



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of **September 26, 2022**

Title/Subject

Umatilla River Bridge Report Acceptance

Summary and Background

The City's Transportation System Plan has shown two potential future bridges over the Umatilla River for the past 20 years. Those bridge locations would line up either with Elm Avenue, or Punkin Center Road. Due to the high cost of bridge construction and maintenance, it has never been assumed that both bridges would be built, but both options have been shown as potential locations.

In analyzing potential funding options for a future bridge, it was determined that the first step toward actually making a case for funding had to be selecting one preferred option. The City therefore engaged Anderson Perry & Associates, along with Kittleson & Associates, to develop high-level designs of potential bridges at both locations and analyze their impacts to the broader transportation system. Due to the needs for connection to Umatilla's South Hill, and broader impact to the County, Umatilla County contributed \$50,000 toward this analysis, and the City of Umatilla contributed \$30,000.

Anderson Perry will present a full explanation of their analysis to the Public Infrastructure Committee on September 26. A final component to the analysis is including consensus from the Cities of Hermiston and Umatilla and Umatilla County about which is the preferred bridge location.

There are many pros and cons to both potential locations, but ultimately I recommend going with the Punkin Center option because:

1. It is less expensive overall.
2. It is more scalable. If funds don't allow, this project could just tie in to River Road to start with and then extend up the hill to connect to Punkin Center in the future.
3. It is a more direct connection to I-82.
4. The usage and parcel sizes of land along this route west of the river lend themselves much more readily for development in the future.

5. It is twice as far north from the existing bridge at Highland than the Elm option; which truly creates a new connection point, rather than simply a redundant one.

Tie-In to Council Goals

Goal #5- Complete Alternative Route Transportation Study

Fiscal Information

This report will have no fiscal impact, but simply directs staff which option to focus future efforts on to obtain funding.

Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

1. Adopt MOU with City of Umatilla and Umatilla County
2. Amend MOU
3. Reject MOU

Recommended Action/Motion

Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the attached MOU.

Submitted By:

Mark Morgan