

Bids rejected for Long Prairie Road/U.S. 101 project

Bids for the Long Prairie Road/U.S. 101 Intersection Improvement Project were opened at County Public Works last week. Two bids were received. Engineer's construction estimate for the project was \$900,236. Low bid from Conway Construction was \$1,235,959.50 (or a 37 percent increase over the engineer's estimate). The project is 100 percent funded by an Oregon Transportation Investment Act grant awarded in 2002, complemented by additional ODOT funds.

The low bid is not within the current grant budget to award a contract. As such, staff recommended that the commissioners not award the project at this time. An order rejecting the project bids was approved by the county commissioners June 6.

The county still wants to do the project, as it addresses a significant traffic capacity issue on Long Prairie Road entering U.S. 101. In the meantime, the county will pursue additional project funds for a possible project re-bid in the future. Additional funds being considered include Economic Community Development grant funds.