



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST AND STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: October 27, 2025

SUBJECT: Update to the community roundabout art progress at US 20/OB Riley-Cook Avenue in Tumalo

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This is an informal presentation from stakeholders.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

In October of 2023 the BOCC received an update from a group of Tumalo area residents pursuing installation of a community themed decorative installation (artwork) within the roundabout at the intersection of US 20/OB Riley-Cook in Tumalo.

ODOT provides for art or other decorative installations via a permit issued to the corresponding local agency (city or county). Within the permit and corresponding IGA, ODOT requires the local agency (Deschutes County) to provide for installation, perpetual maintenance and indemnification. While ODOT has the final say on material types and installation, the determination of the artwork itself is a decision of the local agency.

In October 2023, the Board affirmed the requirements to the community stakeholders as a condition of the County accepting the liability and expense associated with any artwork installation within the roundabout. The stakeholders were advised by staff to prepare a proposal which:

1. Funds installation.
2. Funds or addresses perpetual maintenance.
3. Provides a community process for feedback on options and a consensus of what type of installation would be acceptable to the community.

To date, the stakeholders have completed the selection process, with robust community engagement and input (Item 3), have raised funds, and have established a non-profit entity (Tumalo Improvement Project) for installation and maintenance (Items 1 and 2).

Tumalo area craftsman Nathan Wismer (Nathan's Custom Wood and Steel), whose proposal was selected via the community process, is now spearheading the efforts to complete the installation. Mr. Wismer, and other community stakeholders will update the Board on progress at this work session.

Once the County has determined that sufficient progress has been made towards the funding and maintenance provisions required of the community group, staff can work with ODOT to prepare the IGA for Board approval.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

It is the goal and intent of this effort to see that community art and maintenance of the art is funded by the Tumalo Improvement Project. As required by ODOT, Deschutes County will ultimately be responsible to comply with the conditions of the IGA and any associated permitting, as well as indemnification of ODOT.

ATTENDANCE:

Nathan Wismer, Nathan's Custom Wood and Steel
Other community stakeholders