

MINUTES FOR THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
STATE OF OREGON, COUNTY OF JACKSON  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
OCTOBER 19, 2021

The Board of Commissioners' Work Session was opened by Commissioner Rick Dyer on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. by videoconference. Those participating were:

Rick Dyer, Chair  
Colleen Roberts, Commissioner  
Danny Jordan, County Administrator  
Pete Philbrick, Senior Assistant County Counsel  
Jerry Brienza, Airport Director  
J Domis, Interim Director, Roads and Parks Department  
Steve Lambert, Parks Program Manager, Roads and Parks Department  
Kacie Kinney, Recording Secretary  
Members of the Public and Press

Absent: Dave Dotterer, Commissioner

1. *Discussion of Letters of Support for Connect Oregon Grant Applications – Jerry Brienza, Airport Director*

Mr. Brienza began by explaining that the Rogue Valley International-Medford Airport (Airport) has been relatively successful in the past with Connect Oregon. He said that \$46,000,000 in funding is available for aviation, rail, and marine systems. One of the projects that the Airport is interested in, and is requesting a letter of support (*Submission No. 1*) for, is the continuation of the East Apron Expansion Project. The East Apron serves a very integral part of the Airport's aviation system, especially during firefighting season; additionally, the East Apron is utilized by military aircraft and commercial cargo carriers. Mr. Brienza said that an expansion to the East Apron would bring additional capacity by doubling its size, which would include two additional parking spots. He also explained additional improvements that would be needed to enhance the taxiway, and how the East Apron Expansion Project would provide better flow and economic development with commercial cargo carriers. The cost of the Project is over \$12,000,000 and the County's request for the Connect Oregon grant is \$2,500,000, with a \$9,500,000 match. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funding would be used to significantly offset the applicant's match amount. Mr. Jordan clarified that the Project funding would consist of a 20 percent grant and an 80 percent match, which is actually FAA funding. Mr. Brienza explained that the projects presented today are scheduled to take place in 2023 and 2026. Commissioner Dyer said that he highly supports the Project and that it seems like a great plan, especially from the firefighting aspect. Commissioner Roberts agreed that that the Project provides great leverage.

**Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve the letter as presented. Commissioner Dyer seconded the motion. Those who voted aye: Commissioner Roberts and Commissioner Dyer. Motion passed.**

**Following the motion and roll call vote, Commissioner Roberts and Commissioner Dyer each authorized the use of his/her electronic signature on the letter presented, pursuant to Order No. 1-21.**

Mr. Brienza explained that the second letter of support (*Submission No. 2*) is for a potential transportation technical education center. The grant application is not as much for the building as it is for the infrastructure to be able to support the facility. The project will be a phased approach and will provide classroom and workspace for up to five educational facilities; additionally, Rogue Community College, Southern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Community College, and local charter schools have expressed interest in the project. He also said that in Mercy Flight's Master Plan, they have a concept to build a training facility and it could be a great coordinated effort with shared costs. Mr. Brienza explained that he is looking for letters of commitment from a few of the educational institutions that have expressed interest in the project. The cost of this project is \$5,000,000 and the County's request for the Connect Oregon grant is \$1,750,000; this would leave a 65 percent applicant's match which would mostly be reimbursed by FAA funding.

Mr. Jordan referenced the previous letter of support that the Board signed for the Prospect Airport at the October 7th Staff Meeting and explained that it will not compete with the letters of support requested today. He also explained that there was an additional letter of support (*Submission No. 3*) that no longer requires Board support because the project is not being pursued at this time. Mr. Jordan said that there will be applicants from all over the State applying for the available grants, and that the County has been fortunate in the past to be awarded funding on most projects that have been applied for. Commissioner Dyer said that career and technical education are very important and in high demand. Mr. Brienza said that pilot training, as well as aviation management, are important parts of the proposed transportation technical education center. Commissioner Roberts said that she fully supports continuing education and feels that this is a really great project. The Board complimented Mr. Brienza on his presentation, preparation, and planning for future projects.

**Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve the letter as presented. Commissioner Dyer seconded the motion. Those who voted aye: Commissioner Roberts and Commissioner Dyer. Motion passed.**

**Following the motion and roll call vote, Commissioner Roberts and Commissioner Dyer each authorized the use of his/her electronic signature on the letter presented, pursuant to Order No. 1-21.**

2. *Discussion of a Letter of Support for an Application Submitted by the Rogue Valley Council of Governments for Technical Assistance Through the Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Wildfire Recovery Assistance Program – Steve Lambert, Parks Program Manager*

Mr. Jordan explained that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are offering free technical assistance; it is a competitive program and is only available to select communities. He also explained that, at Mr. Lambert's request, he asked the Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) to apply for the grant. Mr. Jordan emphasized that RVCOG is the one applying for the technical assistance grant, which is not

funding, only technical assistance. He said that there are many supporters of this project and that it will fit nicely with other current efforts to develop a master plan for the Bear Creek Greenway. Mr. Jordan said that he would like to see a signed letter of support (*Submission No. 4*) from the Board to accompany the grant application.

Commissioner Roberts asked about the involvement and financial support that would be provided through the grant. Mr. Jordan said that this grant was strictly for technical assistance and it would not provide any financial support. Mr. Lambert explained that the grant would fund hiring local consultants. These consultants would help facilitate the Greenway recovery. He further explained that there would be no funding received from the EPA or FEMA through this grant. Commissioner Dyer said that it seems like this is an advisory opportunity for technical services. Mr. Jordan explained that there is a lot of environmental work that needs to be completed and the difficulty in doing so while meeting all of the regulations and specifications. Commissioner Roberts asked if, since RVCOG is the applicant, does that take the elected Board out of consideration; she expressed concern about policies being implemented along the Greenway that would have negative impacts. Mr. Jordan clarified that this grant will not affect private landowners and that there are no policies being made, only recommendations to improve the Greenway. Mr. Jordan also explained that the agencies have already been, and are currently, involved. He reiterated that there is no policy decision to be made and that, in order to work in a riparian area, organizations must have an approved plan to begin the recovery and restoration efforts while following existing regulations. Commissioner Dyer agreed with Mr. Jordan about the effects of the grant and how it would provide advice on how to navigate the different regulations and policies, and would not institute any new policies. Mr. Lambert said that they have been working with people that are natural resources-minded, are the experts on the local level, and bring technical assistance to the table. There was additional discussion about the long-term restoration and management of the Greenway.

Commissioner Roberts asked how the grant for technical assistance would fit with the Joint Powers Agreement of the Greenway. Mr. Lambert explained that they are looking at all of the public lands of the Greenway and all of the options for restoration and management. Commissioner Roberts said that she still had concerns about the grant for technical assistance and the restrictive effects it could have on landowners. Mr. Jordan explained that the County would have hired someone to do this work, and that the grant is paying to contract out these services. He said that the recommendations received in regards to the Greenway would not add on to landowners' responsibilities. There was continued discussion about the type of technical assistance that would be provided upon the approval of the grant application. Commissioner Roberts expressed that she hopes to be involved in any updates regarding the Greenway and that it is a shame that technical assistance is required to navigate the regulations.

**Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve the letter as presented. Commissioner Dyer seconded the motion. Those who voted aye: Commissioner Roberts and Commissioner Dyer. Motion passed.**

**Following the motion and roll call vote, Commissioner Roberts and Commissioner Dyer each authorized the use of his/her electronic signature on the letter presented, pursuant to Order No. 1-21.**

3. *Executive Session*  
There was nothing for Executive Session.

There being no further business, Commissioner Dyer adjourned the Work Session at 9:44 a.m.

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Rick Dyer  
Rick Dyer, Chair

/s/ Dave Dotterer  
Dave Dotterer, Commissioner

/s/ Colleen Roberts  
Colleen Roberts, Commissioner

/s/ Kacie Kinney  
Kacie Kinney, Recorder  
Approved on: 11/03/2021

*Due to the existing novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the need to promote physical distancing, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners is conducting meetings through electronic and telephonic means. On January 5, 2021, the Board of Commissioners approved Order No. 1-21 authorizing the use of their electronic signatures on Ordinances, Orders, and other documents. Following the motion and roll call vote, Commissioners Dyer, Dotterer and Roberts authorized the use of his/her electronic signature on these minutes of October 19, 2021.*