

AGENDA ITEM FOR ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING () Discussion only
(X) Action

FROM (DEPT/ DIVISION): Planning Division

SUBJECT: ODOT Grant Request: Driver Safety Education along Highway 11

<p>Background: ODOT Region 5 and Umatilla County staff, among other agency partners, are requesting Umatilla County to be the lead agency for a Driver Safety Education and Marketing grant along Highway 11 near Milton-Freewater. This effort would be led by County Staff and a local citizen safety group. The grant would provide funding for marketing driver safety and provide overtime funding for patrols.</p> <p>If awarded, the grant requires a 20% match from the County which can include in-kind match.</p>	<p>Requested Action: Approve grant request and authorize the Chair to sign the grant request letter to ODOT.</p>
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ATTACHMENTS:

Date: (1/05/24) Submitted By: Megan Davchevski, Planning Division Manager

*****For Internal Use Only*****

Checkoffs:

- () Dept. Head (copy)
- () Human Resources (copy)
- () Fiscal
- () Legal (copy)
- () (Other - List:)

To be notified of Meeting:
Megan Davchevski, Robert Waldher

Needed at Meeting:

Scheduled for meeting on: January 17, 2024

Action taken:

Follow-up:



Board of Commissioners

216 S. E. 4th Street
Pendleton, OR 97801
541-278-6204

Daniel N. Dorran
541-278-6201

John M. Shafer
541-278-6203

Celinda A. Timmons
541-278-6202

January 17, 2024

Oregon Department of Transportation
Attn: Billie-Jo Nickens
Via email

Subject: Education/Marketing Grant for OR Highway 11 near Milton-Freewater

Dear Billie-Jo,

Umatilla County Commissioners recognize that Oregon State Highway 11 in the Milton-Freewater area has recently experienced a large increase in vehicle crashes and fatalities. On December 13, 2023 Representative Greg Smith hosted a Town Hall Meeting for Milton-Freewater residents to voice concerns with Highway 11 to himself, County Commissioners, Oregon State Police, ODOT staff and other partners. The overarching goal for this corridor is to eliminate fatalities, reduce accidents, promote safety and educate drivers. Umatilla County has been coordinating with ODOT staff to identify solutions. While long-term solutions are on the horizon, the county would also like to pursue a short-term solution: marketing driver safety and education along the Highway 11 corridor.

The County Board of Commissioners is respectfully requesting to be the Lead Agency and requesting ODOT grant funding for marketing safe driving behaviors along Highway 11 and to fund overtime of Sheriff's Deputies for enforcement along Highway 11 in the following amounts:

First Year Marketing: \$20,000

First Year Sheriff's Office Overtime: \$10,000

Umatilla County will form a Highway 11 Safety Focus Group, to include Milton-Freewater residents and partner agencies to identify a formal marketing plan. We anticipate the plan will include billboard, radio, newspaper and social media advertisements. Overtime funding for the Sheriff's Deputies will increase enforcement presence along the corridor, which we believe will positively decrease poor driving behaviors including speeding, driving under the influence and distracted driving.

Umatilla County is committed to promote safety and change poor driving behaviors. The County Commissioners have identified a grant match utilizing the General Fund and in-kind match. We respectfully request a total of \$30,000 for the first year to increase Oregon Highway 11 Safety.

Respectfully,

John M. Shafer, Chair