

# Washington County wants public input on future road projects

Washington County's Department of Land Use and Transportation invites the public to propose candidates for small-scale interim road improvements to be considered for the Minor Betterment Program (MBP). To be eligible, the proposed improvement must address a safety, capacity, environmental and/or connectivity issue on a county road.

Proposals submitted by July 15 will be considered by the MBP Selection Committee comprised of county staff and citizens representing the Urban

Road Maintenance District Advisory Committee, the Rural Roads Operations and Maintenance Advisory Committee, and the Committee for Citizen Involvement. Projects selected by this committee will be recommended for Board of Commissioner approval for construction in 2012-2013.

In 2010-2011, the MBP funded the 143rd Avenue pedestrian pathway project from Hunters Drive to West Union Road. MBP projects pending Board approval for 2011-2012 include pedestrian paths on

153rd from Cornell to Arcadia, Barnes from 70th Terrace to Miller Road, Cornell from 119th to Saltzman, and Kinnaman Road from Farmington to 185th; an ADA ramp at 158th and Walker Road; shoulder widening at Miller Hill Road and Farmington; grade adjustment at Blooming Fern Hill and Winters; and median work on Murray Boulevard near Tierra Del Mar Drive.

Proposals received after July 15 will be added to the MBP list for consideration by the 2013-2014 selection com-

mittee.

The MBP is funded by the county's gas tax allocation. About \$350,000 per year is currently available for this program to fund small-scale interim improvements which are beyond routine maintenance but not large enough to be programmed as capital improvements. Identification of candi-

dates for the MBP is request driven.

A list and a map of proposed MBP candidates are available online. Candidates may be proposed by submitting an online form or by contacting the Operations and Maintenance Division at 503-846-7623 or luto ps@co.washington.or.us.

## Groups wants prisons to change

by Chris Thomas, Oregon News Service

Crime survivors' groups are asking state lawmakers to shift money designated for more prison beds into programs that prevent crime and support survivors' services instead.

Bob Robison, who lost his job as a victim services manager to Multnomah County budget cuts, says public-safety dollars could be more effective if spent on preventing domestic violence, and stepping up counseling for drug and alcohol addiction and sexual abuse. Instead, the figures show Oregon's prison spending has grown in the past 15 years, as more people are locked up. "In the same time, we've had a bunch of very powerful social science research that tells us

how we can most effectively rehabilitate people who've committed crimes. Long prison stays aren't always the way."

The figures point to a \$1.4 billion prison budget, almost 9 percent of the combined General Fund and lottery proceeds – while mental health programs, the State Police and domestic-violence shelters are

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