

HERMISTON

City transportation needs have \$14 million price tag

Widening 10th Street a top non-highway priority

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

A League of Oregon Cities survey has found more than \$3.7 billion in transportation needs in cities across the state, including more than \$14 million in Hermiston projects.

The report, released in August, compiled survey responses from 120 cities listing their top five priorities for highway projects and top five non-highway transportation priorities. It also examined those cities' maintenance budgets and found that responding cities were \$217 million short of the federal per-mile recommendation for highway spending.

As a region, Eastern Oregon cities had the least maintenance money in their budget, averaging \$2,694 per lane mile — more than \$18,000 below the level recommended by the Federal Highway Administration. Hermiston was above the Eastern Oregon average at \$6,798 per lane mile in 2014-2015. The city is responsible for maintaining 73 miles of road, or 178 "lane miles" when adding up each lane separately.

As for major projects, among Hermiston's top non-highway priorities is widening 10th Street between Elm Avenue and Punkin Center.

City staff described the upgrade as one of its biggest safety concerns in light of a planned Hermiston School District bond that, if passed, would result in a new elementary school along Theater Lane and 10th Street in 2018.

"Theater Lane will be the main access point for the school, and will require the School District to construct approximately a half-mile of new street," according to the survey response. "However, in real life, many parents and students will be forced to come to the school north-bound along 10th street."

Combined with new housing developments east of town, Sandstone Middle School students walking along 10th Street to school and major congestion at Elm and 395, the proposed elementary school makes widening 10th Street an urgent priority for the city, at a cost of \$5.82 million.

"There is simply no way that the City of Hermiston can currently pay for a project of that scale," the report said.

In light of the expected traffic increase on Theater Lane connected to the proposed school, the city also listed adding turn pockets to the intersection of Theater Lane and Highway 395 as one of its top highway priorities.

The rest of its top five highway priorities are a signal at Highway 207 and Elm Avenue (already in the works in partnership with ODOT), a signal at Highway 207 and Orchard Avenue, more lanes at the intersection of Elm and

Highway 395 and a traffic signal at the intersection of Highway 395 and Kelli Boulevard near Airport Road.

The city's other top non-highway priorities are the re-alignment of Harper Road and Geer Road near Agape House, widening North First Place, redesigning the intersection of First Place and Highland Avenue near the high school and installing a roundabout at the intersection of Main Street, Seventh Street and Diagonal Road downtown.

Other cities in Umatilla and Morrow counties that submitted answers to the survey are Boardman, Irrigon, Heppner, Milton-Freewater and Ukiah. The full report, along with other League of Oregon Cities data, can be found online at www.orcities.org/MemberServices/Research.

The transportation report is a timely one given the state legislature's goal of putting together a comprehensive transportation funding package during the 2017 session that will dole out millions of dollars for various transportation infrastructure projects across the state. Legislators listened to city and county officials testify about some of Eastern Oregon's needs during a Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization meeting in Hermiston in June.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.



Staff photo by Phil Wright

Hamming it up

Main Street Cowboys Mark Jaeger and Mel Lappen grill ham in anticipation of the crowd coming for breakfast-as-dinner Thursday at the annual Twilight Breakfast, the unofficial start of the annual Pendleton Round-Up. The Main Street Side Saddlers organize the event at Stillman Park, and customers lined up down the block before tickets went on sale at 4:30 p.m.

State to resume online sales of hunting, fishing licenses

Social Security, credit card numbers not exposed in data breach

East Oregonian

Online sales of hunting and fishing licenses should resume within the next few days, according to the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.

ODFW confirmed there was an unauthorized access of online hunting and fishing applications Aug. 23 through the state's computer license sales system. Information including driver license numbers, names, birth dates, addresses, telephone numbers and email

addresses were all exposed, but not any Social Security numbers or credit card information.

Oregon residents and non-residents who started purchasing hunting and fishing licenses before September 2007 were all potentially affected. Active Network, a company based in Texas, operates ODFW's online system. Neither ODFW nor Active Network have received any reports of personal information being misused as a result of the incident.

"We understand the inconvenience, frustration and anxiety this incident has caused for our customers, specifically in terms of secu-

urity of their personal information," said Bill Herber, ODFW deputy director for administration. "Our focus now is to help our customers work through this."

Active Network will be contacting affected customers by mail. Meanwhile, ODFW recommends license buyers assume their information was accessed and monitor their financial accounts and credit history for any signs of suspicious activity.

Licenses and tags can still be purchased at ODFW offices and participating businesses. These computer terminals are separate from the online system that was breached.



Photo contributed by Brandon Hammond

A new playground has been built at Windy River Elementary in Boardman.

Elementary school gets new playground

East Oregonian

Windy River Elementary School will cut the ribbon on its new playground during a ceremony at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13. The public is invited to come celebrate.

A number of donors contributed to the project, including Columbia River Technologies, which agreed to purchase the equipment. Principal Brandon Hammond said that started the process, and the student council then began to review options and budgets.

The Kiwanis Club of Boardman and Offutt Family Foundation also provided

funding to buy a large portion of the playground's surface cover. Everything was built and installed by Rock Enterprises of Irrigon.

Windy River also received support from the Boardman Community Development Association, city of Boardman and Killion family.

"The entire process was a testament of how the community of Boardman comes together to create something better for our children," Hammond said. "This structure is not only beneficial to our school, but will enhance our community as a whole."

Windy River is located at 500 Tatone St.

TEST: Pendleton students showed improvement in one subject matter while backsliding in another

Continued from 1A

and math in every grade level, with the exception of high school math, which saw a 3.3 percent decrease to a dismal 17 percent proficiency rate.

"This is still a new system for us, and we have to remind ourselves that this is a different test, measuring different learning standards, and we now have a new baseline around which to set our goals and design instruction," Hermiston Assistant Superintendent Bryn Browning said in a statement. "One major change for Hermiston High School this year is the implementation of new math curriculum materials to support the Common Core State Mathematic standards. We were working with materials from pre-Common

Core, and we are reviewing our support structure for math courses."

Pendleton was more of a mixed bag, with many grades showing improvement in one subject matter while backsliding in another.

Eighth grade assessments made the most concrete gains, increasing by 14.3 percent in English and 3.5 percent in math.

High school students also showed significant improvement in English (15.1 percent) but more modest development in math, rising just 1 percent. That means only 24.6 percent of Pendleton High students were proficient in the subject, which Pendleton assessment director Matt Yoshioka called "concerning."

Yoshioka said one of the big challenges with the

Smarter Balanced assessment is the gap between the initial round of testing from grades 3-8 to the final test in 11th grade.

Besides adopting a new curriculum, Yoshioka said Pendleton administrators will analyze other districts to see where they went right and wrong, then talk with their officials to figure out best practices.

The results released Thursday were a little skewed because the federal government counted every student who took an extended assessment — those assessments are given to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities — as a failed exam.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

50% OFF SMARTPHONES

It's on.

Switch to U.S. Cellular* and save 50% on Smartphones. It's a great deal from the network with a stronger signal in the Middle of Anywhere.

Learn more at uscellular.com/halfprice.

Things we want you to know: New Shared Connect Plan and Retail Installment Contract required. Device Protection+, Smartphone turn-in and credit approval also required. A \$25 Device Activation Fee applies. A Regulatory Cost Recovery Fee (currently \$1.82/line/month) applies; this is not a tax or govt. required charge. Additional fees (including Device Connection Charges), taxes, terms, conditions and coverage areas apply and may vary by plan, service and phone. Offers valid at participating locations only and cannot be combined. See store or uscellular.com for details. **50% Off Smartphones Promo:** 50%-off rebate on select Smartphone devices. Rebate shall be equal to either 50% of device price before taxes or \$336, whichever is lower. Rebate fulfilled in the form of a U.S. Cellular® Promotional Card issued by MetaBank®. Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. Valid only for purchases at U.S. Cellular stores and uscellular.com. Allow 8-10 weeks for processing after final submission. **Turned-in Smartphone** must be in fully functional, working condition without any liquid damage or broken components including, but not limited to, a cracked housing. Smartphone must power on and cannot be pin locked. Cracked screens allowed. **Device Protection+:** Enrollment in Device Protection+ required. The monthly charge for Device Protection+ is \$8.99 for Smartphones. A deductible per approved claim applies. You may cancel Device Protection+ anytime. Insurance underwritten by American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida. Service Contract Obligor is Federal Warranty Service Corporation, except in CA (Sureway, Inc.) and OK (Assurant Service Protection, Inc.). Limitations and exclusions apply. For complete details, see an associate for a Device Protection+ brochure. **Kansas Customers:** In areas in which U.S. Cellular receives support from the Federal Universal Service Fund, all reasonable requests for service must be met. Unresolved questions concerning services availability can be directed to the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection at 1-800-662-0027. Limited-time offer. Trademarks and trade names are the property of their respective owners. ©2016 U.S. Cellular