

W. 5. C. 3.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 11-2-2-

IN THE MATTER PROPOSING A POLICY
RESOLUTION TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES FOR CONSIDERATION AT THEIR
ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD
MARCH 5-9, 2011 IN WASHINGTON, DC.

WHEREAS, Lane County is a member in good standing of the National Association of Counties, and;

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties provides essential services to the nation's 3068 counties and advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, and;

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties has a specific resolutions review procedure whereby it determines policy positions on a wide variety of county issues, and;

WHEREAS, Lane County has successfully developed National Association of Counties resolutions on a variety of issues in the past, and;

WHEREAS, Staff have created a draft resolution regarding a transportation related concept that would improve the federal resources available to provide Lane County residents with road safety funding, and;

WHEREAS, the draft resolution is attached to this resolution as Attachment A.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Lane County Board of Commissioners agrees to the resolution proposing inclusion of Bureau of Land Management forest land access and through roads receiving funding from the Federal Lands Highway Program as outlined in Attachment A, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the National Association of Counties as a draft resolution for consideration by the National Association of Counties at their regularly scheduled legislative conference in Washington, DC.

DATED this _____ day of February, 2011

Faye Stewart, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

Proposed NaCo Resolution on the Future Reauthorization of the Federal Surface Transportation Program, Specifically:

SAFETEA-LU, Section 1119 outlines the Federal Lands Highway Program, and includes funding for Indian Reservation Roads, Park Roads and Parkways, Refuge Roads, and Public Lands Highways. This proposed Resolution addresses the Public Lands Highway Program and suggests that this Program should expand to include opportunities for improvements to roads that provide access to and through forest lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (Dept of Interior). The existing language in Section 1119 provides that these dollars are only available to roads that provide access to or through National Forest (Dept of Agriculture) system roads.

Suggested Addition to existing Naco Adopted Resolution on the Future of the Federal Surface Transportation Program (Transportation Steering Committee):

Rural Roads (add the following bullet)

- The Federal Lands Highway Program should be available to fund improvements to any road that accesses or passes through federally managed forest lands (including specifically lands managed by the National Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management).

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of the Federal Lands Highway Program is to provide safe and adequate transportation access to and through the National Forest System (NFS) lands for visitors, recreationists, resource users and others, which is not met by other transportation programs. Forest Highways assist in rural and community development, economic development and promotion of tourism and travel. Reconstruction, rehabilitation, safety and ad preservation projects on roads serving the National Forest System are all eligible under the program.

Oregon's counties have accessed millions of dollars in federal funds through grant projects that are solicited by the State Department of Transportation.

However, in addition to National Forest lands, Oregon is home to over 2 million acres of land under the Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management. Due to the language authorizing this program in SAFETEA-LU, roads that access and pass through these federal forests are ineligible for assistance under the Forest Highway Program.

In Lane County, McGowan Creek Road, milepost 2.5 has been the site of one vehicle crash that resulted in a fatality and several other serious injury wrecks. This road is under the management and maintenance of the Bureau of Land Management. In jointly seeking to apply for funding to fix this particular risk, Lane County and the BLM discovered they were in-eligible to apply for funding through the Federal Lands Highway Program.