

# Johnson Bridge project delayed for year

TILLAMOOK — Bids for the Johnson Bridge Replacement Project on Long Prairie Road over the Trask River, were opened Feb 21, however a shortage of funds on hand means all bids will be rejected and the project delayed for a year until additional state money is available for the project.

The County Road Advisory Committee and county staff reviewed the bids received and the current funding status. The low bid for the project, in addition to money already spent on five other grant-related bridge projects, was determined to be \$233,000 greater than total available grant funds awarded to the county (including earned interest).

The recommendation to the Board of Commissioners was that the county did not have

adequate funds in hand at this time to award a contract. The Oregon Department of Transportation Local Agency Bridge Selection Committee, which sets funding policy for Oregon Transportation Infrastructure Act (OTIA) grants, recently indicated that Tillamook County would be eligible for future additional funds to address project inflation.

However, those additional needed funds could not be guaranteed to arrive when needed for the bridge project.

Commissioners decided last week to reject all bids and look to re-bidding the bridge project next winter when additional funds are guaranteed to be available.

The Johnson Bridge has weight restrictions for heavy hauling traffic due to cracking in its concrete structure.

County Public Works has

pointed out, though, that there may be impacts related to waiting another year for the project. These include:

- An additional cost for a consultant engineer, related to revision of bid documents and other expenses related to second bid process.
- Inflationary costs.
- Extension of environmental permits.
- Unknown changes in on-site conditions.
- Depending on additional funding, the county may opt not to include a detour alternative with the next bid advertisement. That decision is not expected to be made until just prior to the next bid advertisement.

Johnson Bridge is the sixth of six bridge projects in the county covered by an OTIA grant.