

W. G. D.

AGENDA COVER MEMO

DATE: January 19, 2005
TO: Lane County Board of Commissioners
DEPT: Public Works
PRESENTED BY: Sonny Chickering, County Engineer
AGENDA ITEM TITLE: IN THE MATTER OF AMENDING THE 05-09 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BY ALLOCATING AN AMOUNT UP TO \$50,000 FOR THE SIMMONDS CREEK CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT, BLUE RIVER ROAD, MP 0.45, UNDER THE CULVERT REPLACEMENT FOR FISH PASSAGE CATEGORY; AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS WITH THE MCKENZIE WATERSHED COUNCIL RELATED TO SAID PROJECT.

I. MOTION

Move adoption of Board Order allocating an amount up to \$50,000 for the Simmonds Creek culvert replacement project funded from the Culvert Replacement for Fish Passage program in the 05-09 Capital Improvement Program.

II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM

Should the Board allocate up to \$50,000 of the Culvert Replacement for Fish Passage program money to the Simmonds Creek culvert replacement project?

III. DISCUSSION

A. Background

In June 2001, the Board considered and adopted policies for replacement of culverts on County roads to enhance fish passage (BO# 01-6-27-5).

Public Works has been partnering with other agencies, such as Willamette and Siuslaw National Forests, McKenzie Watershed Council, and others, to concentrate on culverts that are both road priorities (in order to maintain the road) and fish priorities (in order to allow fish passage). Over 25 culverts have been replaced since 2000. These projects have been funded using Maintenance Division budget and typically cover just materials or just labor for installing pre-paid materials depending on the agreements we have with partner agencies.

Upon adoption of the 2003-2007 Capital Improvement Program, the Board set aside \$1,000,000 for improving fish passage through culverts running under County roads that were not necessarily Lane County Public Works priorities, but natural resource agency priorities (BO# 02-5-1-17). No project has used these funds as of yet and the fund has been carried through subsequent adoptions of the CIP.

As we have been completing higher priority culverts, those that are not as high of a road priority are beginning to be identified by our partner agencies.

The Simmonds Creek Culvert Replacement Project is scheduled for construction summer 2005, but is not identified in the 05-09 CIP document.

B. Analysis

The Simmonds Creek Culvert Replacement project is located on Blue River Road, MP 0.45, and will be the first to use the Culvert Fund. In this case, the project proposes replacing two existing

culverts with a pre-cast bridge structure. The use of a bridge puts this project outside the typical pipe replacement and impacts project costs such that the McKenzie Watershed Council is requesting financial assistance.

Agencies from which cash funding has been allocated to the project include:

- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board - \$199,870
- National Forest Service - \$147,580
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - \$11,550

If approved by the Board, Lane County's \$50,000 contribution will help to meet the \$409,000 project cost estimate.

Additional designs were considered, consisting of a bottomless arch culvert and buried culvert design. Neither design would meet both state and federal guidelines due to the broad span (32 feet) necessary to accommodate bankfull flows, and aggraded channel immediately upstream of the culvert. The concrete span design will allow the stream to effectively refind the original channel gradient and restore passage for native aquatic and amphibian species. The replacement structure will accommodate passage for all life stages of fish and amphibians.

The project meets the low road priority, high fish priority intent of the Culvert Fund in that the existing pipes are in good condition and there is no immediate need to replace them for the sake of the roadway, but the inlet side of one of the pipes is high and, during periods of low flow, impedes the ability for fish to pass through.

The McKenzie Watershed Council is requesting an amount up to \$50,000 for this project. No "new" funding is needed for this project as it will utilize the unencumbered balance of the Culvert Fund in the 05-09 CIP.

C. Alternatives/Options

1. Adopt the attached Board Order that will amend the 05-09 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to include Simmonds Creek Culvert Replacement, Blue River Road, MP 0.45, in FY 04-05 for \$50,000 under the Culvert Replacement for Fish Passage category.
2. Deny request for funds.

D. Recommendations

1. Option 1 is supported by staff.

E. Timing

The McKenzie Watershed Council wants to deliver the project during Summer 2005. Board action is needed to keep the project on schedule.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION/FOLLOW-UP

Under the authority granted the County Administrator by the Board Order awarding Culvert Replacement for Fish Passage funds, an intergovernmental agreement with the McKenzie Watershed Council will be executed in accordance with the action taken by the Board.

V. ATTACHMENTS

Board Order