



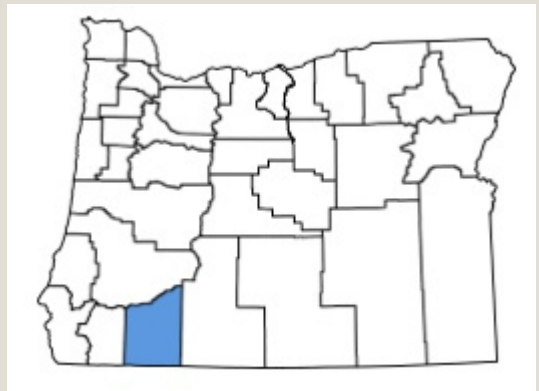
JACKSON COUNTY

Roads

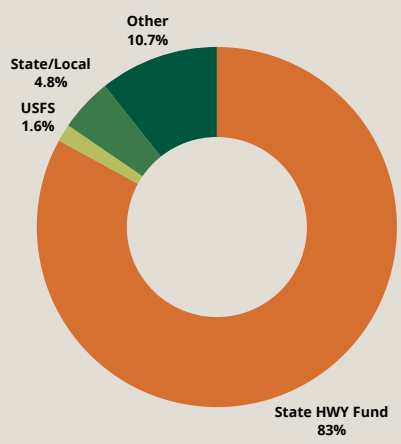
Located in Southern Oregon, Jackson County is home to Southern Oregon University, the Rogue River and the Cascade Siskiyou mountain range. The County Road System consists of nearly 1,000 miles of public roadways, with a mix from rural to urban roads.

While the geographical diversity of the region from valley floors along the river to high mountain passes brings tourists from around the country, it creates challenges for the Jackson County Road Department. The available window of opportunity for key pavement maintenance tasks is growing shorter, while the department is being tasked with serving emergency response needs during the increasingly longer and more intense wildfire seasons. In the winter months, crews focus on routine snow plowing of high elevation roads, while coordinating with ODOT on a regional approach to managing winter impacts to Interstate 5. Traffic on the local road system is increasing significantly due to continued housing and business development causing increased pavement wear.

Inflation has caused a severe challenge with both operational and capital projects expenses experiencing large increases. Since 2017 the National Highway Construction Cost Index has increased by over 80%, while capital equipment costs have increased about 25% in the past four years. Coupled with a potential decrease in State Highway Funds, the department is being forced to make service level cuts. **As shown in the graph below, the State Highway Fund comprises 83% of the County Road Fund revenues.** The County has made significant staffing cuts in past years and is operating at what is considered to be bare minimum staffing levels.



Revenue Sources



By the Numbers

County Info

- Population:** 223,259
- Square Miles:** 2,801
- Federal / State Land Ownership:** 47 percent

Road Statistics

- Total Road Miles:** 991
- Paved Miles:** 758
- Unpaved Miles:** 233
- NBI Bridges:** 151
**bridges over 20' in length*
- Structurally Deficient Bridges:** 6
- Total Bridges:** 331
- Traffic Signs:** 17,500
- Total Road Maintenance Staff:** 58

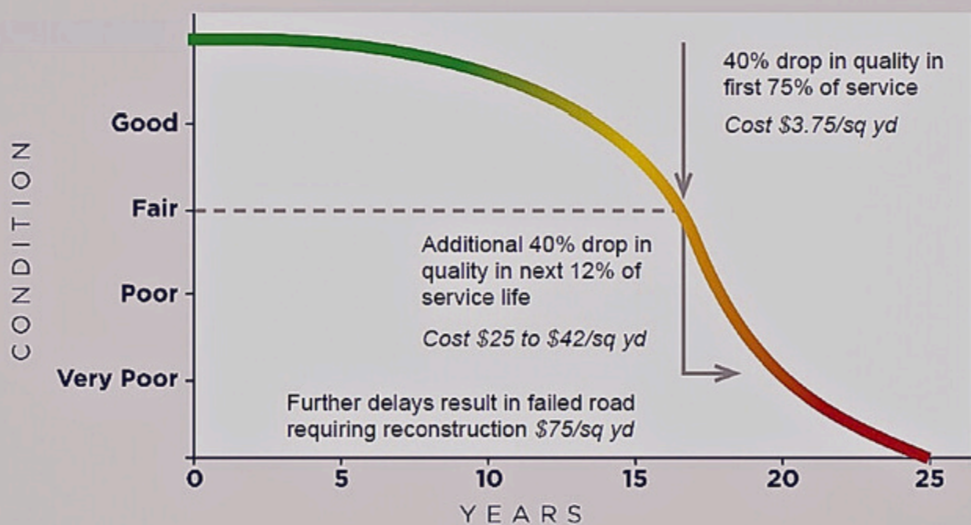
Road Funding

- State Highway Fund:** \$20,290,193
- HB 2101 Allocation:** \$752,803
- Timber Harvest Receipts:** \$377,325

Jackson County Roads Priorities

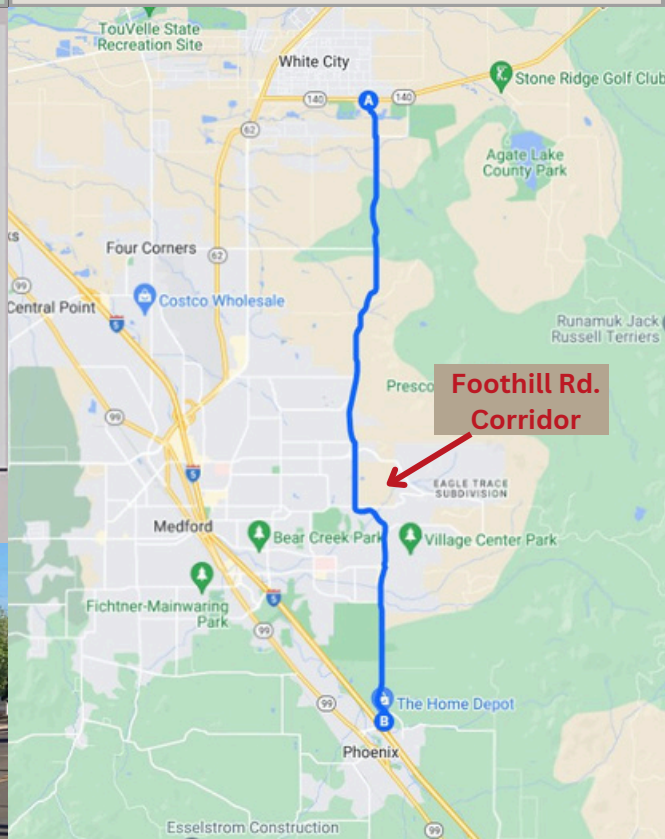
Pavement Preservation

Maintaining the nearly 760 miles of paved roads (over \$600 million replacement value) is a top priority for the county, even in the most challenging financial times. The County acknowledges that pavement preservation is far more cost effective than pavement replacement, utilizing cost effective tools such as grinding out degraded sections, followed by crack sealing and chip seals to extend pavement life. The graph below illustrates the high cost of deferring pavement maintenance, with the cost of reconstructing a neglected road at 15-20 times the cost of basic pavement maintenance. For this reason, the County has decreased various service levels and resists the urge to increase staff to historic levels, instead prioritizing allocation of maintenance funds into pavement preservation. **Decreases in the State Highway Fund (SHF), or changes to the historic 50/30/20% SHF funding allocation between ODOT/counties/cities will cause a significant decrease in pavement condition, at a high cost to future generations when roads are in need of reconstruction.**



Safety

Jackson County has placed a large focus on weaving safety enhancements into major pavement maintenance projects. When roads are reconstructed, they are often widened to include paved shoulders, which enhance safety for drivers, while providing a more comfortable environment for bicyclists and pedestrians on traditionally unforgiving rural roads. After completing a seismic resiliency evaluation, emphasis is placed on ensuring seismic lifeline routes are ready for a Cascadia-level event including Foothill Road, which will serve as a bypass for Interstate 5 in the event of a Medford I-5 viaduct failure. **The final \$12 million phase of the project is postponed until stable funding is secured.**



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