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October 6, 2008  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE UPDATE**  
**For the week of October 6, 2008**

For the week of October 6, 2008, the streetscape contractors will be working on Main Avenue between 3rd Street and the 5<sup>th</sup> Street intersection, as well as the north side of 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

The work is finished on the 500 block with the exception of the prefabricated planter walls, light poles, small areas of sidewalk, clean-up and repair. The final layer of asphalt will be placed at the same time as the final layer for the 300 and 400 blocks, which will give Main Avenue a smoother finish. The contractor has removed the traffic barricades at both ends of the 500 block.

In the 400 block, the contractors have begun pouring the sidewalks and installing light pole bases behind the curb and gutter. The roadway is ready for the pavement contractor to do the final grading and asphalt. The contractors are installing irrigation lines, tree boxes, and other items which are behind the curb. The contractor will be pouring the 8 foot wide tan concrete strip first, followed by the gray concrete along the curb and the along the buildings. To avoid color contamination, the colored concrete cannot be poured at the same time as the uncolored concrete in the same areas. Therefore, it will be necessary to restrict access to front entries at two separate times during the sidewalk pouring.

The contractor has removed the pavement and steam tunnel on the 300 block and finished the water and sewer mains. The contractor will finish all the individual water and sewer connections to the buildings this week. All the asbestos on the entire project has been removed, with the exception of the last remaining section of steam tunnel under the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street intersection.

On 4<sup>th</sup> Street, the contractor will continue installing curb and gutter, sidewalk, storm sewer inlets, and light pole bases on the north side of the street between Main Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Parking will not be available on the north side of the street during this time. Due to the congestion, 4<sup>th</sup> Street may be temporarily blocked at times so that the concrete trucks can be staged during the sidewalk and curb pours. There was some additional steam tunnel that needed to be removed on 4<sup>th</sup> Street near the Main Avenue intersection.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Street intersection is open to east/west traffic, but the 4<sup>th</sup> Street intersection is closed to east/west traffic at Main Avenue. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Street intersection is open to the south, as well as east/west passage. Parking will be available on all side streets, with the possible exception of 4<sup>th</sup> Street between Main and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Parking is also available in the City's parking lot on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. The 2 hour parking limit during business hours will be enforced on the side streets. Citizens may contact the Brookings Police Department with a description of the vehicle if they believe the vehicle has been parked on the side street for more than 2 hours.

Most of the sidewalks on Main Avenue are open. On the 500 block, the new concrete sidewalk is finished; however the planter areas remain open on the bump-outs. Pedestrians should use caution around the open areas as there may be a 6 to 8 inch drop from the edge of the sidewalk. On the 400 block, the original sidewalk is still in place in some areas, while new sidewalks are being installed in others. A temporary cross-walk is available near Subway. On the 300 block, the old concrete sidewalk adjacent to the businesses is in place with intermittent boardwalks where the utility services have been installed. The sidewalk width will vary depending on the location. The fencing and wooden railing along the sidewalk is in place on the 300 block. Some of the old sidewalks may have irregular edges on the street side. Pedestrians should use caution when walking near the work areas and observe the traffic control

barricades as pedestrian access may change from hour to hour, depending on which services or sidewalks are being worked on.

The latest development of the streetscape project is a proposal to stop the street demolition at its current location in front of Skinners and Insty Prints and finish all the work up to that point this year. The contractor would finish all the sidewalk and pavement on Main Avenue up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street intersection and on 4<sup>th</sup> Street up to the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue this year. Then, the contractor would resume the project next spring for the work on Main Avenue from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street intersection to the south end of the project near Front Street. The reason for the proposed schedule change is the concern that the weather may not permit the final section south of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to be paved before snow and freezing temperatures hinder construction. The Brookings City Council will be discussing this proposal on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, at the 6:00 pm Council Meeting in City Hall. The City Council has the final vote on the proposed schedule change, as well as any penalties the contractor would incur. This meeting is open to the public.

The next public meeting is October 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in City Hall at 311 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue for anyone interested in the Streetscape project. Please call City Engineer Jackie Lanning or Assistant City Engineer Thad Drietz at 605-692-6629 with any questions.