

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 9:00 a.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room
Benton County Justice Center, Kennewick, WA

Present: Chairman Shon Small
Commissioner James Beaver
Commissioner Jerome Delvin
County Administrator David Sparks
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting: Daniel Ford, County Engineer; Steve Becken, Public Works; DPA Ryan Brown; Deputy Administrator Loretta Smith Kelty; Sustainable Development Manager Adam Fyall; Finance Manager Keith Merger; Clark Posey, Planning Department.

Discussion/Possible Direction on Willamette Heights Area Improvements

Chairman Small announced the Board would not be taking public comment but this meeting was to gather information to see what direction it wanted to go.

County Engineer Daniel Ford said they were hoping to get direction on the Willamette Heights improvements. He said there were a couple of CRID's that attempted to go through and the last one had a sizeable majority of participants that were eager for improvements but due to cost and effect the County opted not to go forward with the CRID. He said that all the roads in that area were privately owned roads and there were not any county road right of ways in that area. They met with the City of West Richland and got assistance on getting 38th Avenue reclassified so it now had a functional classification as a proposed collector based upon its connectivity with the surrounding system. He added that anything Public Works did in that area for improvements and/or maintenance costs would be for the perpetuity of that roadway.

He said they were hoping to get direction on whether to treat 38th Avenue as a stand-alone project and try to go forward to seek funding now that it was federally classified. He said the road was placed on the 6-year improvement plan so it could be pursued if needed. However, if the Board opted to do that, other road projects would have to be shuffled and reprioritized such as Sellards Road that already had some funding and design work started. Alternatively, the Board could consider 38th Avenue as a county-formed CRID and maybe have different benefits to consider.

Roscoe Slade, City of West Richland, said that six months ago they applied to federally classify 38th Avenue (both the City's portion and the County's portion) all the way up to North Lake and then a portion of Mt. Adams View from Bombing Range to 38th. That made the Road eligible for federal funds and the goal was to get it before this fall's federal call for projects (taking place next month). He said West Richland submitted a proposal to Public Works to jointly go after this project for funding knowing there was \$2 million in the pot to

compete against. The total cost of this project was a little over \$1.4 million so realistically he didn't see West Richland and Benton County taking the majority of the pot away from Kennewick or Richland. However, to keep the project moving forward he proposed getting the roadway designed and obtain right of way on one piece that did not have a federal access easement land patent; that total cost was only \$163,000 which meant about 86-½ % could be paid if they were successful with the grant leaving about \$22,500 in match. They proposed the County put up the \$22,500 match and West Richland would administer and complete the design. The following year they would have a project that was ready to construct and in the fall of 2014 go after the grant to build it for a little under \$1 million. He said it would delay the road being built to the spring of 2015 but believed that gave it the best chance of success and would also assist with a large chunk of the proposed CRID. He said their interest in this project was having another north-south arterial but more importantly, DOT would not let them put in a traffic signal at 38th & Van Giesen until that connection was made down Mt. Adams View and South 38th.

Commissioner Beaver said he wanted the people in the room to know the County was going to move forward with some resolution and they had been working toward this. He said he was in favor of moving forward.

Mr. Ford indicated that each bit of money his department had was already allocated so they would have to find the money to fund this.

Commissioner Delvin suggested they move forward to get the design funds going and then look next year at the construction grant.

Mr. Ford also indicated it would be a good idea to get cooperation from the other cities since they would be competing with their projects for the funding.

Chairman Small said he wanted to look at this project and was anxious to get it going but wanted to make sure it was done correctly. He said he was appreciative of the information provided and it appeared to be a several step process but he was also hesitant about forcing debt on individuals that were not in favor of the CRID. He said he was interested in seeing some hard numbers for a couple different CRID formations and different funding options.

Commissioner Delvin proposed they complete 38th on its own and let the individuals on the private roads look at forming a CRID and bring that proposal to the Board and separate the two out.

Commissioner Beaver said he agreed and believed from the beginning it should be separate because it would have been forcing the citizens to build an arterial street that the County and City should have been building. He didn't want that cost and burden to be passed onto the homeowners and believed the cost would be less to the homeowners if they didn't have to build the arterial street.

Mr. Slade recommended the City of West Richland and Benton County draft an interlocal agreement outlining the partnership to take back to the City Council and Board for approval.

Commissioner Delvin said his expectation was the County staff would work with the homeowners on the CRID and have a proposal to the Board by the end of the year to vote on

and approve with the costs tightened down so everyone had a good knowledge of what the CRID would cost.

Chairman Small asked where the County's portion would come from for construction (approximately \$300,000) and it was stated that was yet to be determined.

David Sparks asked if they should be working on a citizen formed CRID or county formed CRID on the remaining roads not part of 38th Avenue.

DPA Ryan Brown suggested the Board would not know if 38th Avenue was going to be built until they found out about funding so waiting for that determination might be the time to determine what type of CRID should be formed.

Chairman Small said he would be more interested in a county formed CRID since the County would ultimately be working on it and might assist in its approval. Mr. Sparks stated they would be meeting with the citizens either way but it was a matter of procedure and how it would be done.

MOTION: Commissioner Beaver moved to have Public Works bring back an interlocal agreement with the City of West Richland with respect to the construction of 38th Avenue. Commissioner Delvin seconded and upon vote the motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to direct staff to work with citizens in Willamette Heights to discuss forming a CRID. Commissioner Beaver seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Steve Becken asked whether the CRID would be petition driven or Commissioner driven because it would be a different procedure.

Chairman Small said he wanted to have a vote from the citizens in that area. It was stated that a Commissioner driven CRID would allow the County to come up with the CRID and the citizens would vote on it.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman