From Mike Pullen, Multnomah County

# SE Stark Street Reopens After Culvert Replacement

A section of SE Stark Street near Mt. Hood Community College reopened to traffic on Friday, October 20, after installation of a 150-foot long culvert that closed the road for nearly four months.

A short section of Stark Street between Troutdale Road and Corbeth Lane closed in late June during construction of an open-bottom arch culvert that carries Beaver Creek under the road. Contractor Thompson Brothers excavated about forty feet down from the roadway to remove an old failed culvert and install a new fish friendly culvert. A large canyon was excavated so that the longer and wider steel culvert could be built, along with concrete head walls to protect the culvert and Stark Street during high creek flows.

Rainfall in September and October created construction challenges, as well as groundwater that had to be pumped from the work zone throughout the project. The original reopening date of October 6 was extended by two weeks. Remaining tasks, such as landscaping and placing top soil, can be performed without closing the road to traffic.

The new culvert will improve upstream migration for salmon and the downstream movement of wood and sediment. The old culvert was roughly 10 feet square: the new culvert is about 40 feet wide and 20 feet high.

Multnomah County plans to improve two other road culverts on Beaver Creek in the next two years that are fish barriers. This will open several upstream miles of stream habitat to threatened coho salmon and steelhead trout.

The new longer culvert under Stark Street will also allow Multnomah County to widen Stark Street between Kane Road/257$^{th}$ and Troutdale Road to two lanes in each direction, along with sidewalks and bike lanes. The road widening is tentatively scheduled for 2020.

Multnomah County maintains this section of Stark Street and nearly 300 miles of roads and bridges. For information, visit www.multco.us/stark.

See photos below

Photos courtesy of Multnomah County

Broken fish ladder removed.

Downstream headwall of culvert. The fish ladder was not replaced, as the culvert has a natural stream bottom.