

Boat lift: Money comes from state's share of the federal American Rescue Plan Act

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current, great opportunity for creating a shipyard that can help the industry maintain their fleets."

The \$7 million for Hyak comes from the state's share of the federal American Rescue Plan Act, part of which was allocated to local governments and organizations for water-related infrastructure projects.

The state package also included over \$360,000 to Garibaldi for over 600 new wireless water meters and the creation of a wastewater master plan.

"All of these projects are in line with my priority of supporting improvement of infrastructure and economic development in rural Northwest Oregon," state Rep. Suzanne Weber, R-Tillamook, said in a statement. "I've worked as hard as possible to ensure that our communities and our needs aren't forgotten when budgeting occurs."

Dorn said that Hyak has also secured a commitment from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to spend \$9 million to dredge the 2-mile Cathlamet Bay channel approach to Tongue Point's piers.

Hyak is still waiting for approval on a \$13.9 million grant from Connect Oregon, which the Oregon Transportation Commission will be reviewing for the next few months.

"If we're successful

in Connect, we're fully funded," Dorn said, adding that Hyak has already submitted applications for the necessary environmental and water permits and has engineered the piers to support the lift.

"So we're optimistic on the Connect grant being the final piece of the puzzle," he said.

Dorn said he views the \$7 million grant as a loan that Hyak will repay through jobs created, payroll taxes and property taxes.

An independent economic impact study by the Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District, or Col-Pac, included figures for Hyak's future spending and contributions.

The study estimates the project will create 51 full-time jobs at Hyak upon installation, with an average salary of around \$78,000.

It also projects an additional 50 jobs five years after installation, bringing the total to over 100 full-time jobs.

The Col-Pac study predicts that the lift will add \$400,000 in annual local and state tax revenue by 2025, and \$700,000 annually by 2030.

Dorn said that the lift project will also support U.S. Coast Guard vessels at the incoming fast response cutter base, expected to be constructed next to Hyak.

Landslides: Work could begin this summer, fall

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Steep slopes and poor soil make the north side of Astoria particularly vulnerable to sliding. Last year, a landslide uprooted an entire house and left it sitting on the sidewalk.

But the city recently landed more than \$600,000 in federal aid to upgrade drainage systems at landslide-prone sites.

The money is part of a larger omnibus spending package that will fund projects throughout Northwest Oregon. U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, an Oregon Democrat, had advocated for the inclusion of the projects.

In Astoria, the money will help fund upgrades to dewatering systems at two priority sites, one near Columbia Memorial Hospital on the east end of town and another at First and Commercial streets. These systems were constructed in the 1950s after three major slides hit and displaced many homes.

Astoria has 120 identified landslide deposits within city limits.

City leaders like Mayor Bruce Jones hope this initial flush of federal funding will lead to even more opportunities to address landslide areas in the future.

"In the scheme of things, when you consider how many landslide areas there are in Astoria, it's a relatively small amount of money," Jones said. "It's going to make a big improvement in those areas, but there's a lot more to be done."

"Certainly," he added, "we don't want to give any false sense of security that it eliminates any risk of landslides, but it does mitigate it and we think it's a signif-



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Astoria is at risk from landslides.

icant mitigation and we're very appreciative of the funding."

Jeff Harrington, Astoria's public works director, echoed Jones' comments.

"This is in no way going to prevent all landslides from happening," Harrington said. "It's just a step in the right direction." He said work at the two sites will include replacing storm inlet structures, storm piping and utilizing other types of dewatering techniques to try to capture as much water as possible during wet weather.

"We've learned that 5 inches of rain in a 48-hour period ... tends to be what triggers some of our landslides in our area," Harrington said.

He hopes work can begin this summer and fall.

But these types of projects require extensive review by various agencies. Work may not begin until next year.

The federal money will fund a large portion of the

work and the city will pay for the rest.

This story is part of a collaboration between The Astorian and Coast Community Radio.

Heritage Square: 'Astoria needs housing'

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Edlen & Co. and the city plan to share summaries of the feedback and the responses at each station during the second open house on March 24.

The open houses will serve as a way for the developer to finalize the basic outline before the City Council decides whether to take the next step on the project in April.

Muschi Mayflower, a longtime resident, was one of the many people who examined the potential design on Monday. She is concerned the process is being rushed.

Mayflower would like to see a compromise. She suggested reducing the number of proposed housing units and dedicating the rest of the block to a public square.

"That is the central square to this very, very special and unique town," Mayflower said. "It shouldn't have a big block of housing that fits in with nothing there. If we had a square it would change the entire town. It would change the entire town's opinion of downtown."

Maggie Gazdagh echoed Mayflower's comments, drawing a parallel to Pioneer Courthouse Square in downtown Portland, which is referred to as the city's living room. "It really does

bring people together," she said.

Gazdagh said that while she is supportive of lower-income housing and helping people who are homeless, she does not think all the housing and services should be concentrated downtown.

Janeen Phillips, who lives near Heritage Square on 12th Street, is concerned about the impacts a loss of parking will have on the neighborhood and downtown businesses.

"That parking lot is filled every day, and it's filled on the weekends. Where are these people going to park?" Phillips said of the large parking lot along 12th. "If that's all taken away, I know where they're going to park, and that is front of people's homes."

The most recent outline for the project would involve a single building for housing on the east side of the block, sparing a smaller parking lot off 11th Street next to the American Legion and across from the Astoria Senior Center.

Martha Van Dyke, a member of the senior center, took issue with the critical letters sent from the senior center in response to the project, adding that seniors have access to other nearby parking lots.

"Astoria is changing,"

Van Dyke said. She said jobs in tourism pay less and that she has spoken with many younger people who say they would qualify for the housing.

"They like the town. They like coming here. But they can't afford the rents," she said.

As for the supportive housing units, Van Dyke said, "I think people who are trying to transition, trying to change, they need to be in society, in town, mixing with real people, becoming accepted."

"They're real, these people are real. I'm real — hey, it's OK," Van Dyke said. "Maybe we can all adjust here. You know, all this fear ... how do we get past all this fear?"

Renée Barasch, the owner of Simply Human Art, a tattoo studio in the Van Dusen Building at 10th and Duane streets, is also supportive of the project.

"Astoria needs housing for people who aren't going to buy a house," said Barasch, who lives at the Merwyn Apartments, a lower-income housing project next to City Hall on Duane that opened last year. "We need housing. We need access to mental health care. The Merwyn is an awesome opportunity, and I think it's also an example of what is not working or what the city

needs to look out for."

Barasch said that while many of the behavioral issues early on at the Merwyn have improved, it showed the need for the type of support Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare staff would provide for tenants at Heritage Square.

"There's nothing bad. It's all just lessons and looking at like, how do you provide housing for a variety of people — people who are working minimum wage jobs and people who are also transitioning out of homelessness?" Barasch said. "And that's a lot to cover in one project. So just the fact we're having a conversation about it gives me peace of mind."

Autumn Eve Montgomery Hurd, who works part time at Columbia River Coffee Roaster and has an art studio downtown, said housing should be prioritized over parking.

Hurd said that while the concept at Heritage Square may not be everyone's ideal choice, it's what the city needs.

"We need more than just the top percent of Astoria that's out here talking about it — the eldest generation that's here," Hurd said. "People that are actually going to need the housing should be here and part of the conversation."

'Beat the Wave': Reports could lead to more funding

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"Beat the Wave" goes a step further.

The maps show the minimum speed a person must move, over pavement and trails, from particular locations to avoid a watery death. "Some of (the locations) are dire," Brown said.

Color-coded pathways show where to slow-walk (up to 1.4 mph), where to sprint (6.8 to 10 mph), and a range of paces in between.

Illustrations in the reports show where water may end up once the ground stops shaking. In Astoria, for example, waves could touch

the Columbia River Maritime Museum within 38 to 42 minutes after an extra-extra-large earthquake begins, reaching Columbia Memorial Hospital by 44 minutes.

In Cannon Beach, a route that the agency used to recommend — which takes pedestrians east on Second Street to U.S. Highway 101, then south to higher ground — is not ideal, according to Laura Gabel, a coastal geologist with the agency.

The agency decided that a more efficient route out of the low-lying Ecola Creek valley runs south on Spruce Street to the same high ground, Gabel said in an email.

"We also pointed out the risk associated with having a key evacuation route adjacent to the water treatment plant; this route is likely to be compromised due to significant damage of the plant from the earthquake and a high likelihood of liquefaction," she wrote.

Rick Hudson, Cannon Beach's emergency manager, said the maps also show the need to reinforce the Fir Street Bridge. The structure crosses Ecola Creek and links downtown to the city's north end, which rises above the inundation zone.

The city has been trying to get funding for the project

through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "We're hopeful this report will help us get those grants in the future," he said.

Hudson got a preview of the report several months ago. He said the city may post "Beat the Wave" evacuation maps as signage at places, like parking lots, where visitors gather.

The city plans to use the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries' information, Hudson said, to complete the task for which the science was done. "It has helped us guide — working together — how we actually improve our routes," he said.

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ASTORIA CHIROPRACTIC


Alicia M. Smith, DC
Owner

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2935 Marine Drive
Astoria, Oregon

Q: Does the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) cover chiropractic care?

A: Yes! OHP does cover chiropractic and massage in our office. Just call us with your info and we will get you scheduled.



JEFFREY M. LEINASSAR
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Q: What causes bad breath?

A: Basically, all food eaten begins to be broken down in your mouth. Bacteria, which accumulate with food, form a sticky film called plaque which leads to gum disease. This process creates what is known as volatile sulfur compounds resulting in bad breath. Poor brushing habits, a coated tongue, strong-odor foods, smoking and heavy alcohol drinking all contribute to bad breath. If this is you, do something about it by calling your dentist to schedule an evaluation.



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Q: What are some simple ways I can maintain mental health?

A: Creating a daily routine of self care helps you locate good mental health. Here are some suggestions:

1. Maintain a consistent sleep and wake schedule
2. Eat regular healthy meals to fortify brain chemistry
3. Take a walk, listen to music, watch something funny
4. Stay connected to those you love and who encourage you
5. Avoid abusing substances such as alcohol/other drugs
6. Practice self compassion, and daily affirmations