



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
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DATE: February 13, 2024
TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
FROM: Alex Cuyler, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Manager
RE: HB 5201, Relating to state financial administration

Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey, and members of the Joint Subcommittee:

As you consider projects worthy for state resources, Lane County is aware of advocacy for a suite of baseball and softball related investments in Oregon. The Legislature did award Lane County \$7.5M for a multi-use project at the Lane County Fairgrounds as part of the Subcommittee's recommendations from the 2022 Legislative Assembly. We have used that investment to begin preliminary designs, and it has leveraged other investments for the project.

In late August 2023 the Board of Commissioners did direct the County Administrator to put a temporary pause on additional work related to project design documents while we determined how to close a \$43M gap in total project funding. The proposal before you for an additional \$7.5M in state resources in one part of closing that funding gap. An additional potential resource we are watching is whether the City of Eugene will place a \$15M bond measure vote onto the May, 2024 ballot. Their decision on that ballot measure may occur as early as next week.

In the meantime, our staff continues to work with the Eugene Emeralds baseball team on operational agreements and additional capital the team may be willing to bring forward.

We remain interested in development of a multi-use facility at the site of the Lane County Fairgrounds. Such a facility could benefit our residents in the event of natural disasters, and indeed we've leveraged some federal resources to ensure at least parts of the facility would remain ready for immediate occupancy in the event of a seismic event.

We also know how important sporting facilities are to Oregonians and that they attract visitors to our region. Lane County has certainly benefitted economically from the University of Oregon's investments in track and field facilities, and our own ice arena (adjacent to the proposed site of the multi-use facility). We believe this investment will build on Oregon's reputation as a leader in the sport industry and further the development of additional sport interests in our state.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY ALEX CUYLER