquire some right of way," Tree said. "There were 24 parcels we needed to obtain a portion of."

City officials, he noted, asked San Bernardino County's Real Estate Division to acquire the rights of way for the project. He added last week that 15 of the 24 pieces of land had been acquired.

Tree confirmed that county officials are not offering payments for the pieces of land needed for the project.

"They are just asking for it," he said.

Owners of property on the west side of Adobe Road from Amboy Road to the Combat Center who have not been contacted by the county, Tree said, are asked to call City

Hall at 367-8799.

"I will give them the phone number for the real estate division in the county and the contact person," he said.

Tree added that once all the pieces of land are acquired city officials will be able to put the road project out to bid.

"Our hope is to bid out the project by the end of this fiscal year (June 2009)," he said.

"I think it will probably be a three-month process to complete the work."

In light of recent flooding on Adobe Road between Amboy Road and Raymond Way, Tree said city engineers are trying to figure out ways to better manage rain water around the main thoroughfare linking the Combat Center with the city of Twentynine Palms.

The road provides transportation for Marines, sailors and their families coming from the base into town and for residents who work on base to get to their jobs.

Those who didn't know how important that piece of roadway is got a reminder in August when Adobe Road was partially closed for several days following a heavy rainstorm. Traffic was diverted onto Mesquite Springs Road and Utah Trail while city crews cleaned up the mess.

"We anticipate that they

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won't need to close the road completely," Tree said of the eventual reconstruction process. "That they will be able to work with cones and keep the road open."

He agreed that Adobe Road

is extremely busy.

"It's packed," he said. "I'm not certain that they wouldn't need to close the roadway from time to time. It's a major entrance and exit from the base."

Funding for the road project was provided by a Department of Defense grant,

obtained through Congressman Jerry Lewis' office with help from the Combat Center.

"The base was a real partner," Tree said.

"They feel its of high importance."

Since funding was received, he said, the project's price tag has actually dropped

to \$4 million because of the economic downturn.

Tree added that city officials would like to get the project completed before the price tag goes up again.

Comments? Questions?
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