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## \$150M road coming to Tehaleh

By **JOURNAL STAFF**

Brookfield Properties broke ground yesterday on a \$150 million arterial road that will eventually connect the Bonney Lake plateau and the Orting valley.

The four-lane New Rhodes Lake Road East corridor will primarily serve the 4,756-acre Tehaleh planned community. Pierce County's project website said the new connection is required for future phases of Tehaleh.

The 3.3-mile road will connect Orting, Puyallup and Sumner to Bonney Lake and Buckley from Highway 162 at 128th Street East in McMillin to Highway 410 via Falling Water Boulevard, Tehaleh Boulevard and 198th Avenue East. The initial segment of the arterial will consist of two lanes in each direction, an uphill truck climbing lane, and a 13-foot-wide bike and walking path alongside the road. The path will tie the Foothills Trail in the Orting valley to other recreational opportunities, including a mountain bike park in Tehaleh that is under construction.

“Pierce County has a solid history of encouraging economic development and supporting business recruitment, retention and expansion,” says Dave Morell, Pierce County Councilmember for District 1, in a news release. “Tehaleh has the potential to create an estimated 6,000 new jobs on 475 acres that has zoning and utilities in place for business right now. New Rhodes Lake Road is the last critical piece of infrastructure needed to efficiently move goods, services and employees between east Pierce County, the Port of Tacoma and the I-5 corridor.”

The new road will be constructed in four segments, with the initial segment running from the Puyallup River bridge to a new intersection where Falling Water Boulevard East will be extended near the center of Tehaleh. Crews from Miles Sand & Gravel are now clearing and grading this 1.2-mile section, which is expected to take about two years to complete, followed by one year of road construction.

Here are the other three segments/phases:

- Widen 128th Street East to two lanes in each direction from Highway 162 to the Puyallup River bridge. That's about 4,000 feet of road and includes a two-way left-turn lane.
- Build a new bridge over the Puyallup River. It will have two westbound lanes and parallel to the existing bridge, which will be converted into two eastbound lanes. This segment will be about 900 feet long.
- Extend Falling Water Boulevard from the new intersection, with one lane in each direction, for about 1.1 miles.

The news release says the entire road is expected to open to traffic by spring 2027.



Image from Brookfield Properties [\[enlarge\]](#)

**The first segment of the road, CRP 5731, will run from the Puyallup River to the future extension of Falling Water Boulevard East.**

The project website states the bridge and two other segments are in final engineering, and right of way acquisition is underway. It also says the state Department of Transportation is planning to build a roundabout at the Highway 162 and 128th Street East intersection to mitigate traffic from Tehaleh.

Brookfield Properties is in charge of building the road and will turn it over to the county after it is complete. KPFF Consulting Engineers is the design consultant. Mitigation funds from Tehaleh are being used to build the road.

New Rhodes Lake Road East will take traffic off the existing Rhodes Lake Road East — a narrow and winding roadway not suited for the area's growth — and will provide an alternative to Highway 410 from Sumner to Bonney Lake. New Rhodes Lake Road East will eventually be renamed Tehaleh Boulevard.

The news release, from Pierce County and Brookfield Properties, says the project has been in the works for over 25 years.

Tehaleh is owned by a joint venture of North America Sekisui House LLC and Brookfield Residential, and is managed by Brookfield Properties. It is home to 9,800 people, two elementary schools, 14 parks, nearly 40 miles of trails and 1,800 acres of dedicated open space. Over 500 people work inside the development.