

W. 17.d.
04-3-10-27

AGENDA COVER MEMO

DATE: March 10, 2004

TO: Lane County Board of Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Public Works Department

PRESENTED BY: Tom Stinchfield, Transportation Planning Engineer

TITLE: DISCUSSION AND ORDER/In the Matter of Approving a Letter of Support for Preservation Funds for the Florence-Eugene Highway (126W) from Florence to Mapleton.

I. MOTION

Move approval of the Order.

II. ISSUE

Local Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) staff and the City of Florence have requested support for preservation funding for the section of the Florence-Eugene Highway (126W) between Florence and Mapleton.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Background

ODOT staff have had discussions with the City Council of Florence regarding the need for significant preservation work on the section of Highway 126W between Florence and Mapleton. The City of Florence sent a letter (see Attachment 1) to Mr. Bob Pirrie, Area 5 Manager, supporting these improvements and sent a copy to Commissioner Morrison and Lane County Public Works staff. The timing coincides with a Lane County request to Florence and the other cities in the county to assist the Board with ODOT Modernization priorities for the 2006-2009 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

ODOT staff have begun scoping work on this section of Highway 126W. They indicate that this work fits into the Preservation category, rather than the Modernization category. ODOT staff will be attending a priority-setting meeting in Salem sometime in mid-March to discuss preservation priorities for Region 2. For this reason, they have requested a letter of support from the Board prior to the Board meeting on March 31, 2004 when ODOT Modernization priorities for Lane County will be set.

B. Analysis

The section of Highway 126W between Florence and Mapleton is approximately 15 miles long. ODOT indicates that pavement conditions are generally fair to poor in this section. You may also be aware that there is a section between mileposts 8.4 and 9.2 where the grade line of the road is deformed by substantial settlement. A preliminary estimate for pavement rehabilitation for this entire section is about \$10.5 million.

Typically, this work would involve grinding out the asphalt surface and replacement with a thicker asphalt surface. It would also include some other features, such as bringing guardrails up to current standards. In addition, the section of major settlement would involve more extensive excavation of the base and re-grading of the roadbed prior to paving. The section between mileposts 8.4 and 9.2 is estimated to be about \$1.2 million. This amount is included in the total cost of \$10.5 million.

The OTC criteria for preservation projects specify that this type of project be primarily selected based on technical ranking by the ODOT Pavement Management System (PMS). The project has been identified by the PMS system. However, ODOT staff has requested political support for this preservation work because of its relatively high cost. Generally, ODOT selects preservation projects that have the lowest costs per lane mile to get the biggest return for the preservation fund. In this case, because the pavement deterioration has become significant and because the pavement settlements along this low-lying highway are significant, the costs for this project are approximately twice as much as the average.

Preservation project selection occurs at the Region 2 level. Projects from all over the region are evaluated and compete for funding. Board support for this project will not directly compete with other projects in Lane County. ODOT has requested County support to make a case for this project because of the elevated need and relatively high cost.

C. Alternatives / Options

1. Adopt the Order approving the letter as drafted.
2. Adopt the Order with a modified letter, as directed by the Board.
3. Decline to comment.

D. Recommendation

Option 1 above.

E. Timing

This letter is needed by mid-March so that action at this meeting is recommended.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION/FOLLOW-UP

Further information will be brought to the Board on this project if needed. At this point, we expect that local ODOT staff will process the project through the Region 2 process.

V. ATTACHMENTS

Order with Exhibit A, Letter of Support for Highway 126W preservation project
Attachment 1 February 23, 2004 letter to ODOT from the Mayor of Florence

**IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY
STATE OF OREGON**

ORDER NO.) **IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING A LETTER**
) **FOR PRESERVATION FUNDS FOR THE**
) **FLORENCE-EUGENE HIGHWAY (126W)**
) **FROM FLORENCE TO MAPLETON**

WHEREAS, the City of Florence sent a letter on February 23, 2004 to Area 5 Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) staff requesting preservation of Highway 126W between Florence and Mapleton and sent a copy of this letter to Commissioner Morrison and Lane County Public Works staff; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon of Department of Transportation has requested comment from the Board of Commissioners on the letter from the City of Florence and the need for preservation of Highway 126W between Florence and Mapleton; and

WHEREAS, the Lane County Board of Commissioners on March 10, 2004 discussed the issues related to preservation work on Highway 126W between Florence and Mapleton and a proposed letter of support for this preservation work; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that this section of highway is in need of repair and that the conditions on the highway warrant serious consideration for a limited amount of preservation funds; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to approve a letter supporting preservation work on this section of highway; now, therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED that a letter of comment substantially as set forth in attached Exhibit A be signed by the Chair of the Board of Commissioners and sent to ODOT for consideration.

Dated this _____ day of March, 2004

Bobby Green, Sr., Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM

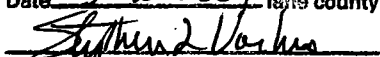
Date 3-2-2004 Lane county

OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

EXHIBIT A

March 10, 2004

Mr. Robert Pirrie
Area 5 Manager
ODOT
644 A Street
Springfield, OR 97477

Subject: Lane County Support for Highway 126W Preservation Project

Dear Mr. Pirrie,

The Lane County Board and Public Works staff received a copy of the February 23, 2004 letter to your office from Mayor Alan Burns of Florence concerning the need for preservation work on the Florence-Eugene Highway (126W) between Florence and Mapleton. The Lane County Board of Commissioners discussed this project at our Board meeting today. The Board wishes to go on record with strong support for this preservation work.

We have been informed that the unit costs for preservation on this section are higher than the norm because of the deteriorated state of the pavement and the unique situation related to major settlements in the pavement due to the location of the highway in a low-lying tidal zone. We can appreciate ODOT preservation guidelines that call for cost-effective use of a limited amount of preservation funds. However, in this case, we would argue that the costs should be balanced with the elevated need for repair. Although we have not reviewed the statistics referred to in the letter from the Mayor, we know as users of this section of roadway that the deformation of the roadway far exceeds the norm for state highway grade lines.

We hope that ODOT will seriously consider this request from the City of Florence and Lane County and do what you can to advance preservation work on this section of highway.

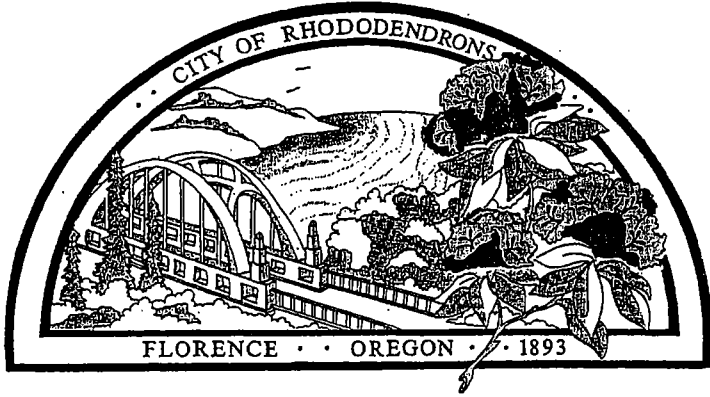
Please contact Tom Stinchfield, Transportation Planning Engineer, at 541 682-6930 if you have questions concerning these comments.

Sincerely,

LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Bobby Green, Sr.
Chair

ATTACHMENT !



City of Florence

Mayor and Council

250 Highway 101
Florence, OR 97439-7628

Voice/TDD: (541) 997-3437
FAX: (541) 997-6814

February 23, 2004

Mr. Robert Pirrie, Area Manager
Oregon Department of Transportation
644 A Street
Springfield, Oregon 97477

Dear Mr. Pirrie:

Please consider this as a request for a rebuild of Oregon Highway 126 to be included in the 2009 Oregon State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). More specifically, the Florence City Council feels that the replacement time is long past due for that portion of the highway that lies between Florence and Mapleton.

There is often a lot of discussion about improving portions of Highway 126. Many people express concern about the narrower, more crooked portions of the Florence/Eugene Highway, especially asking for more passing lanes and wider bridges. The fact is however, the relatively flat, relatively wide Florence to Mapleton section is in far worse condition and has proven to be far more dangerous. We have been given to believe that this section of roadway actually exceeds Oregon averages for traffic fatalities and serious traffic mishaps. Whatever the case may be, the road structure has failed and will soon be even more dangerous.

We hope that this letter will encourage those who are responsible for Oregon's highway improvement planning to make the Florence/Mapleton Highway a top re-construction priority.

Please do not hesitate to direct any questions to me or to Florence's City Manager, Rodger Bennett, at (541)-997-3437. Thanks for your help.

Sincerely yours,

Alan Burns

Alan Burns
Mayor

Copies: Florence City Council
Lane County Commissioner Anna Morrison
Mr. Thomas Stinchfield, Lane County Public Works ✓

FEB 2004

