



Wood River Trail Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Frequently Asked Questions February 2013

How many visits are there each year on the Wood River Trail?

Recent trail count studies completed in 2012 estimate more than 300,000 annual visits by locals and visitors to the Wood River Trail path running from Bellevue to north of Ketchum.

What is the path used for?

The path is operated and managed by the Blaine County Recreation District as an open, active non-motorized recreation corridor in all seasons of the year. Uses include biking, hiking, running, equestrian access, rollerblading, and cross country skiing.

How old is the Wood River Trail?

The first sections of the Wood River Trail were constructed in 1984. The path on average is 25-30 years of age.

What is wrong with the path?

The trail is swiftly reaching the end of a normal 25-30 year life cycle where more significant reconstruction and resurfacing must be considered to ensure the next 25-30 year cycle. Key distresses to the asphalt increase safety risks and include transverse cracking, alligator cracking, longitudinal cracking, potholes from root protrusion, shrinkage cracking, and deficient drainage.

What is the Wood River Trail Rehabilitation Project?

This project is the recommended set of treatments based on engineering analysis of the path & proposed by the BCRD Board of Directors primarily on the asphalt surface itself to restore the path by most efficiently reusing much of the materials in place, or alternatively, we could wait a few years and likely expect a much more involved and expensive rehabilitation process.

Why do we need a levy?

The BCRD manages and maintains the path every year utilizing funds from its existing, annual levy in the county from property tax contributions. These existing funds finance annual maintenance of the path for activities like crack filling, seal coating, weed mitigation, etc. The costs of more significant reconstruction and rehabilitation associated with a path nearing the end of its life cycle are more significant.

Why now?

A normal life cycle for a paved multi use path of this type is 30 years or less. This assessment places the path right on the precipice of a trend that marks the transition from a linear

decline over time to a more exponential decline over time. Now is the time to reconstruct before the path deteriorates more rapidly and requires a more extensive and costly fix.

When will the levy be voted on?

The special levy election is scheduled for a vote on May 21, 2013 of the current year.

How much will the proposed levy raise?

The proposed additional levy would total \$3.5 million, amounting to \$1.75 million per year for two years. This cost is based on engineering estimates of the recommended project provided by galena Engineering with additional inputs on current costs for path reconstruction provided by local service providers.

What will it cost an average household in the community?

Based on Blaine County 2012 calculated total taxable value, this cost is estimated at about \$21 per \$100,000 of taxable value per year for two years.

If successful, how long would the additional levy be in place?

If the additional levy is successful, it would be in place for a period of two years.

What does the levy need to pass?

The additional levy would need a simple majority of more than 50% support to pass.

What exactly would the levy fund?

The project would focus on every major section of the Wood River Trail from Bellevue to Hulén Meadows and include a combination of a recycling/resurfacing approach called "RABS" (Recycled Asphalt Base Stabilization) combined with targeted asphalt repair/replacement & base repair.

Would this levy be in addition to the current annual levy to the BCRD?

Yes, the proposed additional levy would be in addition to the existing annual levy for a period of two years and then conclude.

When would the project and construction begin and end?

If the measure is passed, the construction is targeted to begin in the summer of 2014 and be finished in the summer of 2015.

How would construction affect my use of the Trail?

All construction and rehabilitation efforts would be scheduled to safely minimize user impacts as much as possible over the two-year period and be coordinated with potential neighboring projects. The key strategy would be to design and educate the public about targeted rerouting plans around resurfacing areas during the time they are being rehabilitated.

How will the Wood River Trail be maintained once the rehabilitation is completed?

The BCRD plans to continue its annual maintenance responsibilities that will most effectively extend the reconstruction and resurfacing work. Those activities include annual seal coating,

crack filling, weed mitigation etc.

What kind of accountability is there to ensure the funds are used wisely?

The board of the BCRD is an elected body of officials who would oversee and be accountable to the public for the effective and fiscally responsible execution of these funds for this project.

Who will do the work?

Pending community support, the BCRD would initiate a public bidding process for work to begin in summer of 2014 and conclude in 2015, and those bids would be reviewed by the Board of Directors of the BCRD.

How can I learn more?

More information is available at www.bcrd.org under the “Wood River Trail Reconstruction & Rehabilitation” link. The BCRD can also be reached at 208 578 2273 with any additional questions. The BCRD is also In the process of scheduling public meetings for the month of April to present the proposed project and gather public feedback and input.