

**DRAFT**

## **Skyrocketing costs and tough choices lead to delays in library projects**

By the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

Public spaces are the cornerstone of our community. Whether it is a place of learning and discovery, a place of justice or a place of gathering, these spaces are the soul of our community. We share with the community the excitement of the possibilities, the sense of community and belonging public spaces bring.

Community members throughout the county and the nation are responding to crippling inflation and high cost of living. It is impossible to ignore these rising costs. Many are making difficult decisions as it comes to spending.

Your Board of County Commissioners is also making those same difficult decisions on planned construction projects in response to rising costs. We realize these decisions are disappointing for many our community.

With skyrocketing construction costs, we realize that the best use of your tax dollars is to delay planned construction projects until costs stabilize. So far, we have delayed the construction of the Gladstone Library and Oak Lodge Library. We hope these are short delays, up to a year, but only the market will tell.

We realize that this is not what the community wants to hear. However, we are committed to keep design work underway on both projects.

As your County Commissioners, we will continue to make sure we represent your interests and stretch your tax dollars as far as possible. These financial considerations are at the forefront of our decisions as we review and discuss other construction projects under consideration.

We will have these conversations at our public Board meetings, and we invite you to join us in the conversation at our business meetings on Thursday's. You can also email us anytime at [BCC@Clackamas.us](mailto:BCC@Clackamas.us).

Thank you for participating in these conversations that lead to tough choices.

In service to you,

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners