



Memorandum

Date: November 30, 2010

To: John Kovash, Mayor
Members, West Linn City Council

From: Chris Jordan, City Manager *CJ*

Subject: Electronic Vehicle Charging Stations

For the past several months, City staff has been working with a company that has a federal grant for placing and installing electronic vehicle charging stations. Our meetings with Ecotality have resulted in the following:

- 1) Ecotality will pay up to \$1500 for installation of an EVCS. It is our understanding that PGE will also contribute toward the cost – perhaps up to about \$900. The actual cost of installation depends on the location, but it is not expected to be significantly more than \$2500 for each.
- 2) The EVCS' that we are considering in West Linn would be 240 volts with the ability to fully charge a vehicle in 4-8 hours. To charge a vehicle up to 50% would take approximately 1-2 hours.
- 3) Currently we are pursuing the possibility of 4 charging stations in West Linn – 2 in the parking lot at City Hall; one in the Bolton area – perhaps at the chiropractic office on Highway 43; and one in Willamette, if a good location and can be identified.
- 4) Initially, the City might have to pay for the electricity – approximately 40 cents per hour of charging time. It is anticipated that by May 2011, the user of these stations would use smartcard technology to pay for the use.
- 5) Many consumers are already on a waiting list for the Nissan Leaf – the latest electronic vehicle. Ecotality has informed us that West Linn has the 3rd most number of people on the waiting list on a per capita basis in the state of Oregon.

We are currently working toward installation of these stations by early spring. I plan to brief the Council in the January-February timeframe on the status of this project.



Memorandum

Date: December 3, 2010

To: John Kovash, Mayor
Members, West Linn City Council

From: Chris Jordan, City Manager *ej*

Subject: Miscellaneous Items

Home Builders Association Legislative Concerns

Councilor Burgess provided received a copy of the attached memorandum from the head of the Oregon Home Builders Association to the House Committee on Agriculture, natural Resources and Rural Communities outlining a few legislative concerns of that organization. We believe the Council might find this interesting as it is always possible that some of these items may receive some consideration during this legislative cycle.

Lake Oswego/Tigard Water Partnership

As this partnership continues to explore plans for expanding the Lake Oswego Water Treatment Plant, the cities are looking at several parcels currently owned by Lake Oswego and adjacent to the plant. These parcels have deed restrictions indicating that they can only be developed as single family homes. The partnership needs to have the Homeowners Association waive these deed restrictions so the plant can be expanded. For the Council's information, attached is a letter sent to the homeowners in that area from a consultant to the partnership describing this issue.

Attachment



TO: House Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Communities
FROM: Jon Chandler (jchandler@oregonhba.com)
RE: Facilitating development inside UGBs
DATE: September 21, 2010

The following are ideas that we have been discussing internally and with other interested parties on the general topic of facilitating development inside UGBs and by so doing, reducing pressure on resource land. We would welcome this Committee's input on any or all of these:

- Standing to appeal projects: it is very easy for parties that are not directly (or even indirectly) affected by a development project to appeal, and even when the developer could win as a legal matter, the delay and cost of the appeal is often enough to cause the project to be abandoned or watered down substantially.
- No financial penalty for appeals: a related issue, but it is possible to derail a multi-million dollar projects and the attendant jobs that would be created without any financial exposure on the part of the opponents if they lose.
- Wetlands and other environmental issues inside UGBs: the theory behind UGBs is that there is lot of planning and analysis done up front on all the trade-offs, but once that is done, the land inside the UGB is supposed to be available for development. This has not always been the case, but recently we're seeing DSL require 'need' analysis for wetlands inside the boundary on a project by project basis, when all that sort of study should be done at the planning (i.e. UGB) level, not at the permit counter.
- Five year land supply requirement: current law requires UGBs to contain a 20 year supply of residential land, but there is no requirement that any amount of land be available in the short term. There should also be a short term, shovel ready, requirement for residential (and industrial and commercial) land, so that infrastructure and other supply issues can't be pushed off to the distant future.
- Disconnect between planning and development: there is a law on the books now (ORS 197.178), albeit unenforced, that would require cities to track and report for residential development projects what the underlying density would allow, what the developer applied to build, and what the city actually approved. We believe that there is a huge disconnect between what local planning assumes and what is actually approved, and there is probably a similar disconnect with regard to industrial and commercial development.

December 1, 2010

Property Owner
Address
Address

RE: Lake Oswego Water Treatment Plant Improvement

The City of Lake Oswego has hired our firm, Universal Field Services, to provide assistance in regard to the expansion of the water treatment plant on Kenthorpe Way. Universal is a private consulting firm that specializes in property transactions and right of way services. We are looking forward to participating as part of the project team and working with the property owners. Our involvement now is part of the continuation of conversations you've had in the past few months with the City. The Ice Cream Social in August and the Good Neighborhood Plan Meeting in October provided you with opportunities to meet with the City and provide input into the plans for the new facility.

The lots that the City of Lake Oswego owns in the Maple Grove subdivision will be incorporated into the Lake Oswego Water Treatment plant. A conceptual plan of this development is attached. The concept includes a buried reservoir, above ground building, utility corridor/emergency access road, fencing and pedestrian trail.

Universal Field Services staff will be contacting you soon to set up a meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to obtain your signature on a waiver of deed restrictions in order to allow facility expansion onto the city-owned lots as shown in the attached conceptual plan. An offer of compensation for your time and attention to this matter will be made. The agents of Universal Field Services are notaries and available both inside and outside of normal business hours to assist you in completion of this waiver.

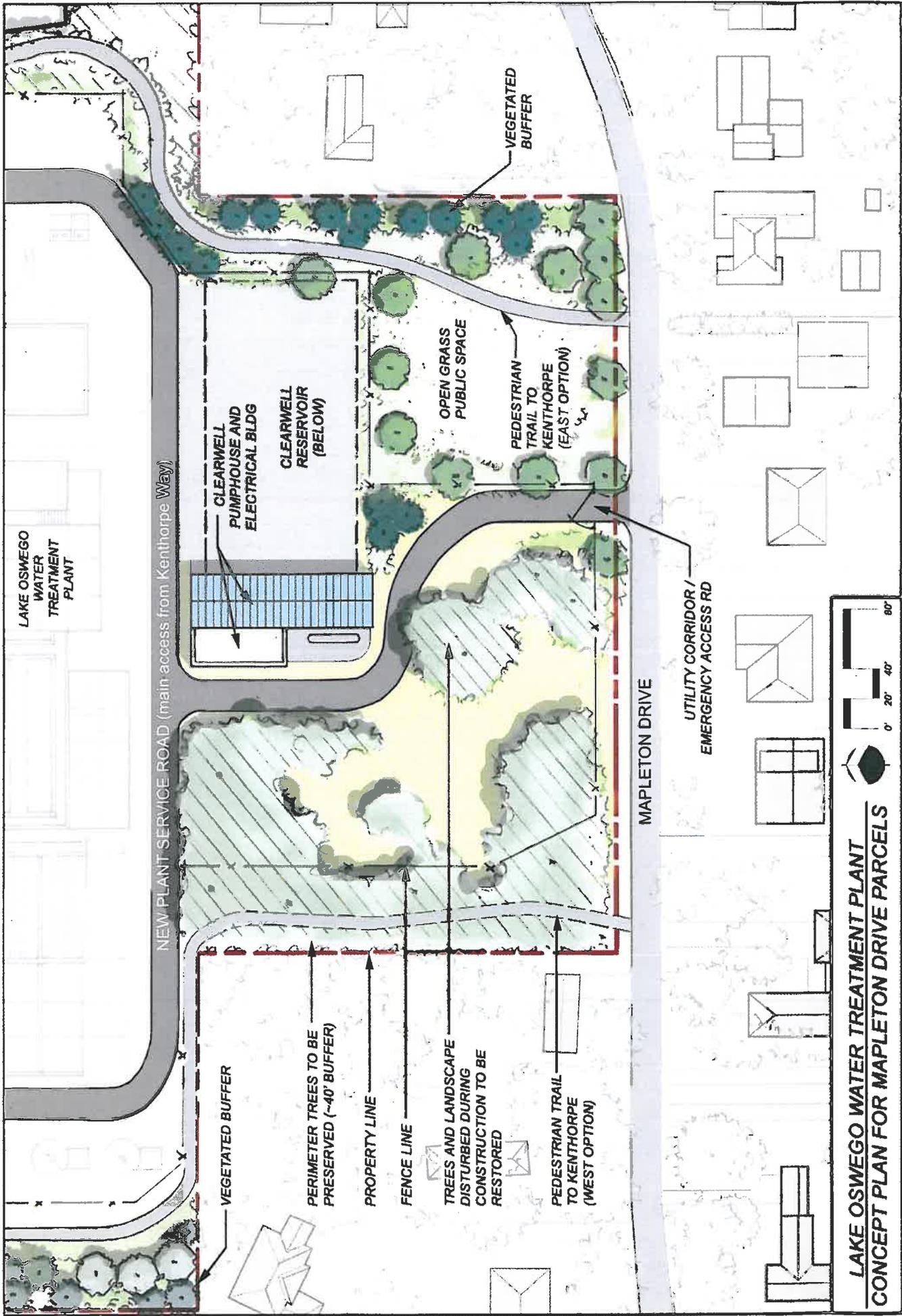
If you would like further information, please feel free to call me at 503-399-8002, toll free at 1-877-501-7282 or on my cell at 503-383-8533. We thank you in advance your help on this portion of the project.

Sincerely,

UNIVERSAL FIELD SERVICES

Regina Thompson
Project Manager

Cc: Jane Heisler, Communication Director, Lake Oswego/Tigard Water Partnership



**LAKE OSWEGO WATER TREATMENT PLANT
CONCEPT PLAN FOR MAPLETON DRIVE PARCELS**

0 20' 40' 80'

North arrow symbol

Memorandum

Date: December 3, 2010

To: John Kovash, Mayor
Members, West Linn City Council

From: Chris Jordan, City Manager 

Subject: Frank Feedback on Water Rate Ballot Measure

In two recent Letters to the Editor and on the City's website, Mayor Kovash requested feedback from West Linn citizens regarding the failed water rate measure. The Mayor was looking for information that would help the City determine why the measure failed, and what steps the City could take to assist in passage of a similar measure at some time in the future.

Kirsten Wyatt has reviewed and analyzed the feedback we received. This information and Kirsten's analysis is attached. The Council should discuss this ballot measure and the feedback during the goal setting session in late January.

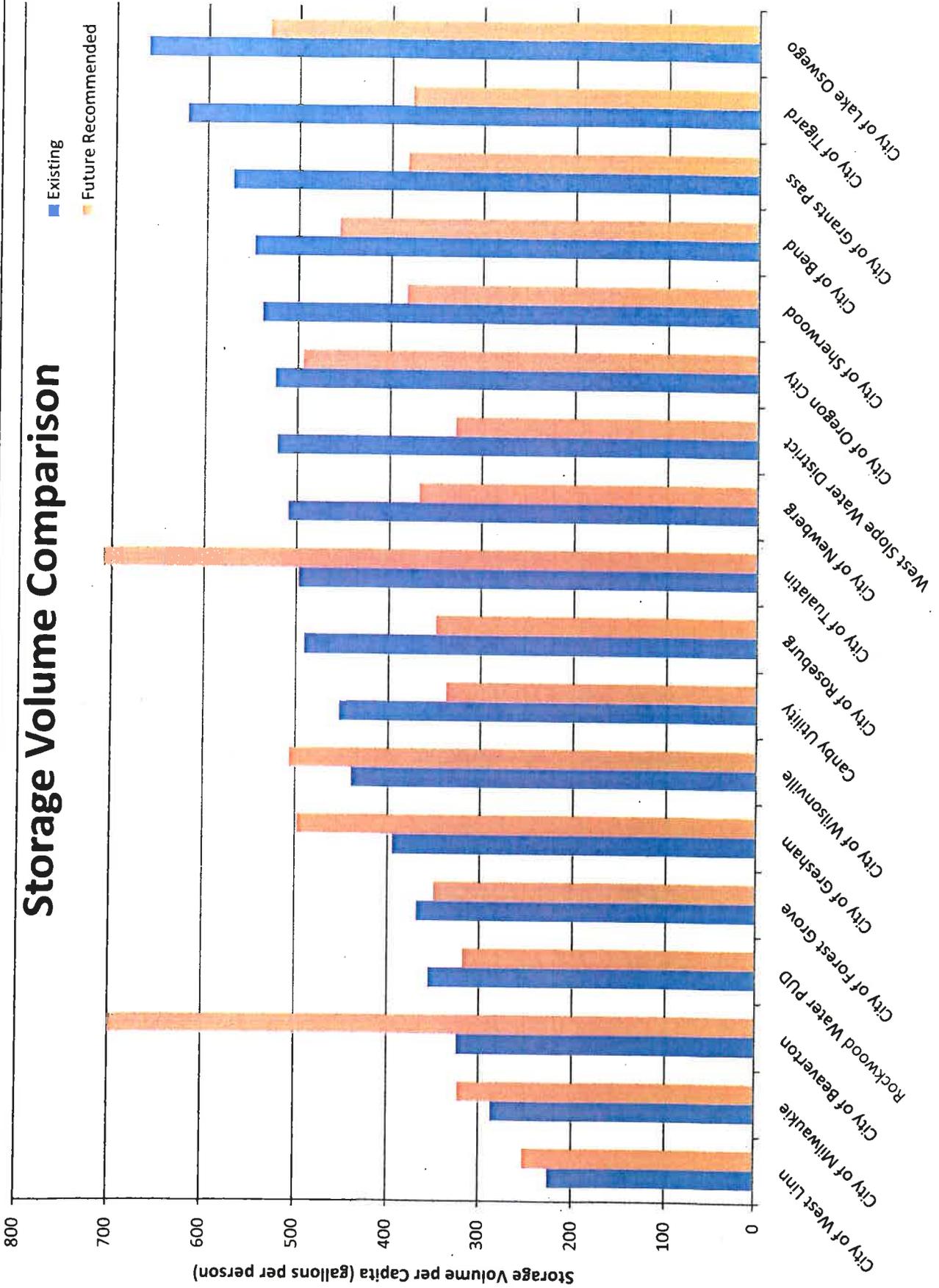
In front of the attached memorandum from Kirsten, for your information I have provided a couple of charts that show the current and future water storage capacities of 18 cities or water districts in the area. These charts show that West Linn, both now and projected in the future using our 2008 Master Plan, has the lowest storage capacity of any of these entities on a per capita basis.

Attachment

Municipal Drinking Water System Storage Comparison
 Data Compiled November 2010

Water System	Existing Conditions			Future Conditions		
	Total Storage Volume (million gallons)	Approximate Population Served	Storage Volume per Capita (gal/person)	Recommended Total Storage Volume (million gallons)	Projected Future Population	Storage Volume per Capita (gal/person)
City of West Linn	5.50	24,455	225	7.80	30,931	252
City of Milwaukie	6.00	20,930	287	9.00	27,950	322
City of Beaverton	28.25	87,440	323	58.75	83,957	700
Rockwood Water PUD	19.50	55,000	355	19.50	61,600	317
City of Forest Grove	8.00	21,770	367	12.50	35,880	348
City of Gresham	27.20	69,000	394	41.10	82,705	497
City of Wilsonville	7.95	18,095	439	13.95	27,565	506
Canby Utility	6.90	15,230	453	15.60	46,420	336
City of Roseburg	10.70	21,790	491	16.05	46,150	348
City of Tualatin	13.00	26,160	497	20.90	29,500	708
City of Newberg	12.00	23,570	509	13.50	36,791	367
West Slope Water District	6.00	11,500	522	6.80	20,745	328
City of Oregon City	16.25	30,995	524	25.25	51,100	494
City of Sherwood	9.00	16,705	539	14.50	37,940	382
City of Bend	30.13	55,000	548	46.93	103,000	456
City of Grants Pass	19.00	33,225	572	25.40	66,500	382
City of Tigard	29.60	47,595	622	29.60	78,471	377
City of Lake Oswego	24.50	36,845	665	34.30	64,400	533

Storage Volume Comparison



Memorandum

Date: December 2, 2010

To: Chris Jordan, City Manager

From: Kirsten Wyatt, Assistant City Manager

Subject: Citizen Feedback Received on Conservation Water Pricing; Aquatic Community Center

Mayor Kovash asked for “frank feedback” from citizens in his November opinion editorials in the *West Linn Tidings* and *Oregonian*. He posed four questions to citizens, and asked for anonymous responses to the following questions:

- 1) Your thoughts on why the conservation pricing ballot measure failed?
- 2) Your understanding of the problems West Linn's water system has?
- 3) How can the City of West Linn best communicate with you?
- 4) Under what conditions do you think citizens would vote to increase water rates in order to maintain the water system?

Councilor Tan echoed this request for feedback in her November opinion editorials in both papers. This memorandum provides a summarization of the responses received on the “frank feedback” form as of today, December 2, 2010¹. Four key themes emerge from a review of the feedback:

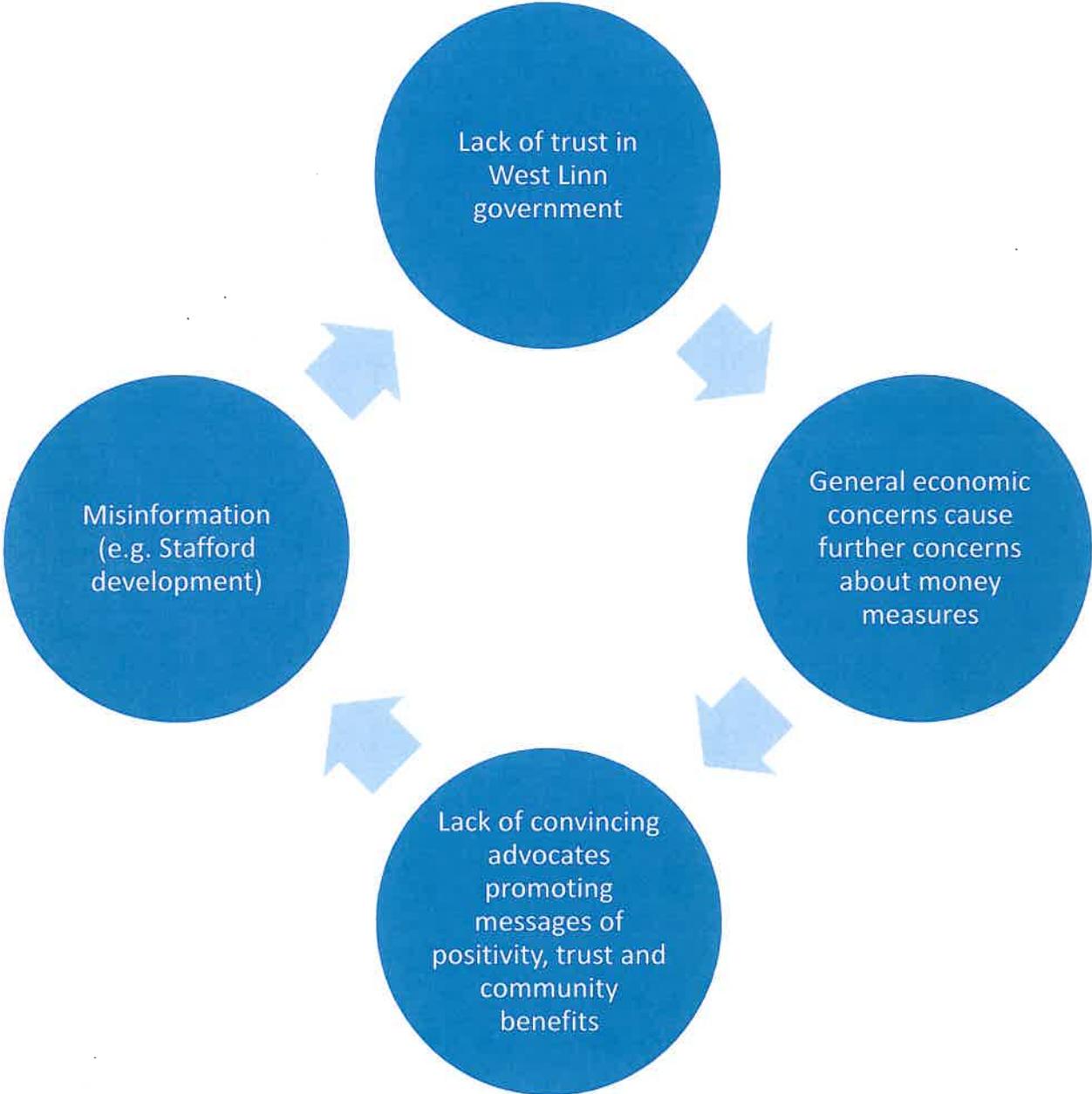
- 1) Lack of trust in the City
- 2) Fear of Stafford development
- 3) Lack of a coordinated advocacy campaign
- 4) Impact of current economic conditions

I have color-coded key phrases from the responses to correspond with these four key themes. Trust issues are coded in **green**. Development fears are coded in **pink**. Advocacy problems are coded in **yellow**. Economic worries are coded in **blue**.

The themes above are rank ordered based on my perception of the frequency that these themes emerge; roughly 50% of flagged responses relate to trust issues; 20% relate to development fears and advocacy problems; and 10% relate to economic worries.

¹ All responses are included in their entirety, and no responses were edited in any way (meaning that spelling, grammar and punctuation errors are included). In three cases, specific email addresses were included and they were omitted from this memorandum for privacy reasons, as this is a public document. In one case, the response received was so lengthy that it is included in a separate heading at the end of this memorandum so the response can be read in its entirety. The IP addresses for responses were all checked to ensure that duplicate submissions were not used. The responses were shuffled so they are anonymously shown and cannot be linked from question to question (e.g. the first response to question number one is not from the same person as the first response to question number two...).

I believe that the lack of trust in the City is a significant concern for both City staff and the City Council. It is very worrisome that the theme emerges over and over again. I believe that these key themes show a cycle that must be broken so future policy initiatives can be pursued by the Council:



If possible, I believe that the City Council should address these themes and come up with a plan on how to restore community trust at their retreat before they pursue future ballot measures that require voter approval. Until trust can be restored, I believe that the cycle will continue, and misinformation will continue to which will significantly deter future ballot measure success.

Your thoughts on why the conservation pricing ballot measure failed?

- Difficulty explaining the long term costs of potential infrastructure failure and the best way to generate revenue to prevent failure moving forward.
- Edward Schwarz' comments....and the lack of any pro argument.
- First, I was in favor of the measure and voted for it. My water useage never goes over the standard so I pay for water I'm not using. Others don't pay a fair share for the water they are using. I think the measure failed because of the **turmoil in city government in the past few years**. There was the embezzlement, the unbalanced Mayor and a lot of ugliness in city politics. We thought we were electing competent adults to office only to find we elected petulant children. **I just don't think most citizens trust their city government. This trust is going to take some time to rebuild. Unfortunately, that task is going to fall on you and the current council. Good Luck!**
- I believe our water rates are artificially low, and do not reflect upcoming scarcity. I agree that on-demand pricing makes sense. Yet I voted against the measure, for these reasons: I expected my rates to greatly increase if the measure passed. How much, I did not know. Uncertainty decreases the likelihood that I will vote to raise my expenses. **It's a tough economy**, and we have enough uncertainty without voluntarily increasing the amount we have to send to government. No new taxes!
- I believe that the pro-development forces in West Linn are using this as a pre-emptive strike for **expanding into the Stafford Triangle**. Obviously, water service would have to expand to service that area. If this measure passed, I believe that would eliminate one large possible objection to expansion. (I voted against our joining the Clackamas waste treatment group for the same reason.)
- **I don't trust our local government officials any more than I do national politicians**. Government must decrease in size and budget. I didn't want to hand over more money to the System. **I don't trust** that you'd use the funds solely for West Linn water needs. Sorry, but **my distrust has grown over the years of council infighting**. **I'm tired of the pro-development anti-development battle, and wish developers would just go away, before they destroy the livability of West Linn.**
- **I have lost confidence in the city government over the last couple of years for any number of reasons**. Two mayors in the last 5 or 6 years have been total embarrassments. Professional management but lack of internal controls that allowed serious fraud (was it credit card use) a few years ago. A Street fee on the water bill, really? What does one's water use have to do with streets? It's a tax that clearly subverts the constitutional limit on taxes. New fire stations in this economy... spending like drunk sailors! And the crowning achievement was the bond measure recently that City Council said we would have to close down the police department if we didn't pass it. Really, our city government planned to close the police department before they closed the parks or fire department??? Really? **Do you REALLY expect to be believed on anything**. You're an addict looking for your next "fix". I can't imagine when I'll vote for another spending measure. Aaaah, and now we NEED to move the police department up to cascade summit. Is that where most of the "calls" come from? Shall we have every call deploy through neighborhood streets rather than an arterial road? 5 years ago the current building was sufficient for the entire city

government, now it's not big enough for ONE department??? Kids can't play ball on grass until the economy improves.... NO NO, we've got to have artificial fields NOW. Really???

- I think a major part of the failure is due to **the way the ballot measure was presented**. If it had simply been presented as a change in the way water usage would be billed, and stressing the positive impact on sustainability, it might have passed. I think people can understand and will support a fair, common sense ""the more you use the more you pay"" billing methodology.
- **As the measure was presented**, however, there were so many references to the \$21 million needed to cover the water master plan projects, I suspect many voters felt they were being asked to approve a brand new, \$21 million project (which, in this economic climate, won't pass), not existing planned (but unfunded) projects.
- **If you can present the rate plan and not tie it to specific infrastructure projects**, instead stressing the general long-term sustainability and fiscal viability of such billing schemes, I think the measure has a better chance of passing. Simply say that the increased revenue would be used to maintain and upgrade the water system consistent with the already-approved master plan.
- I think the average water usage data was suspect. Average of 7 units could not possibly apply for a single family home. It may apply for an two person apartment dweller. I checked my water usage for the past three years and it ranges October to May between 5 to 9 units and June to September between 17 to 20 units per month. Our usage is based on two persons living in the house with normal water usage for taking showers (once per day), cooking, washing dishes, washing clothing and toilet usage. All normal functions. In the summer months, we set the sprinklers to water our lawn for three times per week.
- I think the other reasons for failure are of not being explained clearly and tools such as the online calculator not working. **The state of the economy was also a very important factor**.
- I voted for the measure. I think it failed because there was **no one telling a compelling reason why to vote yes**. **The city provided a lot of information but no one was convincing about why**. I voted for it because it is smarter to fix problems before they occur.
- I'm skeptical about your motivation in requesting feedback but in any case. I'm not disappointed that the water measure failed because it was disingenuous at best. The ballot measure was a bloated attempt to fund other things within city hall. If you and the council weren't so dead set on expanding the system capacity it may have passed. But it's also another example of behind-the-scenes-crony-government in operation. The only input you're looking for from the citizens is a 'yea' vote on your **growth agenda schemes**. But not everybody falls for it.
- **Look at the unemployment rate. Look at the state of the economy** Citizens are tired of perceived misuse of their tax money, and are saying "NO" to more taxes. People would rather buy groceries than pay higher taxes; homeowners think their property taxes are already too high. Couple this with previous embezzlement and/or misappropriation of funds in West Linn...residents here have **lost faith in our city's governing abilities**. We should have had a swimming pool ten years ago, there were proposed plans then...do you see one? I don't. The city of West Linn is not adding value for it's residents. There is essentially little or nothing for kids to do here...if they don't go to the skate park.

- Mayor Kovash Congratulations on your election and thanks for asking for feedback. The main communication about the measure from the city was the West Linn Update article, which I found insulting. The first page was all fluff about being "green" and the second page had a graph with fake data telling us what a good deal it was for us. There was no mention of any decision making data.
- We just had the proposal for a too big and too expensive police station. City Council seemed to be a mess for over a year. The budget documents are unintelligible with so many pages. The Library bond funding seems to have disappeared into the city spending with no changes to the library. The repaving projects seemed to be expensive overkill for street repair.
- People thought this was a step in getting water to the Stafford area. The numbers didn't make sense for the increased capacity given our current population and what little land remains available for future density in the current UGB. Councilor Teri Cummings questions regarding this and the way she was treated in meetings demonstrated shadiness on the city's behalf. She kept citing that no one was answering her questions nor providing her requested documentation. Ed Schwartz's arguments against this measure in the voter's pamphlet made a lot of sense.
- Several reasons. Tons of money went into advertising that was downright patronizing/deceptive. The ads focused on simple, vague things and I don't remember them mentioning details of the problems with the water system. It was mostly about pricing. Also, the "lower income" folks like me in Bolton get tired of each year's panic that requires money. I still can't wrap my head around the meth problem we supposedly were solving by throwing money at the police. But when we voted it down, the money was taken from parks and then we got saddled with a fee (that makes our water bill look higher). That doesn't even count the roads fee that people like me pay while the roads on the hill are immaculate and the roads by my house in Bolton (Geer street anybody?) get ignored after years and years of complaints. But in spite of all that, I voted for it because I'm sick of paying for water I don't use. Great motivator for conservation when you get billed anyway. I get billed for over double the amount of water I use. I'm sure there were lots of people on the other end of the spectrum who didn't like the idea of having to pay for the water they use...or they just don't believe the city every time they yell that the sky is falling.
- Some persons voted against it because they saw it as a veiled attempt to increase capacity in order to annex additional territory. Some persons were not able to interpret the "legalese" and decided if they could not understand it, it must be bad. I suspect that other persons looked at their total water bill, two-thirds of which is hidden taxes labeled as "fees," and decided that their water bill was too high already.
- Suspicious about a connection between our future water needs and the Growth Bogeyman were fostered by a tiny group of the usual suspicious people, who somehow managed convince citizens who are already financially more vulnerable that this vote, rather than moving us to a pay-for-use, sustainable model of water pricing and into a progressive, conservation mode, would open us up to the paving of Stafford. No-tax and no-growth intersected in normally sustainability-oriented West Linn.
- Thank you for asking. I can not speak for others but the information provided left me with the impression that the measure was only to shift the method of allocating costs. I agree with a pay

for use model. What bothered me is that I didn't understand why when I used the rate calculator the costs seemed to go up no matter what amount of water use I placed in the calculator. I then read the measure more closely and found that it also included a rate increase. This bothered me that the rate increase was not clearly communicated. I felt like I was being misled.

- The "argument in opposition" in the voters pamphlet (and mailed to us as well) made this measure seem like it was a vote to help developers put in a bunch of tract housing--which no one wants. The city did not address this argument in any way. If the bill was purely to help maintain current water system, I am sure it would have passed. Voters were voting against development, whether that is a valid argument or not. The city needed more communication with the taxpayers regarding where this money would be going.
- The economy and the perception that it would lay the groundwork for future development.
- The reason my spouse and I voted against the measure had nothing to do with the merits of the actual measure, it was because we are not confident in the City's ability to manage its resources. Time and time again it seems that there are issues related to financial matters and personnel matters (of both elected officials and paid staff) and we are not willing to increase our taxes any more until we feel that the City has their act together. And we are normally VERY open to raising our taxes and truly believe in taxes as a community investment. It just feels like "investing" in the City is a poor choice at this point given the past track record. As a side note, we feel this exact same way about the police bond measure and the aquatic park idea. Under different circumstances if the City had proven to be more trust worthy and savvy with it's resources and the management of them (from the elected officials mostly) we might be inclined to support these initiatives but given the past, we are not at this time."
- There is a real trust issue with the city manager and the citizens of West Linn. The citizens see Chris Jordan casting a large net out there to see how many \$ he can collect with the idea that if it doesn't pass we can always scale it down and try again. This was seen in the Police Station bond and the 2008 water plan failure in that citizens felt both were too expansive and expensive. It is important to be honest, open and transparent with citizens if we want to pass future measures.
- Totally afraid that conservation pricing would result in increased costs. Smaller households using less would benefit at the expense of larger households. Pricing should be linear, with a smaller base. I do not mind paying more for using more, but not disproportionately.
- While I did vote in favor of the conservation pricing ballot measure, I've heard remarks that others feel that the present set-up of billing and ever-increasing "attached" costs are unfair and the entire system should be overhauled. In that, I agree. Certainly the streets and parks maintenance "fees" should be handled as taxes, not raised and raised again with so little public notice or input. The rest of the water bill is suffering because of those.

Your understanding of the problems West Linn's water system has?

- I don't believe our problems are as serious as has been portrayed by our city officials. Our water tastes fine and flows predictably. That's all I know for a fact; you need to convince me, visually, and with outside impartial expertise, of the decay that is so bad that it needs immediate attention.
- I'm concerned that this has more to do with preparation for a Stafford triangle expansion than it does West Linn Water. (No, I don't trust our local officials any more than I do national politicians.)
- A long term plan that requires more resources than the citizens are willing to fund. Aging infrastructure and geographic/geopolitical characteristics and a water partnership all make it harder to serve this district.
- Aged pipes that need to be updated. Bolton area pipe burst was cited numerous times as an example.
- Based upon the above behavior, the city doesn't have the credibility to influence me to read a letter on the subject. I just ASSUME this is yet another sham... "the sky is falling, the sky is falling".
- Essentially, none.
- I have no idea what problems the water system has. Maybe the city should clearly state how the money will be spent (e.g. what projects will be launched to address specific problems and their cost). This is a time when the city needs to be open book.
- I have no understanding of any problems with the water system. I had been assuming that for a city so new that things should be in very good shape. I know there were a couple of fights about water with the previous mayor, but she went away. With the kind of money being proposed, the needs of the water system must be clear, public, and credible.
- I think it's pretty clear that the system is very long in the tooth. The plumbing in my house (built 1925) needs replacing. Some of the city system is much older than that. Maintenance and improvements have been deferred too long
- Infrastructure needs updating.
- It is aging and must be brought up to date in order to maintain its integrity and the supply of good water.
- Lack of reserves in city water funds without sustainable source of ongoing funding.
- Not clear.
- Not sure. I hear there are problems, but not what those problems are. Typical of West Linn. We are intelligent people you know.
- Old infrastructure, needing repair/expansion to meet future needs.
- Since some years back I read a water study that said over half of the water lines in the city are over 50 years old (if I remember the study correctly), my understanding of the problems of the city's water system is pretty much unchanged. I think that additional votes might have been obtained if the enabling legislation had included some sort of ENFORCEABLE prohibition against using the funds to increase capacity so that the city could annex additional land. (As you may have gleaned, I voted in favor of the water measure.)

- The break in Bolton, rusty pipes.
- The system needs to be updated - it is essential that this be done.
- We have an aging infrastructure that needs to be upgraded but that does NOT mean that we need to **double the capacity** especially when our reserve requirement is the lowest in the region. **You're very good at dodging the issues, shucking and jiving, hoodwinking and just deception in general.**
- When the citizens passed the 2004 plan, it was with the understanding and belief that there would be sufficient capacity and water line replacement for the size of our city. **Citizens do not believe that their money was spent wisely in water line replacement** and are real suspect of a future plan that they believe is way too expansive in water storage capacity and is way too expensive. There is a belief out there that the 2008 plan did in fact **include future water supply to Stafford Triangle.**

How can the City of West Linn best communicate with you?

- Email
- By email
- Clear budget documents showing the plans and costs would be great. More pages does not make it clearer. **My experience has been that people who prepare huge budget documents are hiding something.**
- The West Linn Update gets in front of you easily each month and I would consider it the main communication medium. The web site and email are also good. I don't read the Tidings.
- It is important to give the community time to digest new data. Seems like this water thing just came up three weeks before a vote.
- Community meetings. Better and clearer written explanations with examples of the cost increases.
- Email or facebook
- Email or via the city website. Lay out the facts. I am not so much interested in whether West Linn has the lowest water rates as I am the need for increased rates. What needs to be fixed. Further, don't confuse the issue by combining a rate increase with a new model and then pitch what a good deal the new model is and downplaying the rate increase. Hit us straight with the need and justification.
- Email.
- I don't have a problem with the current strategy. I can read the waterbill bulletin, read it in the tidings, get info on emails or see it on the webpage. I don't have cable, so I don't learn about anything that way.
- I unlike most citizens watch the meetings on tv and online. I go to my neighborhood meetings. I read the paper. I am informed. I appreciate the changes made to the website, it makes viewing meetings a lot easier. During meetings, why can't councilors, just keep their microphones always on?? It would ensure that you could always hear.
- I'd prefer that this be a one-time communication, specifically for input regarding this issue.
- **In a truthful manner.** Like many persons, I have no faith in the veracity of politicians and management types. (Frank enough for you?) **Empty and unenforceable reassurances** that the funds will not be used to increase capacity to support annexation are unpersuasive to folks who **view politicians as compulsive liars.**
- In any way...mailers, tv, oregonian, west linn tidings etc. Residents of West Linn would listen if the city actually was frank with communication.
- Snail mail, e-mail and TV seem to be the best. The Tidings newspaper is hit or miss in the city; the Oregonian is iffy as to regular West Linn news.
- The newsletter in the water bill envelope is lacking because you have to wade through notices about storytime at the library. Sometimes there are notices on the actual bill which make me pretty angry. They are vague and not helpful. When I call the city to find things out like why I never got a notice that my dog license expired, or how the heck to I even get my dog license this year (it constantly changes) the receptionist cops me an attitude. I might have been irritated, but at least I was respectful. I like email. I've given the city my email address for a bazillion different reasons, but never get email. I like the facebook presence, but I feel like it's tailored for people

under 18 (there are older people on there too). I don't see why the city can't send out a separate newsletter that covers critical information like this and leave out the fluff like volunteering for seniors, story time, parades, etc. Put it on different paper so we don't just dump it. The website is awful. I mean really bad. Invest more time in organization, content, and easier navigation. Every time I've tried to use the website (city info, business license, dog license, etc) I come away with a pretty bad taste in my mouth about the city. It just seems unprofessional.

- This question needs to be reversed. How can we get it through your heads **we don't want to pay for your growth accommodation scheme?**
- Email
- Water bill inserts. Editorials in the Tidings. And your communications need to be more concise and direct. Most people don't have the time/patience to absorb a full presentation or 30 page document, or even a text/infographic heavy 2 page insert.
- Web, email, Facebook.
- West Linn Tidings pointing to web sites, like you did here. Inserts into the water bill.

Under what conditions do you think citizens would vote to increase water rates in order to maintain the water system?

- An improving economy has reduced unemployment to less than 8%. Timing is everything.
- Send me a "mock up" bill of the rates I would have paid for the last year had my usage remained the same, under the new system. Show me a table identifying how much I can save by conserving 5, 10, 20, or 25 percent. Give me examples of easy things I can do to conserve 5, 10, 20, or 25 percent.
- Clearly delineate where the money currently goes now (operational budget vs capital). Convince me that ALL money from the water bill goes only to the water budget (once operational covered, it goes to capital.)
- Show me visual evidence of our decaying water system. Get outside experts to tell me how many years the current system has left before we begin to experience consistent water delivery problems. Identify specific areas where capital improvements would be made. Show us a prioritized, shovel-ready list of improvements that will be done first. Do your homework, and give us real information!
- Convince me that this won't increase the likelihood of expansion of West Linn (either water service or city limits) into the Stafford triangle. I do NOT want Stafford developed, and if it is, I want those new residents to pay for everything, not the existing citizens of West Linn. Our quality of life will be adversely impacted enough just from this expansion; I don't appreciate it costing us money as well.
- Work with our state government to pass a bill that gives citizens breaks on their water bill for implementing capital improvement projects of their own (more efficient plumbing inside the house; a way to trap grey water for use in lawn irrigation; roof drainage capture systems, etc.) (Or, clearly demonstrate how we can take advantage of any similar, existing state or federal programs.)
- Convince me that we are not 'over-reaching'. Sure, water rates should increase, slightly, and yes, we should pay for what we use. But this issue is similar to the police station. Sure, we need a new one. But not that Cadillac version that would have housed 30% more officers than we currently employ. Again, I don't want my government to grow, I want it to shrink. Sure, we need to maintain our water infrastructure. But we don't have to pay for, now, what we MAY need IF we expand into Stafford in 25 years...
- need better justification WHY this is needed now. Not just because the infrastructure needs it, but why now? and what are the potential risks of not doing it?
- A detailed explanation from an outside expert on how infrastructure failures in the future, in addition to increases in demand are drastically outpacing sustainable funding.
- Be more direct in billings--make water bills JUST THAT!
- By using correct usage numbers by separating apartment dwellers from single family ones. With many households suffering with the poor economy and jobs, the timing of this proposal was not the best.
- I personally would support a "yes" vote if I could have a guarantee that the funds would be used to sustain the current population ONLY, and not be a precursor to development in the Stafford

area. I have been a resident of West Linn for twenty years, and I love this city and wish to have it remain as is!

- I vote against every proposal the City makes, because **I don't trust the City on spending**. It seems that the City is trying to spend money like Lake Oswego. I believe we need conservative spending and not aggressive spending.
- Conservation pricing is different than increasing water rates for maintenance. It can't seem like a **trick. Trust must be gained** with open and honest communication. At the end of the day, people will vote to pay what is needed, if that need is clear and credible. Thank you."
- I voted for the measure. I value clean water and a strong civic infrastructure; **if you can demonstrate how deteriorating water infrastructure threatens the community**, and if you can.
- Also, you should consider starting to include something in the utility bills which would show West Linn residents a side-by-side comparison of their current bill, and what the bill would be like under the new system (and what people around the region are paying). If you do this for 6 months preceding another vote, people will be able to make an informed decision. People who will benefit will clearly see how they benefit. People who will pay more will see that they will pay more, and can either a) start changing their consumption habits, or b) have some time and actual numbers to get used to a higher rate.
- Also, if there's any way to raise incremental water revenue via special fees (without requiring a ballot measure), I think the city council should explore the option. This is what was done with the park maintenance fee, correct? Could you, in the short term, keep the water rate as-is, and add on an additional system maintenance fee/surcharge (approved simply by vote of the council), which could be repealed at such time as a sustainable billing system is implemented? I understand it's a tough choice to make, but elected officials sometimes need to make tough, unpopular choices in the interest of the greater, long term good.
- **If it was in writing that this has nothing to do with developing Stafford**. If the capacity numbers were lowered to a reasonable standard given our population.
- **There is zero trust w/ the City's government right now**. Fixing that is going to take time and being nice to one another. The word ""transparency"" is thrown around a lot. It's a nice fancy word but there is zero in my opinion actually going on. Be nice and civil to fellow councilors. You don't always have to agree. It would be a boring world if we did. But you should have to be polite to one another. Mayor Kovash you should be embarrassed by your actions towards Councilor Cummings in many meetings. You come across as a dictator sometimes. Part of establishing transparency is having opposing viewpoints discussed in an open format. Not trying to stifle someone's point of view w/ a gavel!
- **If they have someone telling them why the issue is important. Facts are fine, but it would be nice if there was some emotion behind those facts. Yard signs, campaigning. I didn't see any of those things with this issue.**
- **It may take better economic conditions in general**--perhaps another crisis/collapsed main? Actual estimated average monthly difference in dollars to each household, based on current consumption, put into their water bills?
- Just another scare tactic, no thank you, I'm not buying that we need to spend anything. PERIOD!

- BTW... I'm a home owner, West Linn business owner, Voter, and have always been a middle of the road person, NOT a wacko, but the behavior of the city is driving me to be a bit wackier day by day. "
- Look, I voted for the measure and I'm going to retire soon. I'm not in favor of loading deferred infrastructure costs and debt onto our children. **You are just going to have to work hard at rebuilding trust in the financial management and honesty of city government.**
- Pulling a stunt like was done after the last Police levy failed (increasing parks and road fees to make up the difference) strikes us as **dishonest**. The citizens were not in favor of the levy, they made that clear at least 3 times. What part of NO did the city government not understand?
- **Start dealing with us honestly** and you'll start getting necessary measures to pass."
- Repeal the hidden taxes ("fees"). Then everyone's water bill would be reduced and increasing one's outlay for water would not be viewed as such a big deal. Include a clear provision that none of the funds may be used to increase capacity in order to support annexation without another vote of the people. (If that means that there is not enough money for parks and recreation, then attempt to pass a levy for that purpose; but I bet such a levy would be roundly defeated.) Increase the base amount to, say, 12 or 14 ccf, so that persons who are already conserving water will feel that they are getting a good deal. (The proposed measure actually lowered the base rate amount, if my memory serves.)
- **straight linear pricing...one rate for all**
- **The city has a larger PR problem they need to overcome before people will be on board with trusting more money to them.** I mean, it's pervasive. I was starting to go to my neighborhood association meetings regularly and finally stopped because the Hidden Springs association got so keyed up that they came and got the Bolton group hysterical about how the city apparently said that if you attend neighborhood meetings you lose certain civil rights or something. I'm not saying I believe them. **I am saying that this city's drama discourages involvement from decent people, and discourages support of measures like this one.**
- **There is a real need to change the perception the citizens have of the city.** I covered a lot of the city and talked to a number of the citizens in my extensive walking on the campaigns of Jenni Tan and Kevin Bryck, and there was a **definite lack of trust** and that the city doesn't listen to the citizens. This is not a feeling that goes back to the Patti Galle era, but exists with the current City Manager and Council. I think there is going to have to be a real change to honest open communication and transparency where **measures are scaled down to where citizens can again believe they are not being misled.** I am also wondering where I can view other citizen responses to this issue. I am also hoping that my response and other citizen responses are shared with the entire council.
- **When faith in our city government is restored,** and further explanation of the necessity of maintaining the water system and guarantees that it will reduce water rates in the future.
- **When I start believing what is coming out of city government. My family moved here five years ago and I'm completely appalled and embarrassed by the behavior I read about our officials. I do not trust the city councilors or city manager.** I feel like there are hidden agendas and the facts are not laid out such that we can make an intelligent decisions. You asked for frank feedback. This is

it. You can change my mind and build the trust but it must be through actions and deeds not words. Once I feel the councilors are trustworthy then your opinion will influence me until then give me the facts. Thank you for asking. If you wish to discuss further I'd be happy to but I hope you understand my message.

- When we have a council that is open and transparent, and isn't double-dealing on us.

Bob Thomas' Submitted Comments:

MAYOR'S REQUEST FOR HONEST AND FRANK FEEDBACK

Our mayor, the ever most honorable, honest, humble, self-effacing, admirable, considerate, compassionate, polite public servant is embodied in the distinguished personage of Sir John Kovash. He deigns to ask his lowly subjects, for whom he's so deeply concerned about their quality of life (and their water), to give him their honest and frank opinions about why Measure 3-369 overwhelmingly failed in the November election. It asked voters to approve big increases in their water rates. Sir John must be pretty thick in the head if he can't figure out on this own why the Measure failed. Since he can't, he asks his subjects to answer the four questions numbered below that he has devised to presumably educate himself on why Measure 3-369 failed.

In his lead up to asking such questions of his subjects, Sir John bemoans what he claims has mired our city for too long with what he sees as personal attacks, misinformation and extraneous discussions that distract from meaningful deliberations. This reveals the warped views he holds of those who disagree with him and who hold a dim view of him due to his frequently overbearing, dismissive and inconsiderate behavior. He himself is the most outstanding spreader of misinformation and the most outstanding attacker of persons, including his prime focus on targeting Councilor Teri Cummings with interruptions and obstructing her comments and questions. He even went so far as to threaten to have the police remove her if she persisted in asking a question which he didn't want to have answered. Because she frequently doesn't agree with him and other members of the ruling council majority, he sees that as intolerable and takes such unjustified actions against her. He is very far from behaving in a manner that is admirable as mayor and having respect for the democratic process.

Sir John's four questions referenced above are addressed below by Bob Thomas

(1) Your thoughts on why the conservation pricing ballot measure failed?

First of all, that's a loaded and misleading question. To couch Measure 3-364 as primarily a conservation pricing measure is to use that to screen its real purpose, which is to service, through the Measure's increased water rates, issuance of revenue bonds for borrowing money to pay for implementing approximately \$21,000,000 in water system infrastructure projects listed in the 2008 adopted Water Master Plan, which is far more than needed to be funded anyway when comparing the very excessive 2008 Plan against the very adequate and much less costly 2004 adopted Updated Water Master Plan. Also, there are ways to induce water conservation instead of raising water rates as asked for in Measure 3-364.

West Linn water ratepayers didn't believe the City's hype and simply didn't want to pay more for water because their rates had already been increased by the compounding effect of 5%

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increases seven times since the beginning of 2005, amounting to a 41% increase overall since the beginning of 2005. And just as importantly, they didn't want to pay the big water rate increases requested under Measure 3-369 in the November election in order to fund implementation of the unnecessary, oversized and very expensive 2008 adopted Water Master Plan. Its proposed new oversized Bolton and Bland #2 reservoirs amount to more than twice (2.09 times) the needed increase in

reservoir capacity that is proposed in the much less expensive and very adequate 2004 adopted Water Master Plan. The 2008 Plan also incorporates a totally unnecessary booster pump station to draw water from the Plan's Bland #2 Reservoir and has the capability to pump water at the rate of 1,800 gallons per minute or 2,592,000 gallons per day through 2,500 feet of 12-inch pipe into the Rosemont zone, from which it can be relayed into the Stafford Triangle's Area 37 to initiate urbanized expansion of West Linn into that Area and beyond. That's a lot of water. It's 26% of the transmission capability limit of the City's supply from South Fork, namely 10 million gallons per day. Ratepayers also certainly didn't want to pay for this capability as part of the 2008 Plan, which was also correctly described within the "Argument in Opposition" in the voters' pamphlet.

(2) Your understanding of the problems West Linn's water system has?

Most residents would not know that the reason West Linn's water system has problems is because the ruling council majorities since the beginning of 2005 did not continue implementing (as was initiated during the Dodds Administration) the entirely adequate and much less costly 2004 adopted Water Master Plan which catered for all of the water system's needs, both in terms of increased reservoir capacity and replacing water lines that needed to be replaced with larger lines. Consequently, because of the failure of continuing to implement the 2004 Plan, the water system remains in the same condition that it was in at the end of Dodds Administration, with one exception. During the Dodds Administration, prior to the King Administration, 14,630 feet of water pipelines were replaced, leaving a balance of about 68,000 feet remaining to be replaced. The Dodds Administration recommended this remainder be replaced at a rate of at least 5,000 feet per year. But inexcusably, only 5,120 feet of pipeline replacements were done during the early King Administration and none since.

The Dodds Administration replaced that 14,630 feet of pipe without ever raising water rates and simultaneously also complied with covenants related to sale of \$1.8 million in revenue bonds to seismically upgrade the portion of West Linn' water supply line suspended under the I-205 Bridge. Subsequent administrations have all given the excuse that they didn't have the money to do any water system maintenance or any water system capital improvements because they were short of money due to the Dodds Administration not having raised water rates. That is a contrived excuse. They've had plenty of money but have misused it elsewhere. The city has a large amount of recurring annual revenue to pay for all remaining water projects to be completed in the 2004 Water Master Plan, but is misusing most of it by paying for an excessive level of police department funding, by having fully retained

and funded public works personnel who should have but haven't been replacing water lines, and excessively contributing to supporting other staff through transfers from the water fund. Also see page 4 in my blog pertaining to the recurring annual revenue. My blog can be accessed by opening up any browser and then going to the address bar to type in the following <http://informingWL.blogspot.com>

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(3) How can the City of West Linn best communicate with you?

The City of West Linn can best communicate with its citizens by being honest about its available revenues and its expenditure needs, including those for the water system, instead of misrepresenting those needs. And it should stop imposing the fees it supposedly needed to impose to compensate for failure of the Police Levy in 2007. It unscrupulously imposed the fees as an indirect way to fund the police department at an unconscionably excessive level, even more than it was asking for in the excessive police levy that

failed, namely 84.57 cents per thousand of assessed valuation. That in itself was far more than needed to have retained the 12 officers on the 5-year levy approved in 2002 within an advertised staffing level goal of a departmental total of 30 officers in 2007.

The Dodds council proved that a rate of only 50.5 cents per thousand was ample to support the 12 police on the levy after it converted a dollar-based levy to a rate-based levy. If a realistic ample rate not exceeding 55 cents per thousand had been submitted to voters it would undoubtedly have passed. But the city wanted to increase the levy much beyond that needed to fund the 12 police on the levy in order to also fund much of the regular police department's costs, which are supposed to be funded entirely from the general fund. This was a scheme to free up much of the police-committed monies in the general fund for other uses, but it failed. So then the council imposed the excessive fees. They like that better because fees don't require voter approval.

The following explains why the requested police levy rate of 84.57 cents per thousand was excessive:

The 5-year levy approved in 2002 was a dollar-based levy with a rate of 75.5 cents per thousand. A dollar-based levy limits the total revenue raised over the levy's term to a fixed amount. The Dodds council, at councilor Kapigian's suggestion, converted the levy to a rate-based levy on July 1, 2003, whose revenue automatically increases in proportion to annual increases in the city's total assessed valuation (which was increasing at that time over 5% annually). The Dodds council soon observed that the 75.5 cent rate was raising considerably more revenue than needed to support 12 police on the levy. So on July 1, 2004, it reduced the rate to 50.5 cents, with then councilor King wanting to reduce it even further. At this reduced rate, the Dodds administration still passed on to the King administration an ending fund balance in the police levy fund of at least \$576,000 and undoubtedly much more, but the interim finance director, Andy Parks, wouldn't freely supply that information.

The King administration notably reduced the rate even further on July 1, 2005 to 48.4 cents because it concluded the levy was still bringing in more revenue than needed. But even more notable, on July 1, 2006, it increased the levy rate to its original figure of 75.5 cents. This was entirely unnecessary, as were the later even higher election proposals.

The Dodds council proved that a rate of 50.5 cents was most ample to support the 12 police on the levy. The King council's reversal to 75.5 cents freed up monies in the general fund considerably beyond those needed to go toward supporting the police department. These freed up monies could be used to selectively increase monies going to other departments and/or "back fill" financial holes the King council created by (1) unnecessarily hiring expensive consultants; (2) unnecessarily meeting high new contract requests of police and public employees without serious negotiations; (3) unnecessarily giving large golden parachutes to departing employees; (4) unnecessarily spending several months of staff time evaluating the wild scheme of interim city manager Ron Garzini to do a mass annexation of 100 properties, which mostly fizzled once reality inserted itself; and (5) the city unnecessarily offering those landowners two big freebees from

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taxpayer-derived monies as inducements to apply for annexation. Most of those landowners didn't want to be annexed, but a bunch bit on the freebees. One freebee had the city bear the large cost of

staff time in preparing those annexation applications for the ballot. The other had the city bear the

election costs of putting the proposed annexations before voters.

The council publicly justified these freebees as getting more city taxes through such annexations, but didn't explain that such taxes pay only a portion of costs for supplying full city services to housing. Taxpayer-derived monies pay the major portion.

The unconscionably excessive level of 84.57 cents per thousand of assessed valuation that was being asked for in the police levy measure that failed in 2007 was far more than needed to have retained the 12 officers on the 5-year levy approved in 2002 within an advertised staffing level goal of a departmental total of 30 officers in 2007. The Dodds council proved that a rate of only 50.5 cents per thousand was ample to support the 12 police on the levy after it converted a dollar-based levy to a rate-based levy. If a realistic ample rate not exceeding 55 cents per thousand had been submitted to voters it would undoubtedly have passed. But the city wanted to increase the levy much beyond that needed to fund the 12 police on the levy in order to also fund much of the regular police department's costs, which are supposed to be funded entirely from the general fund. This was a scheme to free up much of the police-committed monies in the general fund for other uses, but it failed. So then the council imposed the excessive fees. They like that better anyway because fees don't require voter approval.

The police department is still being funded at a level that is even more excessive than the excessive level asked for in proposed police levy that failed in 2007. This is accomplished by transfers of funds previously used for other purposes and backfilling those transfers with the fees that are still being imposed on the citizens.

So much for honesty from our city government when it plays unjustified funding games as described above. Trustworthy communication by city government with its citizens is inherently dependent on honesty in city government, which is unashamedly lacking.

(4) Under what conditions do you think citizens would vote to increase water rates in order to maintain the water system?

That's again a loaded question. It's not necessary to increase water rates, like asked for in Measure 3-369, in order to maintain the water system. The ruling council majority should stop the charade about a need to increase water rates, as needlessly asked for in Measure 3-369 in order to maintain the water system. The ruling council majority needs to be honest, give up its pursuit of such unnecessary increased rates and admit that the water system can be adequately maintained by simply proceeding with implementing the remainder of the 2004 adopted Water Master Plan. It's much less costly than the unnecessary and oversized 2008 Plan and does not need any such increased rates to implement its remainder. See the third paragraph on page 6 of my above referenced blog for a description of what water-related projects remain to be done to complete the 2004 Plan.

Submitted by Bob Thomas



Memorandum

Date: December 3, 2010

To: John Kovash, Mayor
Members, West Linn City Council

From: Chris Jordan, City Manager *ej*

Subject: December 6 Council Work Session

The Council is scheduled to meet at 6:00 on December 6. The agenda includes the following:

- Budget Committee Meeting. The Budget Committee will meet with a primary focus of receiving an update on the City's 5-year financial forecast. The information for this meeting is in the Council's packet.

Work Session:

- PUD/Infill Task Force. Last Spring, the Council approved the Planning Commission appointing a task force to review the community development Code to make recommendations regarding possible changes to the Planned Unit Development regulations. The Task Force has been meeting regularly for the past several months. Several members of the Task Force will be present for the Council work session to provide the Council with a status report of their work to date. Attached to this memorandum is a memo from Senior Planner Chris Kerr discussing the task Force's efforts.
- Clackamas County Vehicle Registration Fee. As the Council is aware, Clackamas County is reviewing the possibility of implementing a vehicle registration of \$5 on all vehicle registered in Clackamas County. (Information is attached to this memorandum.) The proceeds from this fee would be used to pay the County's share of the cost to replace the Sellwood Bridge. The County is holding the second of two hearings on this topic on December 9. Several cities and regional partners have already testified in support of this fee and Mayor Kovash has requested the Council discuss this issue. Attached to this memorandum is an e-mail from the Mayor to the Council discussing this issue. If the Council is supportive, staff will draft a brief statement that one of the Councilors can submit at the County's hearing.
- Review of the December 13 Agenda.

Attachment

From: Kovash, John
Sent: Friday, November 26, 2010 1:28 PM
To: Council, WL; Jordan, Chris
Subject: FW: Vehicle Registration public hearing

Council,

You may have seen the article in the Oregonian about subject hearing. Some decried paying for a bridge in another county. We might want to be careful how we handle this as a county line seems like poor criteria for paying for the state/nation wide transportation system we all use.

A point closer to home is the future of Highway 43. It looks inevitable that WL will own part of 43 and it is used by lots of people who do not live in WL. We will be asking for a jurisdiction to be formed to pay for improvements to, as well as the maintenance of 43. That jurisdiction hopefully, will include most of those who use the road and I don't think most of them live in WL. That would mean that people who do not live in WL would help WL pay for the portion of the transportation system that goes through our city. If we do not support Clackamas County's proposal for paying for the sellwood bridge it will be rather hard to ask others to pay for that portion of 43 which goes through a city in which they do not live.

I would encourage the council to write to the county in support. Written testimony will be accepted until December 8.

John

bridge vehicles to enter southbound OR 43. The ramp splits off to the right from OR 43, loops under the Sellwood Bridge structure immediately adjacent to the northbound bypass ramp, and reconnects to OR 43's mainline. A traffic signal at this intersection facilitates vehicle movements. This ramp also provides access to northbound OR 43 along the mainline segment, which merges with the northbound bypass.

SE Tacoma Street

SE Tacoma Street is one of Sellwood's Community Main Streets. It serves motor vehicle traffic, public transportation, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Between the Sellwood Bridge and SE 17th Avenue, SE Tacoma Street generally provides one through lane in each direction and a center left-turn lane/two-way left-turn lane. On-street parking is allowed along portions of the south side of SE Tacoma Street in this segment. Between SE 17th Avenue and OR 99E, SE Tacoma Street has one travel lane, a bike lane, and an on-street parking lane in each direction.

Two traffic signals are located on SE Tacoma Street—at SE 13th Avenue and SE 17th Avenue.

Other Study Area Roadways

Other study area roadways considered in the transportation analysis include SE Spokane Street, SE Tenino Street, and SE Umatilla Street (which run parallel to SE Tacoma Street) and SE 13th Avenue and SE 17th Avenue/SE Milwaukie Avenue (which cross SE Tacoma Street). In addition, OR 43's intersection with SW Taylors Ferry Road is included.

Roadway Performance

Traffic Levels

Currently, about 30,000 vehicles cross the Sellwood Bridge each weekday. The majority (52 percent) of these trips are between Clackamas County and Portland (Table 3.1-1).

FIGURE 3.1-2
Existing OR 43/Sellwood Bridge Interchange

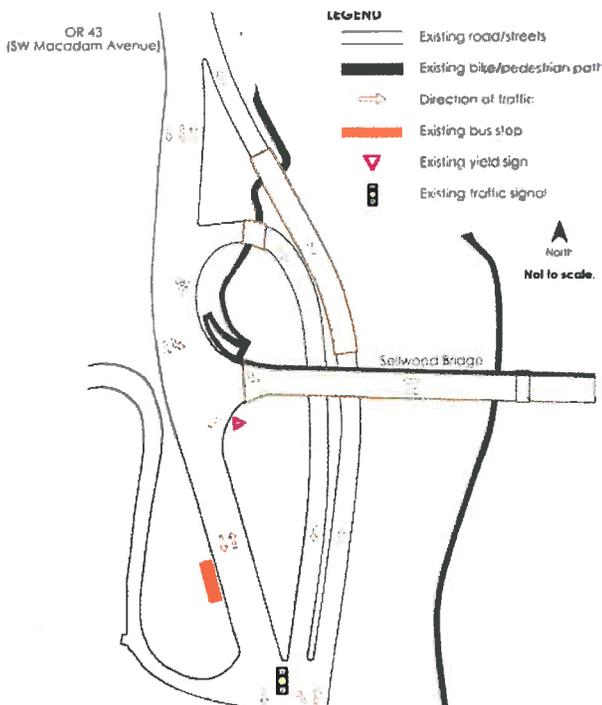


TABLE 3.1-1
Travel Markets of Existing Sellwood Bridge Users

Between	Vehicle Trips (percent)
East side of Portland and west side of Portland	17
Portland and Washington County	11
Clackamas County and Washington County	13
Clackamas County and Portland	52
East side of Clackamas County and west side of Clackamas County	7

Source: Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT).

OR 43 serves over 34,000 vehicles each weekday north of the Sellwood Bridge and 26,000 vehicles south of the bridge. SE Tacoma Street serves about 28,000 vehicles between the bridge and SE 13th Avenue, 20,000 vehicles between SE 13th Avenue and SE 17th Avenue, and 14,000 vehicles between SE 17th Avenue and OR 99E.

During the weekday-morning peak hour, the westbound travel lane on the Sellwood Bridge serves about 1,700 vehicles per hour, while the

Staff Presentation Worksheet

Presentation Date: 11/09/ 2010

Time: 10:00 am

Length: 30 Minutes

Presentation Title: Sellwood Bridge Vehicle Registration Fee ("VRF") Ordinance Enactment

Department: Department of Transportation & Development - Engineering

Presenters: Cam Gilmour, DTD Director
Elissa Gertler, Public Government Affairs

POLICY QUESTION

Should the board adopt an ordinance to implement a \$5 vehicle registration fee that will be used to finance Clackamas County's contribution toward the replacement of the Sellwood Bridge?

ISSUE & BACKGROUND

Originally built in 1925, the Sellwood Bridge is 85 years old. The bridge has a National Bridge Inventory sufficiency rating of 2 on a scale of 100. This rating indicates the structural condition of the bridge, and how well the bridge crossing serves the current traffic needs. The crossing has a number of deficiencies, such as poor structural condition, geologic instability, poor stopping distance, and restrained line of sight for motorists. In 2004 a 10-ton weight limit was imposed on the bridge to preserve the structure. The restriction prevents buses and heavy trucks from using the bridge as a secondary freight route.

The Sellwood Bridge connects Oregon Highways 99E, 43, and 224. The bridge is the only crossing between Oregon City and Portland for a 12-mile stretch of the Willamette River. It is estimated that 70% of the users are travelling to, or from, Clackamas County commuting to jobs, shopping, and entertainment. With an average traffic count of 30,000 vehicles, this is the busiest two-lane bridge in the State of Oregon.

The preferred alternative identified in the Sellwood Bridge Replacement Final Environmental Impact Statement is estimated to cost \$330 million. This cost includes the west end interchange, which may be a future phase. This cost may be reduced should cost savings be realized with how the western interchange is constructed. The bridge design will conform to 500-year seismic standards making the Sellwood Bridge the only Willamette River crossing in Multnomah and Clackamas County that conforms to these stringent design requirements. Construction of the new bridge may begin as early as 2012. Though Clackamas County currently benefits by 70% of the vehicle trips travelling over the bridge, our County is being asked to contribute 7% of the total replacement cost. Clackamas County was asked to contribute \$22 million of the total \$330 million dollar cost.

Last year the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2001, which includes a provision, Section 40(1), for Counties with a population of 350,000 or more to enact an ordinance establishing a Vehicle Registration Fee ("VRF") prior to 2013. The proposed ordinance was drafted in accordance with ORS 801.041 as required by HB2001. Per this legislation, the funds are dedicated to the Willamette River (Sellwood) Bridge replacement; therefore, a VRF enacted

prior to July 2013 is not subject to the 60 (County) / 40 (City) split that is usually required of these types of fees. Our preliminary estimates of annual contributions from a \$5 VRF based upon population, for incorporated cities within Clackamas County, indicate that vehicle owners in the municipalities closest to the bridge (Lake Oswego, Oregon City, West Linn, and Milwaukie) will contribute the highest level of revenue toward the project.

Implementation of a \$5 VRF has been discussed with the cities within the Clackamas County jurisdiction. The two public hearings required as part of the ordinance process will allow the general public to comment on the proposal under consideration by the board. The proposed language has been reviewed by Cam Gilmour (DTD Director), Kevin Noreen (Development Review Supervisor), Scot Sideras (County Counsel), and Elissa Gertler (Public Government Relations).

QUESTION(S) PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Would the Board like additional information on the proposed ordinance?
2. Does the Board want staff to initiate the process to adopt the Ordinance as presented?

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

1. Take no action – do not adopt an ordinance to set a \$5 VRF to finance the Sellwood Bridge Replacement.
2. Ask for additional information before adopting an ordinance.
3. Accept the ordinance as presented by staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS

County staff respectfully recommends that the Board of County Commissioners direct staff to initiate the process to adopt the proposed Ordinance.

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval Kevin Noreen _____

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Diedre Landon,
Development Review Analyst, at 503-742-4677.

Approved As To Form

Scot Sideras
Office of County Counsel

11-2-2010
Date