

W. S. B.

## AGENDA COVER MEMORANDUM

AGENDA DATE: February 9, 2005

TO: **Board of County Commissioners**

FROM: **Lane County Legislative Committee**  
Commissioner Bill Dwyer, chair  
Anna Morrison, member

PRESENTED BY: Anthony S. Bieda, IGR Manager

AGENDA TITLE: Report by Legislative Committee

**1) Review of Projects for Federal Advocacy ('05 United Front)**

**2) Review of 2005 Legislative Priorities**

DISCUSSION: The Board will review and provide guidance to staff on the projects included on the 2005 federal agenda for Lane County, including reauthorization of federal safety net timber payments and two new projects. Also, it will preview a summary of legislative priorities for which it will likely see specific legislative proposals in the near future.

ISSUE: **Federal Advocacy Program for 2005 (United Front)**

### Reauthorization of Federal Timber Safety Net Payments

Lane County requests that the long-standing reliance by schools and local communities on the appropriate and sustainable stewardship of public lands be honored by Congress, through the reauthorization and extension of safety net timber payments as memorialized in the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000. Specifically, Senate Bill 267 co-sponsored by Sen. Ron Wyden, and House Resolution 517, co-sponsored by Rep. Peter DeFazio.

### Fern Ridge Dam Capital Improvements – Recreation\*

The Parks Division of Lane County, in collaboration with local tourism, recreation and economic development authorities, requests \$1.5 million to improve the recreation facility infrastructure related to Fern Ridge Reservoir. Specifically, the Fern Ridge Reservoir draw-down will drastically reduce or eliminate the capacity of the reservoir to support various forms of outdoor recreation and tourism, dramatically curtailing jobs and economic activity derived from the one of the Northwest's premiere freshwater boating facilities. Funds will be used to expand, refurbish, restore and replace the aging and environmentally marginal recreation infrastructure, including docks, moorage structures, campgrounds, picnic areas, public restrooms,

biking trails and wetlands interpretive areas. In addition, the construction and maintenance initiatives will provide family-waged seasonal jobs to partially replace the job inventory lost by the tourism sector during the reservoir draw-down.

#### Construction of New Health Center in Springfield

Community Health Centers of Lane County is seeking \$496,000 in federal funding to construct a new health center facility in Springfield. The clinic is part of a collaborative public-private partnership designed to provide high quality and affordable primary and preventive care, mental health treatment, and dental care for low-income, uninsured and underinsured residents of Lane County. Federal funds will combined with local contributions and private toward the purchase of a 20,000 square foot clinic which will provide services for approximately 12,000 Lane County residents.

#### Methamphetamine Abatement Initiative – Demonstration Project\*

Lane County requests \$5 million over a 3-year cycle, to establish a comprehensive, community-based demonstration project to address the complicated issues surrounding the prevention, treatment, enforcement, prosecution, and supervision needs of the methamphetamine problem that persists in the area. Lane County Department of Health & Human Services and the Lane County Sheriff's Dept. are working with the provider's community to design and manage this project.

#### Public Safety Emergency Communications

Lane County public safety and emergency service providers request \$4.0 million to build the next phase of an interoperable communications system to protect lives and property. By gaining an understanding of current and past efforts to improve communications interoperability as well as the perspectives of the practitioners, we have created a communications interoperability plan that meets the actual needs of the public safety community. The plan will be implemented in phases.

#### Beltline Road Corridor Study

Funding is sought to initiate and complete a study of traffic management and capacity for a key stretch of the Beltline Road transportation corridor. Of particular concern is the section between Coburg Road and River Road, which includes the archaic interchange with the Delta Highway and a crossing of the Willamette River. The study would be the basis for planning major investments to improve this section of urban freeway. Total cost of the study will be \$3 million.

*\*Denotes new projects appearing on United Front agenda for first time in 2005*

ISSUE: **2005 Legislative Priorities – Lane County Oregon**

Resources Issues

1. Public Safety Funding: Sufficiency of state support for Community Corrections, Deputy District Attorneys, Witness Fees, Youth Services
2. Appropriate state support for Community Mental Health, Public Health, substance abuse prevention and treatment
3. Freight transportation system enhancements

Substantive Issues

1. Urban Renewal Districts. Would require cities to gain permission of county government and other affected taxing entities (with revenue at stake) before authorizing the creation of an urban renewal district.
2. Inspection of Jails. Would make permissive (optional) the authority of boards of county commissioners to annually inspect each and every jail facility located in their jurisdiction.
3. Lane County Boundary Commission. Would terminate authority of LCBC over land use decisions and other matters affecting intergovernmental structure, governance and operations.
4. Service Districts. Would remove ambiguity and potential conflicts in statute that would create legal exposure for proposed county public safety services district.
5. State Procurement Reforms. Would further modify new state procurement code to ensure explicit protection for counties in accepting contracts from state agencies. Specific protection sought: a) making performance subject to availability of resources at a county level; b) granting counties protection under debt limitation clause of Oregon constitution.
6. Achieve authority to recover software development costs for computer program created in-house; so that software may be sold to citizens or other government entities. Currently, under the public records law, counties may ONLY recover cost to copy, unless the program and information is sold in collaboration with another government.
7. A bill to eliminate the state's requirement that the PSCC report statistical information on early disposition programs. This is un-funded mandate costs counties valuable data entry time and serves no useful purpose.