



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council

STAFF REPORT

For the Meeting of August 26, 2024

Title/Subject

Umatilla County requests that a portion of W Gettman Road extending between SW 11th Street and the UPRR right of way be transferred from county to city jurisdiction.

Summary and Background

The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners have submitted a draft agreement requesting transfer of a portion of W Gettman Road from county to city jurisdiction. The area proposed for transfer extends eastward from the intersection of SW 11th Street (Highway 207) to the intersection with the UPRR right of way along the east property line of Armand Larive Middle School. This is a distance of approximately 2,250 feet. As shown on the attached maps, approximately 1,400 feet of W Gettman Road is entirely within the city limits and an additional 460 feet are adjacent to city limits on the north side of the road.

Transfer of road jurisdiction is addressed in the Hermiston Planning Area Joint Management Agreement. The current iteration of this agreement dates to 2017 and road transfers are addressed in Section 8 of the agreement. Generally, the city will not accept a county road within the UGB until the road is improved to city road standards (these standards include curb, gutter, sidewalk, paving, and drainage improvements). However, the agreement also contains a general provision where roads that do not meet city standards may be transferred if the area to be transferred is at least half a mile in length and 2/3 of the land is within the city. In this case, the land is less than half a mile in length (0.42 miles). However, there are mitigating circumstances which make a transfer more pressing. In this case, the Hermiston School District is subdividing land adjacent to W Gettman Road for the second phase of the Fieldstone Crossing student-built subdivision. The county's storm water management permit does not allow the county to operate and maintain urban drainage improvements such as drywells, which the city is requiring the school district to install.

The county will not allow installation of sidewalks on W Gettman Road and rebuilding of the existing curb and gutter, unless the city accepts jurisdiction of the road. The alternative which complies with the county's stormwater management practices would require the construction of drainage ditches and no sidewalk. The city feels that preservation of pedestrian safety for school access is of higher importance. Therefore, the city staff is willing to recommend the council make an exception to the agreement and accept jurisdiction at this time.

If the council is willing to accept jurisdiction, the county will schedule a public hearing on transfer of jurisdiction and forward a road order back to the city for adoption by resolution.

Tie-In to Council Goals

N/A

Fiscal Information

Transfer of jurisdiction of 2,250 feet of roadway to the city will increase the city's overall road maintenance obligations. The road will henceforth require regular sweeping and maintenance.

Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

The council may choose to agree or reject the proposed intergovernmental agreement submitted by Umatilla County.

Recommended Action/Motion

Staff recommends that the city council accept the proposed agreement.

Submitted By:

Clint Spencer, Planning Director

Mark Morgan, Assistant City Manager