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Bass Lake Road widening slated

By Ryan Rose

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For all those who warily drive Old Bass Lake Road, there is hope.

In a \$4 million project to be completed by the fall, El Dorado County has contracted with Holloway, Rasmussen and Molodanof to develop the rebuilding, realigning and re-paving sections of Old Bass Lake Road.

In particular, crews will widen the road between Country Club and Stone Hill Road into four lanes. From that point the road will receive a two-lane realignment to the existing Bass Lake Road.

Brian Holloway and Mike Spencer of Holloway, Rasmussen and Molodanof told Community Service District Board members last Thursday about the radical changes planned for the dilapidated road.

Holloway hopes to see the project go out to bid by April 1 with construction beginning in June.

"We are looking forward to making Bass Lake Road safer for the community," said Holloway.

According to Spencer, the widened area will measure 32 feet of "effective" pavement, including shoulder work and the formation of a center divide. Also planned is a six-foot wide pedestrian walking path and an eight-foot bike lane.

CSD General Manager Wayne Lowery compared the project to El Dorado Hills Boulevard prior to its extension to four lanes. Old El Dorado Hills Boulevard can be seen north of St. Andrews Drive.

The realignment to follow the expansion will prime the road for an eventual meeting with Serrano Parkway. Spencer said Bass Lake Road would be realigned immediately east to meet Serrano.

This project also coincides with the development of the Hallow Oaks subdivision, which will consist of 90 new homes. Holloway said the county decided to start the project because of the additional traffic generated by the development.

Holloway also reports the county is still intent on keeping development in the Bass Lake area sparse.

Members of the Bass Lake Action Committee, a non-profit group of homeowners encouraging conscious area development, are glad to see the road improvements.

"On the whole, Bass Lake Action Committee is pleased that a portion of the road is finally being improved," said John E. Thomson, vice president of committee. "As long ago as 1983, the El Dorado Hills-Salmon Falls Area Plan recognized Bass Lake Road as being too narrow, and recommended improving it."

Thomson acknowledges the new improvements will make the road very popular.

"Of course, it was imperative the road be improved from the new intersection with Serrano Parkway down to Highway 50," he said. "Many Serrano residents will no doubt use the new Serrano Parkway extension to Bass Lake Road to get to Highway 50, thus markedly increasing the traffic on that part of Bass Lake Road."

Thomson, however, would like to see even more roadwork done.

“We are pleased to have Bass Lake Road improved because it's safer for all those who drive on the new road,” he said. “It's unfortunate that we are only half way to making the whole road safer.”

Holloway and Spencer said more infrastructure improvements would likely begin when additional developers come to the area. Diana Buckley of the Department of Transit said the developer of the next sub-division would contribute to future road improvements.