

City of Prineville
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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April 13, 2023

Senator Steiner, Co-Chair
Representative Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court St. NE – HR E
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 5506 - Combs Flat Road Extension Project Funding Request

Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, and members of the committee,

My name is Caroline Ervin, Capital Project Manager with the City of Prineville. On behalf of the City of Prineville, I am providing testimony in support of the City's 2021-2023 Capital Funding Request for \$12,759,800 for the Combs Flat Road Extension Project. The project entails extension of NE Combs Flat Rd. North to NE Peters Rd., which act as a bypass route to address capacity, access, and safety issues facing the City of Prineville. This project will be completed in conjunction with Ochoco Irrigation District's irrigation modernization project and will create a host of benefits to our rural community including:

- Improved safety by eliminating risks associated with open canals such as injury and drowning deaths (this section is canal is located adjacent to a 700-student elementary school)
- Reduced traffic at key intersections and creation of safe routes to schools and services
- Improved transportation infrastructure by reducing ODOT highway travel by an estimated 10%
- Cost savings of an estimated \$6 million to the City by mitigating three bridges with the realignment and piping of the current irrigation canal; as well as ongoing cost savings for the irrigation district for cleaning, repair, herbicide application, and inspection
- An increased number of home sites available and increased land values
- Water savings and completion of necessary component of the overall irrigation modernization project which will dedicate 11.2 CFS into McKay Creek

All of the right of way is secured, this project has been designed, and is ready to move forward into the construction phase once the funding is secured. The total project cost is \$23.5 million and \$9.4 million has already been secured. Once the remaining \$12. 7 million is secured, construction will begin with an estimated completion timeframe of 24 months.

The attached whitepaper provides additional details about the project as well as project benefits. Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for SB 5506 and inclusion of funding for the City of Prineville's Combs Flat Road Extension Project.

Sincerely,

Caroline Ervin
Capital Project Manager

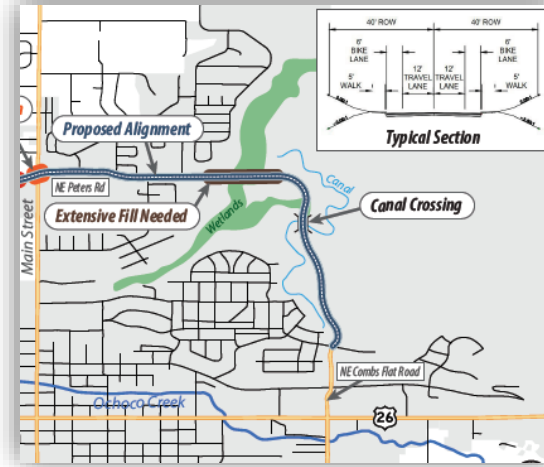
COMBS FLAT ROAD EXTENSION PROJECT



Project Summary

The City of Prineville's transportation system exists at the convergence of six highways into the NW/NE 3rd/US 26 corridor, which is surrounded by the greatest concentration of homes and businesses in the city. This dual purpose of transportation and commercial/ residential use creates a tension between being a safe, livable area for residents to go about their daily lives and businesses to operate while providing mobility through the area. The City of Prineville has identified a bypass route as the most efficient way to address the capacity, access, and safety issues facing the city and has elected to extend Combs Flat Road north to NE Peters Road. This will provide alternative traffic routing to the new Barnes Butte Elementary School and St. Charles hospital while helping to relieve traffic congestion at key intersections, thereby improving public safety for pedestrians, bikes, and vehicles. It will also connect bike and walking paths, creating safer routes to schools.

The Ochoco Irrigation District (OID) is competing a major Infrastructure Modernization project that seeks to improve water conservation and water delivery reliability through the installation of 16.8 miles of buried pipeline, installing four new pump stations and associated pipe, and canal improvements along 15.2 miles of canal where needed.



The Combs Flat Road extension will be done in conjunction with the Ironhorse portion of the irrigation modernization project. Completing these two projects in parallel, which involves piping and realignment of the current canal, provides cost savings for OID through a reduction in the amount of pipe required and cost savings of approximately \$6 million for the City of Prineville through the mitigation of three bridges.

Additionally, completing the projects in parallel creates an opportunity for the City of Prineville to contribute a financial and/or in-kind match for OID's grant funding.

Funding Requested: \$12,759,800

Project Benefits

- 1. Improved public safety**
 - Eliminates risks of open canals such as injury, car accidents, drowning deaths
 - Eliminates risk of canal breaching events
 - Reduces traffic at key intersections
 - Creates safe routes to schools & services
- 2. Improved Transportation Infrastructure**
 - Est. 10% reduction in highway travel
 - Provides secondary route to 3rd Street for businesses and residences
- 3. Water savings/quality improvement**
 - Piping the Ironhorse section is necessary for OID to complete the McKay Switch, which will dedicate 11.2 CFS into McKay Creek to increase flow, lower water temperatures and improve fish passage, all while providing landowners with more reliable water rights
 - Adds capacity and resiliency for OID
 - Reduces aquatic herbicide application
- 4. Housing**
 - Realignment of current canal will increase number of home sites available
 - Increases land values
- 5. Cost Savings**
 - Reduces OID's ongoing costs for canal cleaning, repair, herbicide, & inspection
 - Three bridges mitigated saving \$6 million

"The McKay Creek Water Rights Switch Project is truly a win-win for the agricultural and aquatic communities that depend on McKay Creek. As an intermittent creek, irrigators are typically without water by early July. As part of this project, they will now receive water from Prineville Reservoir as patrons of OID, via a newly installed pipeline. This will extend their growing season and increase their crop yield significantly. In addition, by transferring their water rights instream, landowners will improve habitat conditions for reintroduced Chinook salmon and steelhead by extending both the amount of water that is in the creek and the length of time the water is present." – Deschutes River Conservancy