

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Adoption of Federal Priority Project Lists

Meeting Date: December 13, 2010
Department: City Manager's Office
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: B
Staff Contact: Brenda Wilson
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-8441

ISSUE STATEMENT

This is an action item to adopt the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Committee's Recommended 2011 Federal Priorities Project List (Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations cycle). These federal priority requests will be sent to our congressional delegation as part of our federal priority process (United Front).

The recommended 2011 City of Eugene Federal Priorities Project List includes:

Updates and Programmatic Requests:

- Forest Legacy (Current Project)
- Metro Waterways General Investigative Study (Current Project)

Proposed 2011 Federal Appropriations Requests:

- Teen Court Expansion (Current Project)
- Franklin Blvd – Walnut Street to Alder Street (Current Project)
- Police Special Operations Facility (Current Project)
- Jessen Path – Beltline to Terry Street (New Project)
- Eugene Depot – Passenger Platform and Rail Cross-Over (New Project)
- Eugene Depot – Vehicular Loop (New Project)

BACKGROUND

The United Front (UF) partnership of local governments in the Lane County region develops and maintains a concise and realistic federal agenda. Annual federal priorities are based on local and regional needs. By assessing local federal priorities in conjunction with anticipated legislative funding opportunities, we greatly increase the prospects for success.

This approach has proven very helpful for congressional delegations, for several reasons. Foremost, the delegation members do not need to reconcile the different interests of a particular region. A joint local effort relieves them of playing the role of arbitrator or mediator in sometimes difficult matters of local importance. In turn, our congressional delegation can focus

on advocating strongly for widely accepted local priorities, which is a role they have repeatedly stated they prefer. Furthermore, the extensive research and development that goes into producing the Federal Agenda eases the burden on congressional staff in terms of preparing project justifications and advocating for funding. The delegation's staff often comes to depend on the reliability and accessibility of the UF's Federal Agenda, and the local staff who produce it. Consequently, the process helps build solid, ongoing relationships that extend far beyond the merits of any one set of Federal Agenda projects.

The City Council must adopt the Federal Priorities Project List each year. The recommended Federal Priorities Project List begins with a review of opportunities for funding in the next Federal budget and goals that are specific to Eugene or the area.

Throughout the year, staff has looked into federal funding opportunities and unmet funding needs to develop a list of potential projects for inclusion on the 2011 Federal Priorities Project List. On November 5, 2010, the IGR Committee met with staff and our federal lobby firm Smith, Dawson and Andrews (SDA), to discuss the federal funding horizon and opportunities.

In light of the renewed focus on spending, Republicans, who are now in leadership of the U.S. House of Representatives, extended the self-imposed ban on earmarks into the next Congress. They are also focusing on reining in federal spending. Because earmarks have been nearly eliminated, we will double our efforts in pursuing increased discretionary funding at the agency level. Accordingly, we have developed a Discretionary Fund Project List for projects that we believe do not have the possibility of being earmarked at the present time under the current Congress. This list will be used to look for federal non-appropriation funding opportunities as they arise.

Even with the news on earmarks, we have developed a list of possible federal appropriation requests and intend on moving forward with some limited earmark requests. The proposed 2011 Federal Priority Projects were presented to the IGR Committee on November 17, 2010. The IGR Committee unanimously approved the recommended 2011 Federal Priorities Project List (Attachment A) and directed the list move forward to the full City Council for action, with one exception. The Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission Electrical Generator Upgrade project, which was on the list last year, is not moving forward as a project at this time. Springfield, the financial partner, wants to look at the project again to find a way to supplement the current gas production at the site so we can put a better project together. The final list will become part of the UF federal agenda which will be presented to the area's congressional delegation, executive department staff, and other potential funding sources in Washington, D.C. in March 2011.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

Adoption of the federal priority recommendations is the making or affirming of the City of Eugene's policy with respect to federal legislative issues or such other matters as may come to the council from the IGR committee.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

1. Adopt the 2011 Federal Priority Project List recommendations.
2. Modify the 2011 Federal Priority Project List.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends Council Option 1 - Adopt the 2011 Federal Priority Project List recommendations.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to adopt the 2011 Federal Priority Project List recommendations.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. 2011 Proposed Federal Priority Project List.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Staff Contact: Brenda Wilson
Telephone: 541-682-8441
Staff E-Mail: brenda.s.wilson@ci.eugene.or.us

2011 PROPOSED FEDERAL PRIORITY PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	JURISDICTION	TOTAL REQUEST	CURRENT REQUEST?	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Programmatic Requests				
Forest Legacy	Eugene	\$ 1,955,670.00	Y	Current request - listed # 1 project for Oregon for 2011 (out of 5 projects). This request would fund the purchase oak savannah and oak woodlands in the south hills of Eugene. The acquisition costs are for three parcels, totaling 400 acres. This project is for the 2nd phase of funding in an ongoing acquisition program for the Eugene Ridgeline Trail corridor.
Metro Waterways	Eugene & Springfield	\$1 M	N	These funds would be used for Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) funds for the local sponsors two highest priority projects identified in the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) for Phase 1 of the Metro Waterways Study. \$500,000 would be for the City of Eugene's highest priority project along Amazon Creek, which was identified as Reach 5 in the Programmatic EA. The other \$500,000 would be for City of Springfield to implement its highest priority project in the Cedar Creek Basin.
Appropriations Requests				
Teen Court Expansion	Lane Co., Eugene & Springfield	\$ 750,000.00	Y	These funds would allow the City of Eugene to hire a second Program Supervisor and open another office in order to establish new peer court programs in west and north Eugene. The existing two courts have served a combined average of 108 youth offenders per year over their 10 and 12 year lifetimes, as well as more than 100 youth volunteers per year. In addition, Teen Courts located in Cottage Grove, Florence, and Oakridge would be funded and Lane County would assist with the development of one new Teen Court to be established in both Junction City and Springfield, with on-going administration and operation of those programs the responsibility of each city, after this start-up funding is spent.
Franklin Blvd - Walnut Street to Alder Street	Eugene, Springfield & LTD	\$1.2 M	Y	These funds would be used to complete NEPA and Preliminary design on Franklin Boulevard from Walnut Street to Alder Street.
Police Special Operations Facility (Lincoln Yard)	Eugene	\$ 425,000.00	Y	These funds would be used to upgrade the Eugene Police Department's Special Operations Facility to meet essential service seismic standards and meet energy efficiency standards. The Lincoln Yard Police Facility has been used by the Eugene Police Department (EPD) as a Special Operations Facility since 1998. The main building was constructed in 1945 as a vehicle and equipment maintenance facility and now houses the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, the Crisis Negotiations Team, the Explosives Demolition Unit, the Vice and Narcotics Team, and EPD's exercise facility. A separate city building, also constructed in 1945, has sat empty since 2000. This building also has attached covered parking which is currently used to house EPD's mobile command bus. The building has not been maintained for many years and needs extensive remodeling for use by police. The building would house the Vice and Narcotics Team. The demands on the units occupying these building have intensified over the past twelve years.
Jessen Path - Beltline Path to Terry Street	Eugene	\$1.5 M	N	These funds would construct a new path to serve the 146-acre natural area Golden Gardens Park. The proposed path will connect to the north-south Beltline Highway shared-use path. The path will also connect to neighborhood streets and to the bike lanes on Terry Street which serves schools and connects with the Fern Ridge Path which is the second most popular path in Eugene.
Eugene Depot - Passenger Platform and Rail Cross-Over	Eugene	\$ 200,000.00	N	This request would fund planning and design master-planning of a layover facility including rail spurs and a crossover to permit trains to be parked off the main line as well as a passenger platform serving rail passengers. This work will include a collaboration of stakeholders determine the space available and the configuration of features.
Eugene Depot - Vehicular Loop	Eugene	\$ 250,000.00	N	This request would fund the planning and design master-planning and group process to define a project for a vehicular loop roadway access to the Depot. This work will include a collaboration of stakeholders to arrive at a mutual vision of this district's transportation benefits in concert with the related economic development opportunities.