

## **Lapse of County Payments: Impact to Lane County January 2007**

### **County Transportation System**

1. Cancel all the modernization projects in the CIP, including \$6 million Bob Straub Parkway arterial project that will provide access to new development areas in Springfield for large-scale industrial, residential, and mixed used development and a regional scale improvement in traffic flow. All other major CIP projects are improvements to urban collector/arterial streets that will provide sidewalks, curbs, bike lanes, and drainage systems. Each of these projects is in the \$1.5 to \$3 million range. All important for improved safety and community livability in Eugene, Junction City, Veneta, Creswell.

2. Lose any chance of providing local match for ODOT projects:

- I-5/Beltline Interchange. 1st phase under construction. County's ability to provide additional local match is in jeopardy. ODOT is looking for \$8 million in local contributions; Lane County has allocated no funds to this project and will be unable to without county payments.
- I-5/Coburg Highway Interchange; serves important motor coach manufacturing employment center in Coburg. Lack of interchange improvements will constrain future job growth. Lane County has allocated \$2.5 million for this project but without county payments, funding for this project is in jeopardy.
- Rebuilding Beltline Highway and Delta/Beltline Interchange, congested and accident-prone major interchange in metro area. Significant congestion and safety problems will worsen without rebuild of interchange. The Willamette River Bridge crossing on Beltline currently carries over 80,000 vehicles per day. ODOT has begun planning process but local match will be an issue for this important corridor. Lane County will not be able to participate in funding partnerships for this corridor without county payments.

3. Lose most of our engineering capability. Difficult time recruiting quality engineers; difficult to replace the skills that are lost and institutional knowledge. Most engineering work would have to be outsourced. County Engineering Services include Roadway Design, Surveying, Right-of-Way Engineering and Acquisition, Environmental Permitting, Materials Testing, and Construction Inspection and Project Management. Engineering Services provides critical engineered solutions that enhance community safety and livability for the 1,400 miles of roads and 415 bridges that our community relies on each day. Also provides Engineering Services to smaller community cities and towns that lack resources to hire and maintain internal engineering resources.

4. Loss of road maintenance capacity. Lane County maintains about 535 miles of rural local roads and about 122 miles of urban local roads, totaling 657 miles, represents about 45% of our total road miles. Without county payments, road system will quickly degrade with reduced pavement surface maintenance, lack of vegetation and drainage management. Diminished visibility for drivers due to lack of vegetation management will create significant safety issues in rural Lane County.

### **County Public Safety System**

Office of District Attorney: The Lane County District Attorney will likely eliminate the prosecution of most felony drug offenses; loss of county payments will substantially impair or eliminate ability to prosecute all but the most serious felony property offenses. We expect to retain the staff necessary to prosecute violent crime, but failure to prosecute drug and property offenders may increase the level of violence in our community.

Office of the Sheriff: Sheriff's Office provides police services and adult corrections services for 4,600 square miles to cover. Without county payments, public safety services will be eliminated or severely curtailed including 30 % of the employees or about 115 positions, most of whom are sworn Deputy Sheriffs. Public safety services that would be eliminated include:

- **Forestland Patrol.** Lane County is more than 50% federal forest land. The Sheriff's Office will discontinue providing police protection and patrol on the federal lands in Lane County including the vast areas covered by the Siuslaw, Willamette, and Umpqua National Forests, and the BLM. Deputies will cease responding to hundreds of citizen calls for service, including around 2000 public contacts on federal land each year, and not be able to conduct dozens of search and rescue missions for all the people who chose to recreate in the vast national forests in Lane County
- **Dunes Deputies.** Sand dunes on federal lands towering to 500 feet above sea level cover a wide area of the coast, providing numerous recreational opportunities. The Sheriff's Dunes Patrol unit provides law enforcement, emergency medical response, search & rescue, and public education services to visitors frequenting the dunes, including more than 6,000 citizen contacts, approximately 700 enforcement actions more than 100 motorist assists.
- **Forest Work Camp.** The Sheriff would close the 100 bed Forest Work Camp, the community's only alternative program for adult offenders, where they learn skills and behaviors necessary to keep from re-offending. These alternative beds also help keep hard jail beds available for more serious and violent offenders. The Forest Service and BLM depend on crews from the Forest Work Camp to provide trail maintenance, campground clean-up, forest fire fighting, reforestation, habitat enhancement, and other forest improvement tasks to keep maintain the health of the National Forests.
- **Jail Beds.** The Sheriff would close an additional 123 beds at the jail further exacerbating the problem of the inability to house sentenced and pretrial offenders. It is not uncommon for felons who are charged with sex abuse, assault, robbery and rape to be released and

more of these types of criminals being released will increase. A total of 239 beds will be closed out of a 499 bed jail that is already filled to capacity and releasing 4000 offenders early each year due to lack of operating capacity.

- Weigh masters will no longer patrol roads to ensure tractor trailer and oversized vehicles are traveling with safe weights and are adhering to safe hauling practices on Lane County roads.

Youth Services: With the absence of county payments, Youth Services will close its detention facility, increasing the risk to public safety as more than 350 youth who have committed crimes will no longer be detained. All have committed serious crimes in the community; have serious drug and alcohol usage, including 30% with methamphetamine dependence. Lane County would become the largest county in Oregon without immediate access to juvenile detention. Also, the juvenile forest work crew will cease to operate and 263 youth will no longer complete community service, acquire meaningful job skills, and be extremely limited in their options for paying restitution to victims. Pathways Drug & Alcohol residential treatment services for boys will close; 32 extremely high-risk boys will no longer receive intensive residential drug and alcohol treatment.

## **Health and Human Services System**

### Public Health:

- Lane County has a higher fetal infant mortality than the US, the state, and the other three large counties in Oregon. Fewer services for vulnerable populations would result in higher rate of fetal-infant mortality.
- Three to five field nurses would be cut, resulting in 230 fewer at-risk pregnant women served and 200 fewer medically fragile infants and young served. Loss of targeted case management (TCM) and maternity case management (MCM) Medicaid reimbursement would result in cutting up to two more field nurses, further reducing number of-at risk pregnant women served (115 fewer) and a further reduction in number of medically fragile infants and young children served (100 fewer).
- 220 fewer women a year would be assisted with application for Oregon Health Plan and early prenatal care
- LCPH would likely lose its Public Health Authority; oversight would revert to the state. Lane County would be billed by the state for these services
- Tuberculosis cases would increase significantly. TB outbreaks in the past 5 years have afflicted the homeless population and a business with several hundred employees working in close proximity. Without intervention, the number of cases at the homeless shelter would quickly rise to more than 60; more than 3,000 people per year would not be tested for tuberculosis infection.
- LCPH could no longer provide Flu Clinics to at risk residents in either rural communities or urban areas. Neither would there be the capacity to assist in the redistribution of vaccine to underserved areas during vaccine shortages.

- LCPH Immunization Clinics would close. 7000 immunizations for adults and children would not be given. Eleven safety net clinics throughout the county would no longer receive support from LCPH to provide 6,000 state funded immunizations to low income and at risk children and young adults. 45,000 school children would not receive LCPH support in assuring up-to-date immunization status.
- The number of serious reportable communicable diseases would increase. LCPH would be limited to about ¼ of its present capacity to prevent, investigate, and control serious reportable communicable diseases. A sampling of five year averages of current totals CD counts include: 26 *e-coli O157*, 49 hepatitis B, 8 bacterial meningococcal disease, 83 “Whooping Cough”, 41 *salmonella*
- Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) rates would escalate. LCPH STD clinics, which directly serve about 900 clients, would close. Investigative and referral support for the currently increasing rates of Chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis, would be reduced or eliminated. Laboratory testing for STDs would be eliminated.
- Persons at greatest risk of contracting and spreading HIV infection would not be reached for counseling, testing, prevention, and referral services. In 2006 1,125 HIV tests were provided to individuals at highest risk of infection directly at LCPH or through our contracted CBO.
- LCPH would no longer have the CD capacity to meet minimal Public Health Preparedness response requirements including staffing for surveillance and reporting of communicable diseases, point of dispensing clinics for emergency provision of immunizations or medications against pandemic illness or bioterrorism events. Organizational infrastructure to *minimally* address emergencies using the National Incident Management System (NIMS) would be missing.

#### Prevention & Treatment Services:

- 115 opiate addicts would be terminated from methadone treatment. Some may find another treatment program, but others will not be able to afford it.
- 326 misdemeanor domestic violence offenders would not be supervised in the community by a probation officer, putting victims at risk of further abuse

#### Community Mental Health Services:

- 450 fewer severe and persistent mentally ill individuals will be receiving services
- 200 fewer seriously emotionally disturbed youth will be receiving services
- difficulty meeting statutory obligation to fund all indigent involuntary psychiatric hospitalizations for County residents

#### Services to Disabled Community

Service Coordination for at-risk children in DD would be in jeopardy, eliminating urgent attention to address health, safety, and/or placement issues, including:

- Immediate intervention and foster placement for abused or neglected children

- Emergency respite funds for families in crisis who are unable to care for their children
- Vulnerable children in urgent need of placement, crisis intervention and advocacy
- More than 155/year abuse investigations for adults with developmental disabilities
- Exposing developmentally disabled adults to ongoing physically and/or sexually abusive situations

#### General Services to Victims of Crime, Veterans, Homeless, Latinos, Seniors

- Elimination of domestic violence shelter services for 282 women and their children fleeing abusive families.
- Elimination of sexual assault support services for 955 victims of sexual assault.
- Elimination of veterans services for 1097 veterans and their families.
- Reduction of 450 homeless and at-risk youth served by day center and shelter.
- Elimination of support for children and family services for 313 Latino families.
- Elimination of support for senior independent living program for 110 seniors and support for meals on wheels program serving 1154 shut-in seniors.

#### **General County Government Services**

Assessment & Taxation: The loss of SRS funds will force the Assessor to freeze the county's 176,000 tax accounts at 2006 values and tax rates. Cities, School Districts and the County will lose local property tax revenues causing potential additional cuts to city police and public education services if they are not backfilled by the local, state or federal governments in some other way.

In Lane County the 12 cities, 18 school districts and the county itself (plus numerous smaller districts) will not receive any additional property tax revenues related to economic growth and new development in the real estate market. Normally they can count on an average increase in tax revenues of 4.5%-6% per year. In the past year tax revenues grew by \$15 million (4.5%), of which 1/2 went to local schools. The largest impact will be felt by the schools and cities that have special property tax levies (local option levies) that will lose revenue if no growth in real estate value is applied to tax accounts. This lost revenue to schools is in addition to the loss of \$7 million from the county school fund portion of SRS.

By statute, the state of Oregon will be forced to assume operations of the county assessor/tax collector office, however the state has no identified resources to do this for all of the affected counties across the state and the collapse of the local property tax system would be imminent.