

Quarterly Update with Public Works

December 12, 2022

11:01 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, Commissioner Brummer, County Manager Erik Martin, Geoff Soderquist, Josh Metcalf, Nic Scott

Guest(s): None

Recorder: Tammy Martin

Public comment: None.

Construction updates 2022

Geoff Soderquist said his goal of the Public Works update is to give project and status updates and to address any obstacles. Commissioner Swope would like to have projects divided by district and would like to know if there are needs of the commissioners in order to assist with project completion.

Geoff said there will be numerous projects in the future for fish passage projects because there is state funding available. The funding has timelines to use the grant funds that have moved the timelines to replacing the fish passages. These will result in cost savings to the County.

Geoff said there are alternatives to right-of-way and imminent domain. There will be negotiations needed for the Reynolds Road / Harrison Ave project. Burnett Rd and Spencer Road will have temporary right of way issues.

Shorey Road stabilization: Geoff said Public Works is still working on a permanent fix. Will likely be completed in 2024.

Centralia Alpha MP 15.79 Culvert Replacement: Geoff said the project is currently in right of way negotiations and that the design is 98% complete. Geoff estimates funding will be from the STP funding program. STP funding for Lewis County is split between Centralia, Chehalis, and Lewis County. Lewis County then distributes funding to other cities within Lewis County. Geoff said this eliminates competition and encourages partnerships.

Garrard Creek Bank Stabilization Interim Repair: 30% design complete and will be built in the summer of 2023.

Bridge Report: Geoff said the annual bridge report for 2022 includes 204 and will continue to increase due to fish passage and culverts. There are 8 bridges in Lewis County that have load restrictions. 24 bridges are classified as functionally obsolete and 84 are categorized as scour critical. There is one bridge that is owned by Pierce County, but Lewis County owns the approach to it. 11 of the scour critical bridges have fixes in place and 46 scour critical bridges have potential foundation issues that are to be

determined. Geoff said there was an unfunded mandate to re-evaluate bridges to undergo new load ratings to include special haul vehicles. These typically include emergency vehicles. Geoff said Lewis County is not on pace to meet the unfunded mandate requirements because the county does not have any of the special emergency vehicles. The remaining anticipated cost to be in compliance is approximately \$300,000.

Training Opportunities: Geoff said Public Works is facing staffing shortages. These shortages are also being seen statewide. Geoff feels that Public Works will have to use consultants due to the lack of engineers in order to keep up with maintenance. This will result in more incurred costs to Lewis County. Geoff said they are trying to develop a training program with the Working with the Washington Student Achievement Council. The goal is to create a scholarship program to help with training opportunities. Geoff said he is also working with CRAB to access state training programs.

Geoff said pavement has a point of elasticity. He said that when maintenance is deferred too long, the temporary fixes no longer work. Growth in areas that have these maintenance needs is beginning to add up. Maintenance is the goal to eliminate emergency issues.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.