

**COUNTY OF SONOMA
AGENDA ITEM
SUMMARY REPORT**

Clerk of the Board Use Only
Meeting Date _____ Held Until _____
Agenda Item No: _____ Agenda Item No: _____

Department: Transportation and Public Works

[] **4/5 Vote Required**

Contact:
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Board Date:
08/04/09

Deadline for Board Action:

Agenda Short Title:

Strategic Plan Goal 5: Bridge Replacement Plan (ID#48); Project Deliverable A – Develop a priority list for bridges requiring upgrades, and new bridges projects that do not require upgrades.

Requested Board Action:

1. Accept the 2009 Bridge Report prepared by the Department of Transportation and Public Works.
2. Direct staff to return to the Board in Spring 2010 to consider options for additional funding.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES

ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL

Estimated Cost \$ -0-

Contingencies \$
(Fund Name:)

Amount Budgeted \$

Unanticipated Revenue \$
(Source:)

Other Avail. Approp
(Explain below) \$

Other Transfer(s) \$ _____
\$

Additional Requested \$ -0-

Add'l Funds Requested:

Explanation (if required):

Prior Board Action(s): 07/18/08: Approval of Sonoma County Strategic Plan Implementation; 05/13/08: Approval of TPW Management Audit, Phase I Implementation Plan; 12/11/07: Approval of Sonoma County Strategic Plan; 12/04/07: Approval of Transportation and Public Works Management Audit

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval: Without Board acceptance of this report, the County will not be addressing an identified strategic goal nor will the County be in compliance with the implementation plan schedule.

Background:

One out of four bridges in America today is rated structurally deficient or functionally obsolete and needs major improvements ranging from deck replacements to complete reconstruction. More than a fourth of all bridges nationwide are more than 50 years of age, which is the average design life of a bridge. The cost to eliminate the backlog of existing bridge deficiencies nationwide is approximately \$78 billion.

In Sonoma County, our bridge and road infrastructure is critical to the state's economic and social health. The rural character of our county is particularly evident when we look at the bridge infrastructure within the boundaries of our county. There are a total of 631 bridges, of which 330 (49%) are outside urban areas. These rural bridges provide important linkages between communities and the state transportation system.

On December 11, 2007, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors approved the County's first ever strategic plan. Goal 5 of the plan aims to proactively address the failing road and bridge infrastructure so that it can be maintained and operated to provide safe, reliable, and accessible movement of people and goods throughout the county. The attached report is intended to address the issues identified within the strategic plan and to provide a priority listing of Sonoma County bridges for replacement, rehabilitation, and repair. The report catalogues the current condition of Sonoma County's 330 bridges and prioritizes those projects based upon current needs.

The estimated cost to address the identified 15 priority projects is \$83 million in today's dollars. Given the complexity of the design, permitting, and building process, it is not unusual to take 15-20 years to complete a bridge. By the time a priority bridge can be constructed, the price tag will have more than doubled. The estimated cost to address all 330 bridges, whether through replacement, repair, or general maintenance, is \$500 million expressed in today's dollars.

Finding funding remains a constant challenge which the Transportation and Public Works Department (Department) hopes to address by continuing to aggressively pursue competitive grants, and by exploring other potential revenue sources, to pay for the repair and upkeep of our bridges.

Recommendation:

1. Accept the 2009 Bridge Report prepared by the Department of Transportation and Public Works.
2. Direct staff to return the Board in Spring 2010 to consider options for additional funding.

Attachments: 2009 Sonoma County Bridge Report

On File With Clerk:

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:
