

Concerns about water, drainage arise

ROAD PROJECT
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widening. The sanitary sewer and water lines also will be upgraded.

But for many in attendance, the big question was, "Where does the water go?"

"I've got one and a half acres that's flooded," said Ernie Keener, a neighbor. "All you got to do is put in a culvert to dump the water into the river."

"There's an awful lot of very serious drainage problems that we're trying to resolve," Scott said. "We are proposing to discharge the storm water to historic and underutilized drainages. We know there's an impact and we're doing everything we can to mitigate it."

In 2000, the Tribe surveyed local communities to learn what they thought about widening Grand Ronde Road. Sixty percent of Tribal members within the three-city area of Grand Ronde, Willamina and Sheridan thought it would be a good idea. Nearly half of the nonNative community supported the project.

Four years later, a project was put in place to widen Grand Ronde Road, add bike paths and sidewalks, install five lighted crosswalks, improve and enlarge the local sewer main, redirect storm water from ditches back into natural pathways and to improve the intersections at Grand Ronde Road and State



Map courtesy of the Tribal Engineering Department

The Grand Ronde Road Widening project will improve 7,800 feet of roadway that includes parts of Polk and Yamhill counties.

Highway 18 on the south and State Highway 22 on the north.

Under the plan, the travel lanes will increase from 10 feet wide to 11 feet and five-foot-wide bike lanes and six-foot-wide sidewalks will be installed on either side of the road.

The two-year project will cost more than \$5 million and is being funded by a combination of sources, including the Tribe, Bureau of Indian Affairs, HUD Indian Community Development block grants, U.S. Indian Health Service, Polk County road levy, Yamhill County bike path funds and the Grand Ronde Sanitation District.

"The price of the project is well over \$5 million and we're bringing this to residents at no cost," Scott said.

The project also will upgrade the aging sewer main which is currently at capacity in the winter because of storm water infiltration. This will provide more capacity for the Grand Ronde Sanitation District because less storm water will go through the existing treatment plant.

A major element of the project involves a realignment of the intersection of Grand Ronde Road and Highway 18. The intersection will be shifted west about 20 feet so that cars can back out of the market's

parking stalls without interfering with through traffic. The blind spot at the old railroad grade will also be eliminated.

The intersection of Hebo Road (Highway 22) to Grand Ronde Road will be upgraded with a larger turning radius so trucks can turn without swinging into the oncoming traffic lanes.

Project bids were returned July 1. Apparent low bidder was Sherwood-based C&M Construction Inc. Notice to Proceed is scheduled for Aug. 1.

"We ask for your patience," Scott said. "We really need to do something before somebody gets killed out there." ■

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