



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon
(541) 388-6571

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

DESCHUTES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

8:00 AM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024

ZOOM MEETING

A legislative work session was held on Friday, February 2, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform.

Deschutes County Attendance:			
x	Commissioner Patti Adair, Chair	x	Nick Lelack, County Administrator
x	Commissioner Anthony DeBone, Vice Chair	x	Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator
x	Commissioner Phil Chang	x	Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator
x	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager		Tim Brownell, Director Solid Waste
	Sara Crosswhite, Director 9-1-1		Steve Dennison, County Clerk
x	Chris Doty, Director Road Department	x	David Doyle, Legal Counsel
	Charles Fadeley, Justice of the Peace	x	Janice Garceau, Director Health Services
x	Stephen Gunnels, District Attorney	x	Peter Gutowsky, Director Community Development
x	Geoff Hinds, Director Fair & Expo	x	Kathleen Hinman, Director Human Resources
x	Deevy Holcomb, Director Community Justice	x	Bill Kuhn, Treasurer
x	Scot Langton, Assessor		Keith MacNamara, Manager Veteran's Services
x	Tania Mahood, Director Information Technology	x	Kevin Moriarty, Forester
	Shane Nelson, Sheriff	x	Elizabeth Pape, Internal Auditor
x	Lee Randall, Director Facilities	x	Robert Tintle, Chief Financial Officer

x	Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager	x	Holly Harris, Director Behavioral Health
	Heather Kaisner, Director Public Health	x	Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager
x	Angie Powers, Administrative Assistant		
Others Present:			
x	Doug Riggs, Director NW Policy Advocates		

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Adair called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

2. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Doug provided a brief update. The legislature comes into session on Monday for the short 35-day session and will be wrapped up by March 10. Bills that have not yet had a hearing or been part of a workgroup, are unlikely to move. Exceptions are those bills relating to behavioral health, Ballot Measure (BM) 110, housing and homelessness, and wildfire prevention. In January, the State announced it is down to \$27 million in remaining unallocated bonding authority but there are likely over \$1 billion in bonding requests. It is possible that General Fund (GF) dollars may fund some of these projects.

The Oregon Supreme Court ruled unanimously this week that Republican senators who participated in the longest walkout in state history with 10 or more unexcused absences during the last session won't be able to seek reelection in 2024 or 2026.

a. Overview of Budget Requests

21st Street / Oasis Village / CORE3

Commissioner DeBone shared that the COIC Board met the prior evening. The COIC Board is in support of the Oasis Village / CORE3 / 21st Street transportation funding request. Doug is optimistic, as the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) bonding staff is supportive of the request.

Responding to Commissioner Chang, Doug confirmed that CORE3 received approximately \$7.5 million for Phase I in 2022. The state is expanding the scope of the effort, so the second \$7.5 million request is delayed until the 2025 legislative session. Commissioner DeBone stated the 21st Street improvements are critical to Redmond's expansion efforts. Building the intersection of Highway 126 at 21st Street is critical to safety and supports Oasis Village, RV Park, and CORE3. Additionally, 21st Street expansion to Antler Avenue will provide greater economic opportunities.

i. Mountain View Community Development

Jen reported COIC is requesting the County's support of a Homeless Infrastructure Coalition letter of support for a \$1.785 million State Legislature request. Infrastructure supports access to Oasis Village, Mountain View Community Development, and 4 acres of County-owned land. The Board was in support of adding the County's logo to this letter.

Responding to Commissioner Chang, Doug explained that funding for capital construction projects typically comes out of Oregon Lottery bonding authority, but this hasn't been the case in recent years as more of these projects have been funded via capital funding authority or General Fund (GF) dollars.

ii. Heart of Oregon Corps - LOS Request

Jen reported the Heart of Oregon Corps is requesting Board signature on a letter of support for its \$3 million State Legislature request for continuing construction on its Redmond campus. Commissioner Chang will send a letter of support individually, as Commissioners Adair and DeBone did not wish to sign. Commissioner DeBone advocated for narrowing and clarifying funding requests.

b. Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS) Update

Doug updated the Bill Tracker list and highlighted some key issues.

- HB 4001 is a specialty court bill
- HB 4002 will be the vehicle for BM 110 changes
- HB 4003 is the Medical Examiner bill
- SB 1592 trains mental health workers
- Several transportation safety and ODOT bills
- SB 1511 relates to wildfire resilience
- SB 1528, 1529, 1530, and 1537 are housing/homelessness bills
- SB 1555 and SB 1558 are the Republican senators' BM 110 bills
- HB 1566 right-of-way transportation bill

Doug requested that department heads and staff go through the list and provide feedback on priorities to Jen/Whitney/Nick by *early next week*. This short session will be "fast and furious".

Jen will assign specific bills to specific department heads in Bill Tracker. Whitney asked departments to please mark bills as informational should they wish to defer their position (support/not support/neutral) to the Board.

Jen provided a link to Bill Tracker: <https://www.billtracker.com/Bills>. Janice Garceau requested a one-page tutorial summarizing the steps to take in Bill Tracker. Jen will draft a mini tutorial and distribute it to department heads.

c. Other Items

No additional items.

3. Commissioner Updates

Chair Adair shared an issue with the Terrebonne transportation project. A 2017 transportation bill provided the funding, and the County has invested \$10 million toward this project. Chris Doty said ODOT is implementing a community workforce agreement which eliminates the local contracting community from being able to submit bids on the project. The workforce agreement stipulates that at least 30% of the project's workers cannot live in Deschutes County, and he finds this deeply concerning.

Commissioners Adair and DeBone will be in Salem on Monday for AOC meetings. Commissioner DeBone will also attend an AOC Reception at 4:00 on Monday at the AOC building in Salem. Commissioner Chang will attend the morning AOC meetings remotely on Monday.

4. Department Updates on Priority Bills

Tom Kuhn said that the EMS modernization bill is **HB 4081**. He has drafted a letter of support and asked for the Board's approval in sending the letter, and whether the letter should be sent on behalf of Ambulance Service Area (ASA) Committee or the Board. There is not a financial request in the letter. Licensures of hospitals according to bed capacity will be the main funding stream. Tom said that HB 4081 would work on the EMS governance structure, by establishing an advisory board, a uniform EMS data system, uniform staffing, and standardized objectives and terminology. These efforts would benefit rural areas greatly. It would be a five-year rollout beginning in January 2025. The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) recommends support of HB 4081 as priority 2. The Board expressed their unanimous support in signing the letter of support.

Next Meeting: The next virtual legislative update meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 9 at 8:00 a.m.

Adjourn: Chair Adair adjourned the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Angie Powers
Angie Powers, Administrative Assistant