

Update to Board of County Commissioners

From: Public & Government Affairs

RE: Clackamas County Priorities for Congressional Earmarks

Date: 03-30-2021

Summary

Public and Government Affairs (PGA) is seeking approval from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on the County's list of priority projects for Congressional earmark funding.

After a decade-long prohibition on Congressionally-directed spending, the U.S. Congress is officially resurrecting earmarks. This will allow delegation members to advocate for federal funding of local projects during this year's appropriations process.

With guidance from Summit Strategies, and in coordination with county departments, PGA has identified projects for BCC consideration as potential priorities for federal earmark funding. Project earmarks will be requested through either the appropriations process or the Build Back Better/Transportation Reauthorization package, as described below, and would likely be considered competitive based on project readiness and availability of local match.

Appropriations:

The appropriations process funds all aspects of government, with the work being undertaken by 12 Appropriations Subcommittees that each have jurisdiction over specific areas. The Appropriations Committee intends to earmark various accounts under the purview of 10 of these Subcommittees. This process remains fluid, including potential earmark criteria. Each member of Congress may submit a maximum of 10 project requests, but only a handful may actually receive funding. Funding levels for appropriations earmarks are typically small (usually under \$4 million). Awards have historically favored smaller requests in the range of \$50,000 to \$2 million. **Per guidance from Summit, the county should identify no more than 4 projects to be put forward, with no more than 1 per Subcommittee.**

Build Back Better/Surface Transportation Reauthorization:

Two potentially large funding buckets that are expected to include earmarks are the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and a Build Back Better infrastructure package. Per guidance from the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee on the reauthorization bill, members can request an unlimited number of projects but will be asked to rank their top five.

Proposed Projects for Appropriations Earmarks

Willamette Falls Locks Seismic Upgrades

- County Department: BCC (State and Federal Legislative Priority)
- BCC Strategic Results alignment:
 - Grow a vibrant economy
 - Build a strong infrastructure
 - Honor, utilize, promote, and invest in our natural resources
- Appropriations Subcommittee: Energy and Water Development
- **Requested Amount: \$6.6 million** (to go to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
- Support: More than a dozen entities comprising the Willamette Falls Locks Commission
- Congressional District: Representative Kurt Schrader

- Description: Would allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete seismic repairs, per the work outlined in the Locks Disposition Study.

Sandy Health Clinic

- County Department: H3S (Health Centers)
- BCC Strategic Results alignment:
 - Ensure safe, healthy, and secure communities
- Appropriations Subcommittee: Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
 - Total project: \$5.6 million
 - **Requested amount: \$1.6 million**
 - Match: \$4 million from Clackamas Health Centers' contingency fund
- Congressional District: Representative Earl Blumenauer
- Description: Would complete the funding for a new clinic that provides low-cost, quality healthcare for communities in rural Clackamas County in and around the city of Sandy. A new clinic provides improved service accessibility to rural residents using Medicaid, Medicare, or who are otherwise uninsured. The project has already been approved by the Board of County Commissioners for the full project amount, but a successful federal award would ensure contingency funds remain available to support services for our safety-net clients.

Boring Treatment Plant Decommissioning/Pump Station Project

- County Department: WES
- BCC Strategic Results alignment:
 - Grow a vibrant economy
 - Build a strong infrastructure
- Appropriations Subcommittee: Interior, Environment (State & Tribal Assistance Grants)
 - Total project: \$4.5 million
 - **Requested amount: \$1.5 million**
 - Match: \$3 million from ratepayer dollars
- Congressional District: Representative Earl Blumenauer
- Description: Decommissions a failing treatment lagoon and constructs a pump station in the community of Boring. The pump station would convey sewage to the existing pipe system that flows towards the Kellogg Creek Treatment Plant. The total project cost includes construction of nearly 6 miles of underground pipe. This project supports a rural community of roughly 100 households and businesses that cannot otherwise fund this project or bear the burden of infrastructure upgrades. This infrastructure upgrade would also support additional growth projected in the area. A funding award would reduce the financial burden on ratepayers.

Proposed Projects for Build Back Better and Surface Transportation Reauthorization Earmarks

I-205 Abernethy Bridge

- County Department: BCC (State and Federal Legislative Priority)
- BCC Strategic Results alignment:
 - Grow a vibrant economy
 - Build a strong infrastructure
- Total project: \$300 million

- **Requested Amount: \$250 million (requested by ODOT)**
 - Match: ODOT will identify appropriate matching funds
- Support: On JPACT’s list of federal transportation priorities
- Congressional District: Representative Kurt Schrader
- Description: Allows ODOT to move forward on the first phase of construction of the I-205 Widening and Seismic Improvements Project. Funds would strengthen the existing Abernethy Bridge and add a lane in each direction. Once completed, the Abernethy Bridge will be the first earthquake-ready interstate structure across the Willamette River.

Bull Run Bridge Replacement

- County Department: DTD
- BCC Strategic Results alignment:
 - Build a strong infrastructure
- Total project: \$11 million
 - **Requested amount: \$10 million**
 - Will apply for a BUILD Grant if project does not receive earmark funding
 - Will pursue Local Bridge Program (25-27) state funds as a 3rd opportunity
 - Match: \$1 million from the County Road Fund (Match required in BUILD Grants)
- Support: Weyerhaeuser, Portland Water Bureau, and included on JPACT’s large project list of federal transportation priorities
- Congressional District: Representative Earl Blumenauer
- Description: Would allow for a rebuild of the 128 year old Bull Run Bridge, which provides critical access to the Bull Run Reservoir.

“Clackamas Safety Project” (aka: 65th / Elligsen Rd / Stafford Intersection Improvement)

- County Department: DTD
- BCC Strategic Results alignment:
 - Ensure safe, healthy, and secure communities
- Total project: \$12.3 million
 - **Requested amount: \$10 million**
 - Match: \$2.3 million, to be paid with System Development Charges
- Support: On JPACT’s list of federal transportation priorities
- Congressional District: Representative Kurt Schrader

Willamette Falls Locks Operational Repairs

- County Department: BCC (State and Federal Legislative Priority)
- BCC Strategic Results alignment:
 - Grow a vibrant economy
 - Build a strong infrastructure
 - Honor, utilize, promote, and invest in our natural resources
- **Requested amount: \$7.5 to \$14.5 million**
- Support: More than a dozen entities comprising the Willamette Falls Locks Commission
- Congressional District: Representative Kurt Schrader
- Description: Funds operational repairs of the Locks, sufficient to allow for reopening.