ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**May 25, 2012**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Sean Barrett, Kent Fleming, Jeff Paschall, Larry Reed, Ellen Mooney**

**STAFF & OTHER PRESENT: Kerry Werner, Lydia McKinney, Bill Morgan, Howard Schussler**

**MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Wilcox**

Fleming called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT – none
2. APPROVAL OF APRIL 25, 2012 MINUTES

Motion: Barrett moved to approve the minutes as is; Paschall seconded; all present voted in favor, motion carried.

1. NEW MEMBER & COMMITTEE INTRODUCTIONS

Fleming introduced new member Ellen Mooney, appointed by Jay Bozievich. Committee members introduced each other and shared a little about each of their backgrounds, what they are interested in, and staff shared what their roles are with the Committee.

1. STORMWATER UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL UPDATE – Bill Morgan

Morgan gave an overview by stating there are over 100 underground injection controls (UIC), which are inlets next to the street, in the River Road – Santa Clara area. Typically you will see an inlet with water going into them, and instead of water being conveyed by a pipe-to-pipe system, it’s a large perforated pipe that is tied into gravel or native ground about 10-20’ underground. This system was an acceptable and affordable method in the past, and water would infiltrate into the ground and disperse with little infrastructure needed.

About ten years ago, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) started to notice these and became concerned that they are in violation of the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act tries to protect surface water and ground water. Over the last ten years we’ve been assessing and receiving information from DEQ, which says they have to sign everyone up with permits based on new regulations. If your UIC was within ten feet from seasonally high ground water, then we were being told to get rid of them. Morgan explained to get rid of them is to remove them, but then there’s nowhere for the water to go. During the past few years we’ve worked with the city of Eugene and consultants to determine the cost to get rid of these UIC’s will be around $12-15 million dollars.

Morgan is reporting back today because there has been some recent policy template work by DEQ and they are doing additional scientific analysis to determine if or how dangerous storm water run-off actually is in relationship to UIC’s. The proposed template will likely not require us to decommission/remove all of the UIC’s, but allow some modeling of the groundwater system to determine if the pollutants of concern are being removed naturally. We are also working with the City of Eugene to join forces. Morgan stated hopefully we are not going to be forced to remove 100 UIC’s. Additionally, in the summer months we anticipate going to the Board to present the Storm Water Feasibility Study for fees. General discussion ensued.

1. ROAD FUND UPDATE – Bill Morgan

Morgan provided a summary of the Public Works funding situation. The County has taken a $100 million dollar cut, plus during the last minute, the Budget Committee needed to find an estimated 3-5 million to soften the final blow. Based on the actions of the Budget Committee, they restored Patrol Services at levels 4 & 5 (14 FTE) with $1,913,704 from the Road Fund which is on top of the $854,618 that had already been allotted in the base budget for Road Patrol and the $407,000 for the Sheriff Weigh Master Program. This is a total of about $3.175 million we were not anticipating losing from the Road Fund Reserve, all going to the Sheriff’s Office. Morgan said we will now need to cut or eliminate $10 million instead of $8 million in the next fiscal year in order to balance the Road Fund. This year we’ve reduced our operating budget by 20%, which amounted to about 41 positions. Morgan estimates the $10 million cut will be in the range of an additional 40 to 50 positions needing to be eliminated in the Road Fund. Morgan said other budget impacts include oil cost going up, PERS expenses are up, and we have less areas to scale back. Staff will be meeting with the Board to discuss revenue ideas. Additionally, staff will be reprioritizing what class of road we will lower the service on and possibly no longer stripe, etc. General discussion ensued.

1. PUBLIC HEARING – HYACINTH STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT – Lydia McKinney

Chair Fleming called the Public Hearing to Order at 6:32p.m. Fleming provided committee introductions and explained ground rules for the process. Fleming introduced McKinney to provide a summary of this project. McKinney introduced Kerry Werner, the Design Engineer for this project, and Chris Watchie, the Public Involvement Manager. McKinney said that last month she provided a complete presentation with all of the various design options and details about the public involvement process. . McKinney provided a memo in the packet that outlined what was covered in last month’s meeting. Tonight’s process follows Lane Manual, in order to receive testimony from the public, and make a recommendation to the Board. Notice has been provided to all affected residents. One letter of testimony has been received as a result of that notice, which is from Gary Hunter and will be included in tonight’s record. Mr. Hunter did not want a retaining wall to be built on his property; however staff has already contacted him since receipt of the letter to notify him no retaining wall is going to be built there.

Chair Fleming requested public comment:

PUBLIC COMMENT –

* **Lisa Van Winkle, 91171 N. Coleman Street, Coburg OR 97408**. Van Winkle works for Point2Point Solutions with LTD and is in support of this project. Point 2 Point provides services to communities so there are options of carpool, bus, or walk. Van Winkle also serves on the Safe Routes to School Program, which focuses on three key areas: Education, Engineering, and Encouragement. This project is an improvement for the families and community, and the sidewalk needs have been an issue for many years.
* **Drew Braun, 26978 Briggs Hill Road, Eugene OR 97405**. Braun is the Director of Instruction for Bethel School District and said this has been an issue for decades. Braun is looking forward to having kids go to school without being transported by parents.
* **Jerry Finigan, 1250 Irvington Drive Eugene OR 97404**. Finnegan represents the Santa Clara Community Organization and has lived in the area since 1963. Due to a huge boom and growth, the roads have now become minor collectors because people take these routes to avoid River Road. Finnegan is in support of this sidewalk improvement project.
* **Susan Thompson, 3550 Hyacinth Street, Eugene OR 97404**. Thompson shared she was not happy about this project and losing all of her landscape at the start of the process. However, Kerry and staff have worked very hard to protect and keep as much as possible while still achieving the goals of this project. Thompson understands the need for this project. Thompson is in support of the project and appreciates staff efforts.

Fleming closed the public hearing at 5:45.

McKinney clarified the three design exceptions:

1. No charge to residents (assessments) because of grant funding for the project.
2. We are only adding a sidewalk on one side, and code says that it must go on both sides.
3. Lane Code requires marked bike lanes for reconstructed roads. There are significant constraints with the road and providing a safe marked bike lane was not viable. Education regarding proper use of the sidewalk and road will be part of the Safe Routes to School information provided to students..

General discussion ensued regarding the design concept recommended. Reed wants the record to show that just because this design recommended has an exception, that we are not setting a precedent.

Motion: Anderson moved to adopt the plan proposed by staff, including the design exception; Reed seconded; all present voted in favor, motion carried.

1. OPEN AGENDA/ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING?

Items for the next meeting, July 25, 2012:

1. Revenue Options Update

Meeting Adjourned at 7:03pm

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Christy Meyer, Meeting Recorder