



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of February 9, 2026

Title/Subject

Resolution No. 2406: Umatilla River Bridge at Punkin Center Intergovernmental Agreement.

Summary

This resolution will approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Umatilla and Umatilla County for the planning, coordinating, and pursuing federal planning grant funding to the proposed Umatilla River Bridge Crossing.

Background

The City of Hermiston has included additional future bridge crossings of the Umatilla River on its adopted Transportation System Plan (TSP) since at least the 1990's. Future bridge locations shown on the TSP included a possible location as an extension of Elm Avenue, and one as an extension of Punkin Center. In recognition of the need to pick one or the other before moving on to other steps, the three partners commissioned a [Preliminary Engineering Report](#) (PER) to analyze the costs and benefits of each of the options at a high level. That 413 page report (available [HERE](#)) included significant traffic flow analysis from a regional perspective, and ultimately the partners agreed that the Punkin Center option is preferred.

The PER is, by definition, preliminary in nature, and while it does provide significant deep analysis, it is by no means a 'design.' Now, as the partners look toward the next step, an application is being made to the Federal Government for a BUILD planning grant to cover the cost of actual design work in order to result in a "30% Design." Having a 30% design will establish much more detail that will then allow decision makers the ability to make future determinations about moving forward, and sets this project up to realistically compete for state and federal grant funding for actual construction at some point in the future.

Tie-In to Council Goals

Goal 1- TRANSPORTATION: IMPROVE MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION

Goal 3- CITY FACILITIES: PUBLIC FACILITIES THAT MEET THE COMMUNITY NEEDS OF TODAY AND THE FUTURE

Fiscal Information

The total estimated all-in cost (including construction) in the PER for the Punkin Center bridge and all associated roadway improvements was approximately \$44 million in 2022.

Approval of this IGA expressly states that the IGA does not commit any of the partners to any costs associated with eventual construction.

This IGA is for the purpose of obtaining Federal Funding for just the 30% design.

Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

1. Approve Resolution No. 2406
2. Reject Resolution No. 2406
3. Table Resolution No. 2406

Recommended Action/Motion

Approve Resolution No. 2406

Submitted By:

Mark Morgan