

SUMMARY OF UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE PROJECT

March 20, 2013

- Union County Court Facility is ranked worst in Oregon (48th of 48) by 2008 Henberry Eddy study. That study recommended that improving the Union County Court Facility be high priority in their September, 2008 report to the Oregon Judicial Department
- Over \$40,000 spent on planning and engineering studies since 2008
- A \$3 million Union County Courthouse is proposed from the following sources;
 1. \$2 million Policy Option Package proposed by Chief Justice's budget from HB 5006 which allocated \$13,124,285 from the Criminal Fines Account to the State Court Facilities and Security Account per ORS 1.178. ORS 137.300(3)(b) created a Criminal Fines Account and directed the legislature to allocate a portion of the account to the State Court Facilities and Security Account.
 2. \$1,069,910 provided by Union County in the form of \$750,000 cash, 319,910 in land and in kind resources.
 3. \$28,800 of contributions have been pledged by members of the Union County Bar Association.
 4. Total budgeted for the project \$3,198,710.
- Our Judicial District collected \$3.9 million in fines and fees and restitution during the 2009-2011 biennium. Of that \$3.9 million, almost \$3 million went to the Criminal Fines Account. Our court has a history of generating a significant amount of revenue.
- The legislature does not need to pass new legislation to remedy a problem that has existed for 23 years in Union County. HB 5006, ORS 1.178 and ORS 137.300 combine to provide the mechanism to partially fund the new courthouse.
- Because our court facility is located in an old hospital, only one of three public entrances is staffed by a court security officer. Inmates must be led through staff areas and use staff bathrooms due to the design problems of our facility.
- Large Pillars prevent judges, litigants and juries from a clear view of each other. The pillars provide a potential hiding place out of the judge's view in each court room.
- Staff is separated by two floors creating great inefficiencies for our court