

# Sewer Programs Would Ease Flood Threat

## Separate Proposals To Improve, Expand Systems on Ballot

(Editor's note: This is the last in a series of articles describing the four parts of a capital improvement program on which Medford voters will decide at the Nov. 6 general election. Today's article discusses the storm and sanitary sewer programs. Previous articles described the arterial street and off-street parking proposals.)

Medford residents Nov. 6 will vote on a \$380,000 storm sewer program and a \$114,000 sanitary sewer program.

The two sewer projects are parts of a four element capital improvement program approved by the city council and submitted to the voters.

Expansion and improvement of the storm sewer system was proposed because several pieces of private and public property are damaged by local flooding during storms.

The condition would be corrected under the sewer programs, as would areas which are consistently flooded during storms.

**Programs Extended Over Six Years**

The proposed storm sewer program would extend over a period of six years with a \$95,000 general obligation bond issue and an annual tax levy of \$47,500. The proposed sanitary sewer program, which also would be on a six-year basis, would be financed by an annual levy of \$19,000.

Tentative plans for the sanitary sewer work include two interceptors, or "subtrunk" lines. Interceptor lines are, in effect, small trunk lines to which laterals are connected. The interceptor line connects with a larger trunk sewage line.

One project would be an interceptor line north from West Main st. between Orange and Peach st., following a line generally along alleys, Woodstock ave., Narregan st., to McAndrews rd., and then north-easterly to connect with the Bear creek interceptor sewer line.

The other interceptor would be in the Laurelhurst district. The line would go north in an alley between Pearl and Bessie sts. from Jackson st. to Salling st., then west to Crater Lake ave., and north to connect onto a line along McAndrews rd.

This would relieve the present Jackson st. sewer line of much of its present load, allowing the line to serve a portion of the Laurelhurst addition annexed last summer. The area north of East Main st. and east of Crater Lake ave., also would be relieved.

The northwest Medford sanitary interceptor sewer line would prevent sewage from backing up into basements and out of manholes into the streets, according to Public Works Director Vern Thorpe and City Manager Robert Duff.

The ballot title for the sanitary sewer program reads:

**"Purpose: Amend Medford City charter to authorize city to construct and maintain storm sewers and provide outlets therefor; and for said purposes, to issue not exceeding \$95,000.00 general obligation bonds and levy an annual tax of \$47,500.00 for six years not subject to limitations of Article XI, section 11, constitution of Oregon."**

The bonds would mature in not more than 20 years at an interest rate of not more than 4 per cent.

The proposed projects, and the suggested priorities, are (numbers correspond with numbers of projects on the accompanying map):

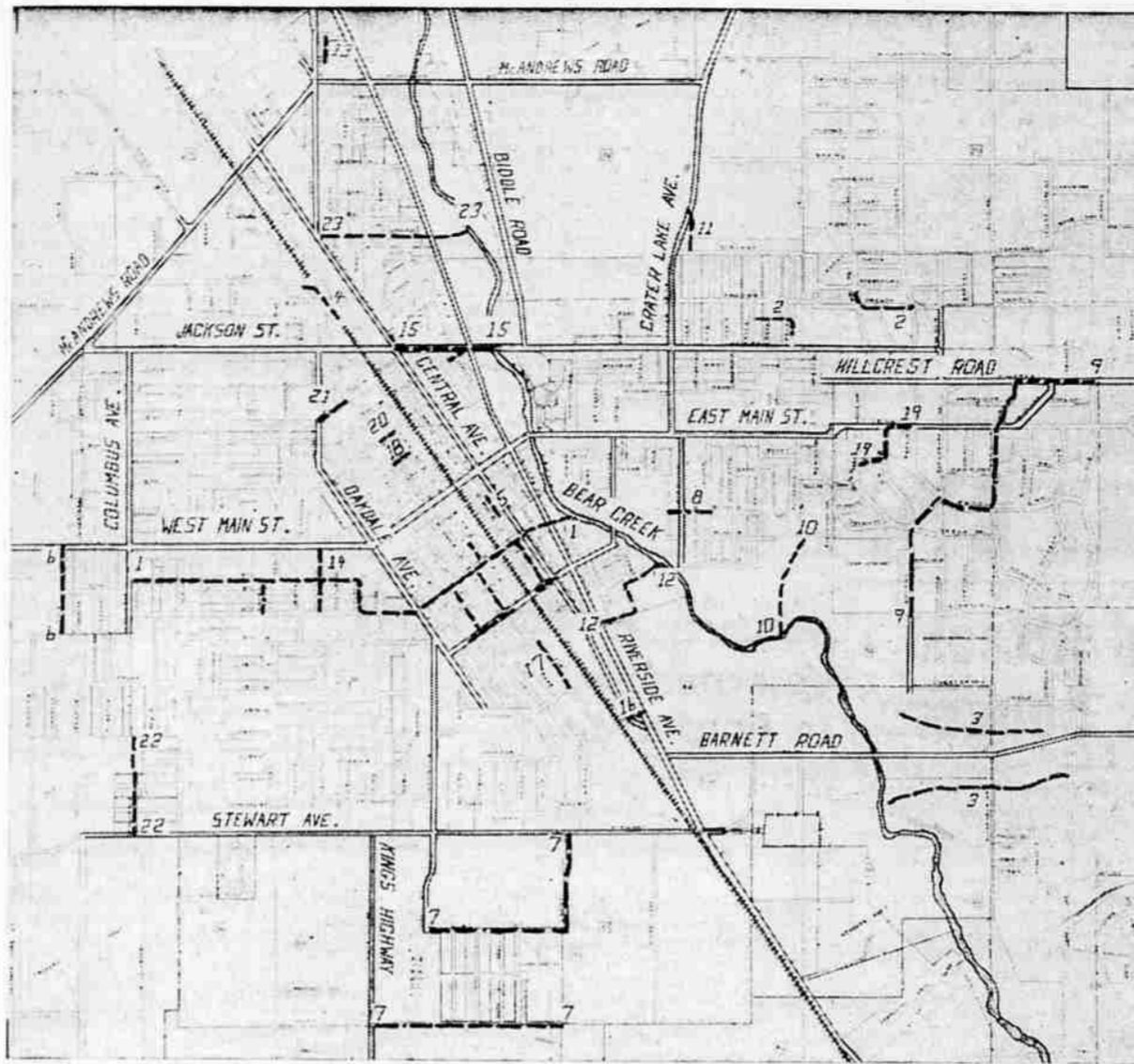
1. Tenth street, alternate Eighth st.—The project originally was proposed to follow 10th st., but since the arterial street program may provide a one-way couplet using Eighth st., city officials believe it would be feasible to construct the storm sewer along Eighth st.

This project would be the largest and would cost an estimated \$123,840, or about one-third the total program.

The sewer would intercept all water in the present storm sewer running north and south from Dakota ave. northeasterly through the city and discharging into Bear creek near McAndrews rd. A considerable amount of flooding and property damage results north of West Main st. during heavy storms because the sewer is overloaded, Thorpe pointed out.

Several short sections would extend out from the proposed sewer to pick up drainage and tap several catch basins now connected with the sanitary sewer system.

2. Laurelhurst district — The project, divided into two sections, would complete a project constructed by city crews early this year. From Pearl st. to Effie st. the project would connect the section completed to Pearl st. which is the terminus of the



**PROPOSED STORM SEWERS**—The major project in the proposed storm sewer program will be the line along Eighth st. and Tenth st. through downtown Medford to Bear creek. The line would eliminate local flooding during storms in several locations, and connect a number of catch basins to the



**FLOODED STREETS**—The present storm sewer system in some locations in Medford are inadequate to carry runoff from heavy storms, resulting in local flooding and damage to both private and public property. A proposed storm sewer program has been designed to eliminate much of the flooding in Medford areas. The above picture was taken right after a heavy rain looking west on Palm

avenue. The project calls for a storm sewer along Holmes ave. and Holly st. as far as Stewart ave. to prevent recurring high water in the area in heavy storms.

An additional proposal is to intercept a large amount of water from Kings highway at Garfield ave. and divert it along the south side of Garfield ave. to an open channel to Crooked creek.

Cost of the project has been estimated at \$22,350.

3. Southeast Medford channel improvement — Costing an estimated \$15,000, this project would be to clean and improve present channels, one south of Barnett rd., extending westward across Ellendale dr., and the other north of Barnett rd., also extending westward.

Thorpe pointed out that both channels are almost entirely filled with brush and cause flooding during storms.

4. Welch st. to Court st. — The short section would pick up drainage in the area and connect to the present storm sewer at the intersection of Cedar st. and Clark st. which now flows under the railroad tracks and along Central ave. to Spruce st. The project is estimated to cost \$2,500.

5. Alley, Central and Front — Existing catch basins in the alley are connected to the sanitary sewer system, and during heavy rains the small sewer does not handle all the water from roof drains. Excessive water creates a hazard both to a hotel and a liquor store in the area.

The project, estimated to cost \$1,420, would connect to the existing storm sewer on East Eighth st.

6. Lewis st., Main at 10th st. — The present open ditch along the west side of Lewis st. frequently overflows causing considerable damage to property and inconvenience between Lewis and Jeannette sts.

The project, at an estimated \$15,600, would replace the open ditch.

7. Jefferson school area — The

storm sewer system that are now connected with the sanitary sewer system. Other projects, shown in the broken lines on the above map, are numbered to correspond with the number of the project described in an article elsewhere on this page.

nect the basins to the storm sewer on South Grape st. for an estimated cost of \$2,320.

18. East Main st., Highland to Woodlawn — This section would intercept drainage at Berkeley ave. and drain the low area on East Main and Highland dr. It would connect to the existing short section of storm sewer at Woodlawn dr. and Keene Way dr.

The project also would replace an existing wood stave pipe on part of Highland dr. and East Main st., which has rotted and requires considerable maintenance. The wood stave pipe also plugs during storms. Estimated cost of the project is \$8,660.

20. Fourth st. — The section of storm sewer between Grape st. and Fir st. would intercept two catch basins now connected with the sanitary sewer. Cost of the project is estimated at \$1,570.

21. Second st. — Between Grape st. and Oakdale ave. the section of storm sewer would connect two catch basins now draining into the sanitary sewer system. Estimated cost of the project is \$4,760.

22. Columbus ave. — This section of storm sewer would be an extension of an existing sewer terminating at the intersection of Columbus ave. and Dakota ave.

The intersection was the city limits at the time the storm sewer was constructed in 1948. Estimated cost of the project is \$10,130.

23. Edwards st. — The section of storm sewer between Central ave. and Bear creek would inter-

cept drainage water now flowing along Central ave. which originates at Jackson st. and discharges into the present sewer at Spruce st. It also would connect several catch basins now discharging into the sanitary sewer along Edwards st. Estimated cost of the project is \$28,430.

13. Boardman st., Ohio to Kennet sts. — The proposed storm sewer would drain a low area on Ohio st. back into a storm sewer along Kennet st. Present drainage flows into the low spot from north of Kennet st. The project would cost an estimated \$2,070.

14. Newtown st., Seventh to Eighth sts. — This section would intercept drainage collecting on Main st. east of the storm sewer at Hamilton ave. It would prevent overflow of the Sixth st. storm sewer. The project would cost \$1,500.

15. Jackson st., Bear creek to Central ave. — Several catch basins which now drain into the sanitary sewer would drain into the storm sewer. The section would eliminate a bad condition at Third and Apple sts. as well as on Jackson st. between Bartlett and Central ave. and intercept the catch basins. Estimated cost of the project is \$12,860.

16. Boyd st., Central to Riverside aves. — The proposed project, costing an estimated \$1,230, would connect catch basins at Central ave. and Boyd st. to the storm sewer along the east side of Riverside ave.

17. South Fir st. — A bad drainage condition along this short section would be eliminated by connecting a storm sewer st. Cost of the project is estimated at \$3,200.

18. Fifth st., Grape to Fir — Catch basins at the intersection of Fifth and Fir sts. are connected to the sanitary sewer system. The proposed project would con-

## Various Methods of Financing Suggested By Council Committee

Several methods of financing Medford's proposed \$2,871,000 capital improvement program were suggested by the city council's finance committee before its report was submitted to the council for consideration.

A combination of four types of financing appeared to be more desirable. They are:

1. General obligation bonds.
2. Revenue bonds.
3. Continuing levies.
4. Assessments.

Of the four methods, only a portion of the general obligation bonds and continuing levies will directly affect Medford taxpayers. Revenue bonds, with the backing of the city's credit, will be amortized from actual revenue. Assessments will affect only the downtown businessmen and professional people.

Financing separate items of the capital improvement program is discussed below:

**ARTERIAL STREET PROGRAM**  
The finance committee found that general obligation bonds appeared to be justified to acquire immediately certain critical right-of-way and real property for the arterial street program.

The committee believed that a delay might result in loss of needed rights-of-way because of construction.

The proposed general obligation bond issue for arterial streets is \$220,000, to be used chiefly for purchase of rights-of-way. The bonds would bear interest of not more than 4 per cent and mature in not more than 20 years.

An annual levy of \$143,600 for 10 years, the length of the proposed program, would finance the majority of construction.

On the basis of the 1955-56 assessed valuation, the total annual levy for the 10-year arterial street program would be 1.0 mills for bonds and interest payments, and 5.8 mills for the continuing levy. The total for the program would be 6.8 mills.

**STORM SEWER PROGRAM**  
Because the need for certain storm sewers is urgent, the committee felt general obligation bonds totaling \$95,000 would be necessary in the immediate future. Proposed plans call for construction of a storm sewer across the city "without further delay."

Also a part of the storm sewer program would be a continuing levy of \$47,500 annually over a six-year period, the length of the proposed program.

On the basis of the 1955-56 assessed valuation, the levy to repay general obligation bonds would be 0.7 mills, and the continuing levy would be 1.9 mills, or a total of 2.6 mills for the program over a six-year period.

**SANITARY SEWER PROGRAM**  
A continuing levy of \$19,000 annually for the duration of the six-year program was recommended by the finance committee. Funds from the levy would improve sanitary sewer systems

in northwest and northeast Medford. The annual levy would be 0.8 mills, based on the 1955-56 assessed valuation.

**OFF-STREET PARKING**  
The off-street parking program would be financed through a \$300,000 self-liquidating general obligation bond issue, and up to \$200,000 in revenue bonds, issued only when necessary for additional facilities.

The general obligation bond issue would be repaid over a 10-year period through a combination of three revenue sources:

1. Assessments against downtown business property for one-third the cost of each improvement, to be paid over a 10-year period in semi-annual installments. Assessments would be made only the district benefited by off-street parking facilities.
2. Revenue amounting to 25 per cent of the total from on-street meters with adjusted rates and time. The increase in meter rates would be from 5 cents per hour to 5 cents per 30 minutes. Time of meter operation would be increased from 5 to 6 p.m.
3. Revenue from all off-street parking meters.

There would be no tax levy for the off-street parking program.

**TOTAL COSTS**  
The overall tax levy for the capital improvement program would be 10 mills annually based on the 1955-56 assessed valuation. On the same basis, the proposed improvement programs would increase the total tax levy to 28.9 mills (the present levy is 18.9 mills, smallest in Oregon for any city of Medford's size).

The finance committee pointed out, however, that the levy for succeeding years should be correspondingly less as the city's growth increases the tax base.

The committee also stressed that the bonded indebtedness proposed will be well within the city's statutory limitation. Short term bonds were suggested so they would be amortized during the life of the proposed program.

## Corliss Named to Advisory Committee

Kenneth Corliss, 1564 Myers lane, Medford, who recently was named chairman of the county Veterans for Morse committee, also has been named chairman of the county Veterans Advisory committee of the Democratic National committee, it was announced last week by Joseph K. Carson Jr., Portland, state chairman.

In making the announcement, Carson quoted Adlai Stevenson's statement regarding veterans, in which he cited the platform of the Democratic party, that the Veterans administration should be continued as an independent agency; that the hospitals should be maintained; that veterans preference laws and the VA home loan program should be fairly administered; that service-connected disabled or their survivors should be adequately compensated, and that pensions for disabled and discharging veterans, and their surviving dependents if in need, should be provided.

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