

**■ Local**

## Slide work will put off completion of pathway

By Mark Huffman

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Officials are ready to tackle the unfinished bike and pedestrian pathway along Broadway but say that the Budge landslide still remains an obstacle.

Though the slide is nowhere near the route of the West Broadway pathway route near Budge Drive, Jackson/Teton County Community Pathways coordinator Brian Schilling said Sunday that the geologic mess will delay completion of the path.

Officials have decided that work to complete the pathway near Walgreens won't even be scheduled this year, less from slide danger than the likelihood that the town of Jackson and Teton County will begin work designed to deal with the treacherous butte.

"We've known that we probably wouldn't be doing any construction along near Walgreens and the Hillside buildings, because we haven't known just when the mitigation work would be done," Schilling said.

The slumping hillside was moving at its fastest last April, when residents of the Budge Drive neighborhood above Broadway were evacuated. Walgreens announced last week that it's bailing out, and that its store, open only about two months, will not reopen.

When slide mitigation work will be done remains unknown. The work is being pushed further into the future as various parties fight about who will pay for what to deal with the slide.

"The best we can say at this point is that it won't happen this year," Schilling said.

Though the final path won't be done, Schilling said there's still less elegant access. The final product, two lanes that separate cyclists from walkers, is completed to the east. Near the slide and west of that there's temporary asphalt surface, about 10 feet wide, to be shared by pedestrians and bikers.

"You can get through and not have to go onto the roadway," Schilling said. "It's perfectly usable."

That situation will almost certainly get worse before it improves, though. When slide mitigation work does begin, "the whole area may get closed off to any access," he said. Other work on the pathway — on the north and south sides of Broadway — will begin soon. Schilling said Community Pathways is aiming to start by April 20, though the kickoff depends on crews who are "working on other projects right now."

Other than the work near Walgreens, most of the remaining north side work is punch list items, Schilling said.

On the south side the plan is for two crews to be working. The first will begin near Karns

Meadow Drive, the new access to the START bus building off Broadway, and work toward the Y intersection. The other will begin at the Y and work along Highway 22 toward Spring Gulch Road.

Both crews will start by working first near driveways and intersections, then return to complete the pathway segments between them.

**“... it won't happen this year.”**

**– Pathways coordinator BRIAN SCHILLING**

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