

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year

City of John Day Newsletter

December 31, 2010

City of John Day applies for ODOT Transportation Enhancement Grant

The City of John Day is seeking a state transportation grant to dramatically remake sections of Main Street and Canyon Boulevard to improve safety, enhance business opportunities, and attract more visitors.

The proposed Transportation Enhancement program grant would be used to relocate existing overhead utility lines to underground facilities and replace deteriorating sidewalks. We are proposing a two phase project; phase 1 will be from Main Street US 26 south to SW 2nd Ave., on S. Canyon Blvd., US 395 on both sides of the street. Phase 2 will consist of both sides of Main Street from the Canyon Creek Bridge east to Elm Street on Main Street US 26.

Existing deteriorated curbs and sidewalks, and poor street lighting makes pedestrian travel and ADA accessibility difficult in the downtown area. Local and visitor traffic is constant through our community and the need to slow down traffic, provide a safe place for pedestrians and make our community an attractive place to stop and spend dollars is vital to our survival.

Transportation Enhancement grant continues on back

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Visit our website at www.cityofjohnday.com; send us your comments at grayp@grantcounty-or.gov.

Fire Station Update

The City proposes to construct a new fire station that will house the John Day Volunteer Fire Department and the John Day Rural Fire District with good access and parking and meeting all OSHA and ADA requirements. The current fire station was built as a temporary structure in the 1950s; does not meet OSHA requirements; and does not meet seismic standards for public safety building in order to provide for continuity of operations.

Last spring the City of John Day sent out a request for proposals (RFP) seeking an engineer-architect consultant for the planning and design of a new fire station. The City received five proposals, interviewed the top three candidates and selected BBT Architects of Bend. Since that time the City has been in negotiations with BBT; BBT is in the process of developing a draft contract for legal review and Council approval.

During this time, the Citizens Fire Advisory Committee has been meeting and upon recommendation from the Citizens Advisory Committee a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the John Day Rural Fire District has been drafted and sent to our city attorney for legal review. The MOU will not be a legal binding document but will be a signed document showing that both entities (the City and the Rural Fire District) support the construction of the new fire station. Once the project construction cost is determined, another document will be prepared that would be binding for both entities defining the financial obligations of both.

Once a contract and MOU are approved; BBT Architects will begin meeting with the Citizen's Fire Advisory Committee. Public meetings and open houses will be scheduled as soon as possible. For more information go to www.cityofjohnday.com and click on John Day Fire Department – Fire Hall.

Would you like to become a volunteer fire fighter?
Please contact Fire Chief Ron Smith for more information at 541-575-0028

The numerous wooden utility poles supporting overhead lines, old highway style “cobra-head” light fixtures and poles, and the deteriorated sidewalk conditions detracts from the overall appearance of downtown, and adversely impacts local community and visitor patronage, as well as economic development of the downtown area.

This project will provide a base and foundation for sidewalk connectivity throughout the City. The project will benefit motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and will connect the downtown, commercial and residential districts south to the local schools providing safer travel for our children.

Recent efforts by the community and its citizens have also seen the development and adoption of a John Day Local Street Network Plan (2009). This Plan is a comprehensive plan that is intended to provide guidance for the development of a connected local street network and new bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The City has just recently updated its Development Code through a Technical Assistance Grant from DLCD; the purpose of the code update was to achieve increased efficiency in land use permitting, within the bounds of State law.

The City has sent in a pre-application for a Transportation Growth Management (TGM) grant to conduct an economic analysis of the downtown area. This project, if approved, would help local businesses, entrepreneurs, developers, and economic development professionals understand the changing marketplace and identify business and real estate development opportunities that are realistic and make sense for our community.

The City of John Day would like to form partnerships with the private sector, Grant County Economic Council, Grant County Resource and Enhancement Team (GREAT), Grant County Chamber of Commerce, and anyone interested in economic development, to develop a John Day Business Revitalization Plan in an effort to strengthen our community’s existing assets while expanding and diversifying its economic base. We want to turn the skeptics into believers and shift public perceptions and practices to support and sustain the revitalization process by developing a long-term business revitalization plan.

City staff has been instructed by the John Day City Council to send a letter of intent to the Oregon Main Street Program. The primary emphasis of the Oregon

Exploring Downtown Program is to provide technical assistance to communities exploring options for downtown revitalization.

All of these projects are directly connected to the Transportation Enhancement grant and supports the efforts of the citizens of John Day that downtown revitalization is an investment in our community.

If you would like to help support these efforts, please contact Les Zaitz of the Grant County Economic Council to find out how you can help. He can be reached at (541) 421-3031 or granteconomiccouncil@gmail.com

The public comment period for the Transportation Enhancement program opened December 17, 2010. If you would like to comment on the City of John Day’s application, there is an on-line comment process which is accessible at the ODOT local Government Section website. Comments are open until January 28, 2010. The web site address is: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/LGS/>.

Snow and Ice Removal on City Sidewalks

In the event of snowfall, property owners and residents are reminded that a City of John Day Ordinance requires you to clear snow and ice from the sidewalk in front of your premises. Please remember your elderly or handicapped neighbors who would appreciate your assistance with snow removal.

The City will make every effort to keep major arterial and collector streets open and to clear snow from as many downtown streets as possible.

The cooperation of all property owners and residents in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Burn Permits Required

Remember that all burn barrel permits expire on December 31, 2010. Burning permits are required for all outside burning. You may pick up burn permits at John Day City Hall Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. or at the John Day Dispatch Center after hours and on weekends. Please call 541-575-0028 for more information.