

Memorandum Date: August 20, 2006  
Meeting Date: August 30, 2006

W. J. O. A.

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**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**DEPARTMENT:** Public Works  
**PRESENTED BY:** Oliver Snowden, Director  
**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Consideration of setting a work session on the Division Avenue Bridge

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**I. MOTION**

Move that the Board of Commissioners hold a work session on September 13, 2006 to discuss the Division Avenue Bridge.

**II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

The Board is being asked to set a work session during which it will determine whether to send a letter to McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center stating that the Division Avenue Bridge is reasonably likely to be constructed by the end of the planning period (2024) of the Lane County Transportation System Plan.

**III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION**

**A. Board Action and Other History**

In May 2006, by adoption of the FY07-FY11 Lane County Capital Improvement Program, the Board reduced the funding programmed for the Delta/Beltline Interchange to \$1.1 million. This represented about a \$7 million reduction from funding programmed for the project in previous years.

Several people testified in opposition to the reduction, stating that the project was of high importance, especially considering the proposed location of McKenzie-Willamette at RiverRidge. ODOT asked that the Board preserve the \$8 million so that it could be used as local match for ODOT's Beltline Corridor project.

The Board declined to do so, but requested that County staff meet with ODOT problem solvers to see if the County's funding could be used constructively to improve the traffic flow on Beltline Highway sooner than when it would be used for the ODOT Corridor project. The Board asked that staff return in September with the results of the investigation, and indicated that it may consider revising priorities and reprogramming the FY07-FY11 money for a new Beltline project at that time.

Based on the Board direction, County, ODOT and Eugene staffs met and agreed that the following criteria would be used to develop and evaluate project

alternatives:

- The project is a regional project, offering some immediate improvement in traffic flow and safety, and is consistent with the larger Beltline corridor project.
- The project does not subsidize McKenzie-Willamette, but could leverage County money with funding by others, like Eugene, ODOT and/or McKenzie-Willamette.
- The project development process is concurrent with, but independent of and separable from, the ODOT process on the Beltline Corridor project.
- Construction of the project could occur sooner (ideally in the next 3-5 years) than construction on the Beltline Corridor solution, which will likely have a 2013 construction start at best.

Concurrently with the County and ODOT exploration for alternative uses of County money on a Beltline project, McKenzie-Willamette (M-W) was preparing its application for a Metro Plan and Refinement Plan amendments and a zone change necessary for construction of its new medical center at the end of Delta Highway. The application materials included proposed transportation mitigation measures developed as part of the Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA).

On July 18, 2006, Eugene staff concluded that there was insufficient information in the record to find that the M-W proposal complies with Statewide Planning Goal 12 (Transportation) as implemented through the Transportation Planning Rule (TPR). Consequently, M-W is preparing a revised TIA in an effort to comply with the TPR.

**B. Policy Issues**

There are no policy issues with respect to setting a work session. There are at least one or two policy issues that relate to the topic of the work session.

**C. Board Goals**

There are no Board goals related to setting a work session. There are multiple goals that relate to the work session topic, including:

- Work for a strong regional economy ....
- Ensure the provision of basic social support ....
- Contribute to appropriate community development ....
- Protect the public's assets by maintaining, replacing or upgrading the County's investments in systems and capital infrastructure.

**D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations**

There are no financial considerations involved with setting a work session. There are multiple and complicated financial and resource considerations with respect to the Division Avenue Bridge and possible public-private partnerships. These will be reviewed at the work session.

**E. Analysis**

The County/ODOT collaboration identified three candidate projects that could potentially meet the evaluation criteria listed above – widen the westbound Beltline Willamette River Bridge and add 1 or 2 westbound auxiliary lanes; a split diamond interchange; and, the Division Avenue Bridge. These were transmitted to ODOT Region 2 for review. The Region 2 preliminary analysis indicates that only the Division Avenue Bridge appears to meet the criteria. The Division Avenue Bridge is included in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) illustrative list and the Lane County Transportation System Plan project list.

Following the City staff conclusion that more information was needed from M-W in order to determine compliance with the TPR, M-W chose to prepare a revised TIA to demonstrate compliance. The TIA must consider mitigation measures to offset potential degradation of highway performance in the area that results from increased traffic from the proposed medical center. McKenzie-Willamette consultants have approached County staff and expressed a desire to include the Division Avenue Bridge in its TIA. Doing so would open the door for possible M-W mitigation measures that could involve the bridge and its connecting roads.

However, in order for M-W to include the Division Avenue Bridge in the TIA, the TPR requires that the project either be in the RTP constrained list, or that the local government responsible for the project provides a written statement that the project is reasonably likely to be constructed by the end of the planning period of the local transportation system plan.

Provision of this letter to M-W is the topic of the proposed work session.

**F. Alternatives/Options**

1. Set a work session for the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>.
2. Set a work session for some other Board meeting.
3. Do not set a work session.

**V. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION**

In order to preserve the possibility for M-W participation in the Division Avenue Bridge, the work session should be set in the near future.

**VI. RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1.

**VII. FOLLOW-UP**

If the Board chooses to set the work session, additional materials will be provided prior to the meeting.