

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’
REGULAR MEETING**

May 10, 2011

1:30 p.m.

Harris Hall Main Floor

Commissioner Faye Stewart presided with Commissioners Jay Bozievich, Rob Handy, Sid Leiken and Pete Sorenson present. County Administrator Liane Richardson, County Counsel Stephen Vorhes and Recording Secretary Melissa Zimmer were also present.

10. **PUBLIC HEARING**

- a. PUBLIC HEARING AND ORDER 11-5-10-5/In the Matter of Adopting the Public Works Five-Year Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2011/2012 – Fiscal Year 2015/2016.

Celia Barry, Public Works, explained that the Board has another week to act on this order if there is information she can’t provide today. She said the requirements under statute are that the Board adopt this CIP at least 30 days prior to the general County budget.

Barry indicated this is a Public Hearing for the annual update of the Public Works Capital Improvement Program for five years, 2011/12 to 2015/16. She said it contains capital expenditures for pavement preservation, bridge rehabilitation, a retaining wall replacement, safety improvements and bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects for County roads. She indicated the expenditures are primarily funded from the road fund and are supplemented by external grant funds. She recalled earlier this year the Roads Advisory Committee processed this packet and held a Public Hearing in February and they heard testimony from the city of Springfield and Ms. Beverly Ashwill.

Barry reported on page 3 of the cover memo is a summary page. She indicated the total five year expenditures are approximately \$26 million, including under \$5 million in grant funds, with the CIP emphasizing pavement preservation. She noted 85 percent is toward the pavement preservation program for \$18.5 million. She said it assumes \$4.5 million for the first two years in pavement preservation and steps down to \$3 million per year for the last three years. She indicated the CIP also includes \$2.75 million for bridge rehabilitation, for the covered bridge and general bridge program. She noted there is one general construction project, the Schindler Wayside, a County Park but it qualifies for road fund expenditure as a roadside wayside. She indicated there are three covered bridge projects. She added there is emphasis on projects that leverage external funds. She said about \$550,000 of the road fund is leveraging \$10.423 million is federal grant monies.

Barry indicated the external fund sources are the Surface Transportation Program (urban) which they worked with the Metropolitan Planning Organization to

prioritize projects. She added the local highway bridge program; Oregon Forest Highway Program is referencing the Sweet Creek retaining wall project funded by the Oregon Forest Highway program, a \$3.9 million project. She added there is a \$2 million Goodpasture Covered Bridge project funded by the local highway bridge program.

With regard to public testimony, Barry recalled the city of Springfield traffic engineer testified about safety issues along Bob Straub Parkway: that pedestrians getting across the parkway have a problem. She said they studied the issue in detail and the information about the detail is in Attachment 2. (Copy in file). She said after studying the issue, they came up with a proposal of placing a flashing light system for pedestrians to cross. She said they placed that project on the development list. She added that it is unfunded at this time. She indicated it is a \$150,000 project.

Barry indicated there was testimony from Beverly Ashwill in Attachment 3 (Copy in file). She said when Ashwill goes to her bus stop, there is gravel where the bus stops and there is a slant and it is difficult for Ashwill to get into the bus. She added that Ashwill has to travel on substandard roads to get to River Road. She reviewed the issue and LTD would not put in any improvements unless there were curb and gutters. She added there is an e-mail from the County Engineer and they have not come up with a solution. She indicated that in order to address the problem and meet standards, it would take a large project. She indicated that they have not recommended funding and improvement in this case.

Commissioner Faye Stewart opened the Public Hearing.

Beverly Ashwill, Eugene, said she works downtown and she moved out to Dublin Avenue in the Santa Clara area. She saw there were bus stops around her house. She tried using the bus stop but there are no sidewalks or curb cuts so the ramp comes down too steep. She looked at all the bus stops around her neighborhood and found one several blocks south on Scenic Drive and she tried that one and it takes her onto River Loop 2 and she ends up being on the traffic lane. She stated that the Roads Advisory Committee and LTD have been great trying to find out what they could possibly do. She added that because the roads are unimproved, it is expensive and would cause other safety issues if they tried to put a pad there that would give her a ramp to use the bus. She indicated at that point LTD offered her the Ride Source as an accommodation. She stated that Ride Source would cost her six dollars every time when she would ride the bus round trip. She noted currently she rides the bus for free. She added that Ride Source is not set up for people who have on time appointments. She said they have to spend an hour waiting for the bus. She had no guaranty that she could get to work to teach her class. She didn't think it was an equal accommodation. She recalled that last month she went to catch a bus for work but was hit by a car. She said she was minimally injured. She stated she is in danger. She asked if the County could come up with an interim solution until they can get to a place to put in proper

sidewalks in the residential area. She hoped her project gets put into the next five year program. She added that she is not the only one out there. She said she is a host family for people with disabilities who travel on the bus. She hoped the County could make these types of improvements. She said she needs to figure out a safer way. She wanted an asphalt shoulder on the two blocks she has to travel. She said she would then be off the traffic path. She hoped the County could create something.

There being no one else signed up to speak, Commissioner Stewart closed the Public Hearing.

Bozievich said this is one of the cases where they make rules that box them in. He said to just make a bus stop accessible for the wheelchair actually breaks the rule because they have to build an accessible route to the bus stop if they build the bus stop to be accessible. He thought there was some sort of variance the County could go for. He wanted Public Works to see if they could make the project small enough that it is affordable and something they could do in the situation to meet this need.

Barry said she could go back to engineering and ask them to look at that. She said their answer will be that they have done that already. She indicated that they have a deviation standard from the process. She recalled an option was to put in a pad, but their concern was that the pad will get covered up by vegetation and it would be possibly an obstruction to vehicles that would be a danger. She said they could ask them to report to the Board but they looked at substandard options and they were too concerned about liability issues and whether or not it would actually address the problem in a safe manor and to be able to recommend it.

Bozievich indicated this is part of the Santa Clara River Road area and the open section roadways are part of the character of the neighborhood. He thought this was a case to get creative to be flexible to preserve the character in the neighborhood but meeting the needs of the citizens with disabilities at the same time.

Barry indicated she will follow Board direction.

Leiken supported the Bob Straub Parkway flashing light.

Sorenson asked that the Board and the Roads Advisory Committee be given more information as the next year unfolds.

Handy asked if there have been any conversations with LTD that when these buses arrive in the fall they could address this issue with a different kind of bus.

Barry said they have had conversations with LTD staff and there is a Transportation Options Advisory Committee where they brought this issue up and they have not received any definitive answers.

Stewart asked if there is the possibility of a bus that could accommodate the current situation in the fall. He asked about a berm that could serve the purpose for the short term and in the fall when the new buses are available, to have maintenance spread the gravel on the lane. He thanked staff for their matching \$500,000 to receive \$10 million.

Barry asked as a Board if they wanted Public Works to do anything to revise the numbers in the CIP regarding the bus stop or if they should continue working on that and adopts the document as is.

Stewart thought there might be some opportunities to do something short term to meet the immediate need in the CIP. He asked if there was a vehicle coming that could meet the needs in the current condition in the near future. He wanted something more in tune with the neighborhood. He was in favor of seeing if there was something short term without having to go through the CIP program and adopting the plan as has been presented.

Bozievich hoped the small fix was below the threshold. He hoped they could get a variance or waiver.

MOTION: to approve ORDER 11-5-10-5.

Bozievich MOVED, Leiken SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0.

11. **COMMISSIONERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Leiken announced that tomorrow the Springfield Chamber of Commerce is hosting a business afterhours at the Holiday Inn in the Gateway area of Springfield at 5:30 p.m.

Stewart reported that he will be leaving on Wednesday for Southern Oregon for a Southern Oregon Clean Energy Alliance Strategic Planning Conference. He said he will be available to attend the Budget Committee meeting by phone.

12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION as per ORS 192.660**
(Commissioners' Conference Room)

None.

13. **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

There being no further business, Commissioner Stewart recessed the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Melissa Zimmer
Recording Secretary