

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Policy Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: Feb. 21, 2017 **Approx Start Time:** 10:30 a.m. **Approx Length:** 1 hour

Presentation Title: Road Maintenance Funding: Next Steps

Department: Public & Government Affairs; Transportation & Development

Presenters: Barbara Cartmill, Director, DTD; Gary Schmidt, Director, PGA

Other Invitees: Mike Bezner, Randy Harmon, DTD; Ellen Rogalin, PGA

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

None at this time. The purpose of this policy session is to update the Board of County Commissioners on what actions staff has been taking in response to the failure of the fuel tax ballot measure on Nov. 8, 2016.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On May 17, 2016, more than 68% of Clackamas County voters answered “yes” to the following advisory ballot question: *Shall the county pursue voter-approved funding for a limited number of years, for deferred road maintenance?*

In response to that vote, the Board of County Commissioners placed a fuel tax measure, Ballot Measure 3-509, on the November 8, 2016, ballot.

On Nov. 8, 63.4% of the 200,625 Clackamas County citizens who voted on Measure 3-509 answered “no” to the following question: *Shall Clackamas County adopt a seven-year, 6-cent-per-gallon motor vehicle fuel tax dedicated to road maintenance projects?*

In light of this result, staff has been taking the following actions.

- *Revising and refining road maintenance plans* for 2017 to continue to manage the county’s road network with safety as the top priority. The focus in the short-term is on relatively low-cost, high impact activities such as maintaining shoulders, brushing, ditching and taking other actions that help maintain a safe roadway with good sight distance. Longer-term plans are also considering how to prioritize road maintenance projects in light of increasingly limited resources.
- *Analyzing the election results and outreach efforts* to gain a better understanding of why a majority of voters did not support the fuel tax measure and why others did support the measure.
- *Keeping the public informed* about the status of the road system, road funding limitations and the county’s efficient use of the funds it has
- *Exploring other options for raising the funds* needed to maintain our valuable road system including future ballot measures, County Commission action and/or legislative support.

In the meantime, we continue to face an annual shortfall of more than \$17 million, and we are still the only metro area county to have no county gas tax, vehicle registration fee or other local source of funds for road maintenance.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

Is this item in your current budget? YES X NO

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

• **How does this item align with your Department’s Strategic Business Plan goals?**

- I. PGA: By 2019, the \$17 million road maintenance funding gap will be addressed.
- II. DTD: Travelers on Clackamas County roads will experience safe roads in good condition, as evidenced by:
 - ▶ By 2019, no more than 20 miles of County roads will deteriorate from ‘good’ to ‘fair’ or ‘poor’ per year
 - ▶ By 2019, no more than 70% of local County roads (658 total miles) will be rated ‘fair to poor’
 - ▶ By 2019, 120 additional miles of County roads will be improved to ‘good to excellent’ status, a 9% increase over 2014
 - ▶ By 2019, the three-year average number of serious injuries and fatalities on roads in Clackamas County will be reduced from 133 to 113

• **How does this item align with the County’s Performance Clackamas goals?**

- Build a Strong Infrastructure: By 2019, 120 additional miles of county roads will be improved to ‘good to excellent’ status, a 9% increase from 2014.
- Build Public Trust Through Good Government: By 2020, Clackamas County will achieve the Strategic Results in the Strategic Plan.

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:

PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:

Extensive outreach and education took place over almost three years including presentations to business and community groups, a website, billboards, social media, posters, flyers, maps, sharing information at events, public surveys, articles in *Citizen News* and presentations at BCC study sessions and business meetings.

OPTIONS:

N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS: None at this time.

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval: _____

Department Director/Head Approval: _____

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue, please contact Barbara Cartmill at 503-742-4326