



M. BARBARA CARTMILL
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BUILDING
150 BEAVERCREEK ROAD OREGON CITY, OR 97045

February 18, 2016

Board of County Commissioner
Clackamas County

Members of the Board:

The Road Ahead Advisory Ballot

Purpose/Outcomes	Discussion about advisory questions on the need for road maintenance and safety funds, to include on the May 17, 2016 election ballot
Dollar Amount and Fiscal Impact	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
Duration	Vote is planned for May 17, 2016
Previous Board Action	Numerous policy sessions, planning sessions and business meeting discussions over the past few years
Strategic Plan Alignment	Build a Strong Infrastructure: By 2019, 120 additional miles of county roads will be improved to 'good to excellent' status Build Public Trust Through Good Government: By 2020, Clackamas County will achieve the Strategic Results in the Strategic Plan.
Contact Person	Barbara Cartmill – 503-742-4326
Contract No.	N/A

BACKGROUND:

On Feb. 9, the Board of County Commissioners approved placing up to three advisory measures on the May 17, 2016 ballot. On Feb. 16 the Board is scheduled to further discuss the measures and tentatively decide to place up to three advisory measures related to future possible requests for voter approval to establish a local source of funding for county roads on the May 17, 2016 ballot. [The exact measures will be added to this document Feb. 16, after the Board Policy Session.]

The Board is taking this action because of the long-running and increasing need for a steady, local source of funds to keep our roads well-maintained and safe.

At this time more than 50% of Clackamas County's 1,400 miles of roads are in fair or poor condition. County road funds primarily come from gas taxes and vehicle registration fees, and the law prevents the use of ad valorem (property) taxes for roads. The county has used its road funds as efficiently as possible, but is not able to keep pace with road maintenance and safety needs. Currently there is a \$17 million gap each year between the funds needed to repair roads and available revenue.



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Every year, a larger percentage of county roads slip into disrepair, and the county doesn't have the necessary revenue to keep up with crucial maintenance needs. Waiting also comes at a price, as the cost to reconstruct a road in the future is more than 10 times greater than the cost of providing preventive maintenance today.

Ongoing preventive maintenance also plays a critical role in keeping our roads safe. Smooth roadways, clear lane markings, unobstructed sightlines, functional culverts, signage and well-marked intersections are vital to reducing crashes and helping to keep travelers safe.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board further discuss these advisory measures and ask for input from the public.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Barbara Cartmill, Director, Transportation & Development

DRAFT

Draft ballot title:

Advisory Vote on Pursuing Public Funding of County Road Maintenance

Draft ballot question:

Shall the county pursue voter-approved funding for deferred road maintenance and safety improvements on the November 2016 ballot?

Draft ballot summary:

Clackamas County is considering remedies to a significant deficiency in road maintenance funds. Over 50% of Clackamas County's 1,400 road miles are in fair or poor condition.

Road funds primarily come from gas taxes and vehicle registration fees; law forbids using ad valorem (property) taxes for roads. The county uses road funds efficiently, but is unable to keep pace with maintenance needs. There is a \$17 million annual gap between funds needed to maintain roads and revenue.

Every year, a larger percentage of county roads slip into disrepair, and the county doesn't have the necessary revenue to keep up. Waiting also comes at a price, as the cost to reconstruct a road in the future is more than 10 times greater than the cost of providing preventive maintenance today.

Ongoing preventive maintenance is critical to safe roads. Smooth roadways, clear lane markings, unobstructed sightlines, drainage and well-marked intersections help reduce crashes and keep travelers safe.

This advisory vote is intended to gauge voter interest in the issue, not preclude any future action by the County.