

# CITY of LA GRANDE

## City Council Work Session/Virtual Town Hall

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

6:00 p.m.

### AGENDA

The meeting will be shown live on Charter Communications channel 180, on the La Grande Alive website at <https://eoalive.tv/city-events/> and on the Eastern Oregon Alive.TV Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/EOAliveTV>. The public can make comments or ask questions during the Townhall using the comments feature on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/EOAliveTV>.

*The purpose of a Work Session is to provide an opportunity to informally discuss topics of common concern and interest and to exchange ideas with Staff, not to make decisions or to direct Staff toward a specific action or conclusion beyond identifying additional information the Council would like to have presented at a later date. As no decisions are made, there will be no voting at the Work Session. This Work Session topic will require official action, and will become an action (voting) item on an upcoming Regular Session Agenda, tentatively set for Wednesday, October 5, 2022. In accordance with the Oregon Public Meetings Law, Council Work Sessions are open to the public; however, in order to make efficient use of time, the City Council is encouraging the public to submit their comments/questions in advance to [ARPA@cityoflagrande.org](mailto:ARPA@cityoflagrande.org). During the Work Session/Virtual Town Hall, the public can make comments/ask questions using the comments feature on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/EOAliveTV> or by email to [ARPA@cityoflagrande.org](mailto:ARPA@cityoflagrande.org). **All questions and comments received during the Work Session, including any emails received in advance, will be reviewed during the Public Comments segment.***

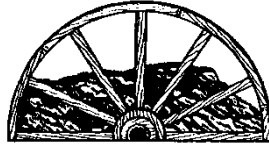
*Per ORS 192.670(1), Councilors may be participating in this Work Session by electronic communication.*

1. **CALL to ORDER** 6:00 p.m.  
~ Stephen E. Clements, Mayor
2. **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDING OVERVIEW**  
~ Robert A. Strobe, City Manager
3. **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDING PROPOSAL PRESENTATION**  
~ Kyle Carpenter, Public Works Director: Street Projects and Eastside Housing Infrastructure  
~ Gary Bell, Police Chief: Land Acquisition—Future Police Station Site  
~ Emmitt Cornford, Fire Chief: Wildland Fire Engine Purchase  
~ Timothy Bishop, Economic Development Director: Downtown Revitalization Plan Implementation and Destination Retail Development  
~ Stu Spence, Parks and Recreation Department Director: Recreation Center
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS** (please limit your comments/questions to 3 minutes)  
~ Stephen E. Clements, Mayor  
~ Robert A. Strobe, City Manager
  - a. Sharing of emails received prior to the Work Session
  - b. Online public comments/questions
  - c. Additional public comments
5. **PROJECT PRIORITIZATION**  
~ Stephen E. Clements, Mayor
  - a. City Council discussion of priority ranking of all projects based on input (\$3.022 million available)
  - b. City Council consensus on ranked priority list of project funding to be considered for approval at the October Regular Session
6. **ADJOURN** 8:00 p.m.

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Stacey M. Stockhoff  
Acting City Recorder

*Persons requiring special accommodations who wish to participate in the Work Session are encouraged to make arrangements prior to the meeting by calling 541-962-1309. The City of La Grande does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities*



CITY of LA GRANDE  
THE HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Robert Strobe, City Manager

DATE: September 9, 2022

RE: ARPA Work Session and Virtual Town Hall

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Attached are the emails and letters received regarding the use of ARPA funds to date. We will summarize these during the Work Session and will share any additional emails during the Work Session. Also attached is the revised presentation that has the projects presented in order of the priorities as identified in your last Work Session (by department). We have consolidated the street projects in an effort to save time during the meeting.

## Robert Strope

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**From:** linda.louise.hill@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 3:20 PM  
**To:** Robert Strope  
**Subject:** Projects funded by American Rescue Plan

**STOP and VERIFY - This message came from outside of the City of La Grande.**

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Hi Robert,

I read today's article in The Observer regarding proposed projects to be funded by the American Rescue Plan and the council's desire to hear comments from the public. I was pleased to see that the council was looking at infrastructure projects. The project that is needed the most is the reconstruction of 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Second would be improvement to 12<sup>th</sup> Street between Gekeler and Washington.

Thank you, Linda Hill

## Robert Strobe

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**From:** robnsnst@eoni.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 2:31 PM  
**To:** Robert Strobe  
**Subject:** grant money

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Mr. Strobe,

I am writing this to say that I support the use of the money for road repair. In my opinion, all of the money should be used for road repair.

By doing this, the money saved from not doing the on going patching program, can be used for other programs. Patching is a waste of time and money and only lasts a year at best!

Thank you for your consideration,

Jack Boyd

110 Walnut St.

La Grande

10506 I Avenue  
Island City, Oregon 97850  
August 31, 2022


City Manager  
City of La Grande  
1000 Adams Avenue  
La Grande, Oregon 97850

Dear City Council Members:

In a news article carried in the La Grande Observer, titled "What to do with \$3 Million," I would like to offer an additional suggestion for your consideration.

Recently, the building for the Warming Station was sold, and there is no place for those individuals to sleep for the night. The Methodist Church was giving consideration for the site, but there were issues with bathrooms, and pumps within the church. Since I consider the issue both a county and city problem, I would submit that some of the funding be used for a warming center. The committee to run the facility is still functional, and the rules and regulations are still in tact. The funds could be used to purchase a building, and make structural changes as needed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
  
Gerald Hopkins

## Robert Strobe

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**From:** Contact form at La Grande, OR <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 1, 2022 10:32 AM  
**To:** Robert Strobe  
**Subject:** [La Grande, OR] ARPA Funds (Sent by Allen Evans, allenevans53@gmail.com)

**STOP and VERIFY - This message came from outside of the City of La Grande.**

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Hello rstrobe,

Allen Evans ([allenevans53@gmail.com](mailto:allenevans53@gmail.com)) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.cityoflagrande.org/user/231/contact>) at La Grande, OR.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.cityoflagrande.org/user/231/edit>.

Message:

I urge you and the Council to use ALL of the ARPA funds to fix the city streets. It is the only use of the funds that will benefit everyone in town. Developing a "Christmas wish list" from all the department heads is nice, but if that approach is taken the funds will be spread across too many smaller projects, effectively meaning none of them will be well-funded. Three million dollars will not fix every street issue, but it will make a major impact that will benefit everyone.



## Robert Strope

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**From:** Michael Rosenbaum <m.r.rosetree@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 2, 2022 11:40 AM  
**To:** Robert Strope  
**Subject:** ARPA Funds & La Grande Wildfire Preparedness & Communication to Citizens

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09.02.2022

To Robert Strope, City Manager, La Grande, OR:

Thank you for your phone call of August 30th. Pursuant to our conversation I would suggest La Grande commit funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to prepare the city for wildfire intrusion & communicating to all residents these plans & actions. Additionally I would ask that work begin after the new Council & Mayor are in office & well in advance of fire season 2023. The safety & security of citizens I know is the top priority of government.

I would like to offer ideas for implementing wildfire intrusion planning & means of communication to all residents:

A. Establish with the US Postal Service Postmaster, La Grande, a means of mailing an explanatory brochure detailing to all residents La Grande's emergency plans in case of disaster, specifically wildfire.

B. Constitute through Council appointment a stand-alone committee/commission comprised of residents, law enforcement, representatives from fire agencies, a Council member & a Union County representative. The task would be to establish emergency procedures including evacuation routes, alternatives to cell phone in case of damage to towers, means to access primary up-to-the-minute information on wildfire activity & intrusion, alternatives for care should the hospital be damaged, provision for evacuees' shelter & meals, etc.

Expenses incurred would be preparation & printing of brochures, mailing costs, paid time for employees, unforeseen expenses.

I hope you & Council will look favorably on the above & please feel free to communicate with me via phone or email any ideas on implementing La Grande's wildfire preparation & if I can be of service to the City. Thank you.

Best,  
Michael R. Rosenbaum  
541 962 5565 (cell)  
541 963 4828 (home)  
[m.r.rosetree@gmail.com](mailto:m.r.rosetree@gmail.com)  
1402 1st St.  
City

## Robert Strobe

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**From:** Matt Cooper <mcooperpiano@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 6, 2022 11:19 AM  
**To:** Robert Strobe  
**Subject:** ARPA funding suggestions

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Greetings Bob,

My suggestion for using the \$2 million would be to use it for street improvements. Many of La Grande's city streets, as you know, are in very poor condition. It's a safety issue for pedestrians and cyclists, and drivers have to skirt around potholes—creating more safety issues.

Another related area is snow removal in the winter; maybe some funds could be set aside for that. Snow removal begins too late—after streets are a cream of wheat mess, and the ensuing snow floor after plows do make it out is very slick, even with the occasional gravel.

In summary, I think making the city streets more safe and navigable would be a good use of these funds.

Regards,

Matt Cooper

Sent from my iPhone



## Stacey Stockhoff

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**From:** Michael Gregory <gregorym@eou.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 7, 2022 10:23 AM  
**To:** ARPA@cityoflagrande.org  
**Subject:** American Rescue Act Plan Act Funding Feedback

**STOP and VERIFY - This message came from outside of the City of La Grande**

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To City Manager Strope and The La Grande City Council:

I'd like to provide some input regarding usage of funds from the Rescue Act Grant. I would like to advocate for the renovation of 16th street. This street has become a busy street for cars and pedestrians traveling from the south side of La Grande to Adams Avenue. It is narrow, full of potholes and provides only a short stretch of sidewalk. The city has filled potholes from time to time, but these temporary fixes do not last. As we know from the recent tragedy, there are critical safety issues for pedestrians.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input,

Sincerely,

1

Mike Gregory

--  
Michael S Gregory  
2008 Aries Lane  
541-965-1653  
[gregorym@eou.edu](mailto:gregorym@eou.edu)

2

# American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

## Agenda

- \* **ARPA FUNDING OVERVIEW**

- \* **FUNDING PROPOSAL PRESENTATION**

- \* *Presentation of Projects by Department Directors*

- \* **PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

- \* *Sharing of emails received prior to the Work Session*
- \* *Online public comments/questions*
- \* *Additional public comments*

- \* **PROJECT PRIORITIZATION**

- \* *City Council discussion of priority ranking of all projects based on input (\$3.022 million available)*
- \* *City Council consensus on ranked priority list of project funding to be considered for approval at the October Regular Session*

# American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

## Overview

- \* The City of La Grande received \$3.023 million and elected the “standard allowance” which allows the City to consider the full amount as “Revenue Loss.”
- \* Revenue Loss funds can be used for any governmental purpose.
- \* All ARPA funds must be obligated not later than December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026.

# American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Project Presentations

**~ Kyle Carpenter, Public Works Director:**

**Street Projects**

**Eastside Housing Infrastructure**

**~ Gary Bell, Police Chief:**

**Land Acquisition—Future Police Station Site**

**~ Emmitt Cornford, Fire Chief:**

**Wildland Fire Engine Purchase**

**~ Timothy Bishop, Economic Development Director:**

**Downtown Revitalization Plan Implementation**

**Destination Retail Development**

**~ Stu Spence, Parks and Recreation Department Director:**

**Recreation Center**

# Street Projects

- \* Street projects selected for this funding opportunity are either an arterial or a collector classification, which are used by more vehicles. These types of projects tend to be larger and require much of our yearly street maintenance budget. Using ARPA funding for these roads will free up funds and allow for more small projects to be done over the next several years.
- \* There are two types of projects proposed: Grind and Inlay and Overlay
  - \* Grind and Inlay Project: Consists of grinding the existing pavement surface down to a specified depth and inlaying new pavement to restore the roadway grades.
  - \* Overlay Project: Consists of placing a new layer of pavement over the top of the existing pavement section.
  - \* **Total Project Cost: \$2,768,850 (all projects)**

# Street Projects

Work Session Rating	Project Roadway	From	To	Type of Project	Est. Cost	Staff Rating
1	16th Street	Gekeler	Washington	Overlay	\$ 222,750	1
2	12th Street	Washington	G	Grind and Inlay	\$ 392,000	4
3	N Avenue	4th	Washington	Grind and Inlay	\$ 324,700	8
4	Willow Street	Cove	East L	Overlay	\$ 168,750	5
5	Division Avenue	Union	North 4th	Overlay	\$ 303,000	10
6	Walnut Street	N	Adams	Grind and Inlay	\$ 289,000	2
7	6th Street	K	C	Overlay	\$ 281,250	3
8	Monroe Avenue	Fir	Railroad	Overlay	\$ 175,500	6
9	Harrison Avenue	Columbia	North Cedar	Overlay	\$ 225,000	11
10	East L Avenue	Willow	25th	Overlay	\$ 247,500	9
11	Alder Street	K	N	Grind and Inlay	\$ 139,400	7



# Proposed Project Locations



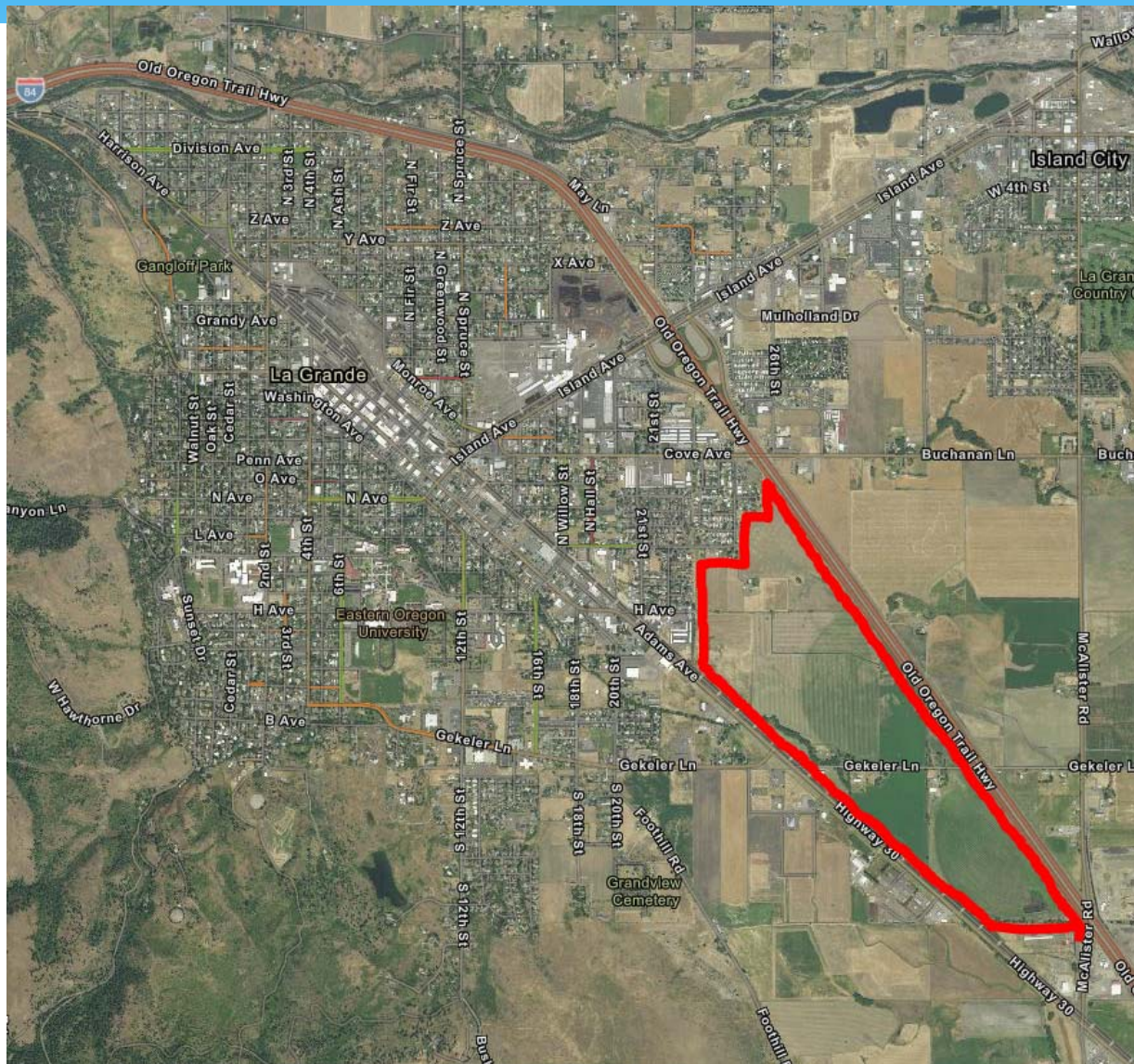


# Eastside Housing Water and Sewer Infrastructure

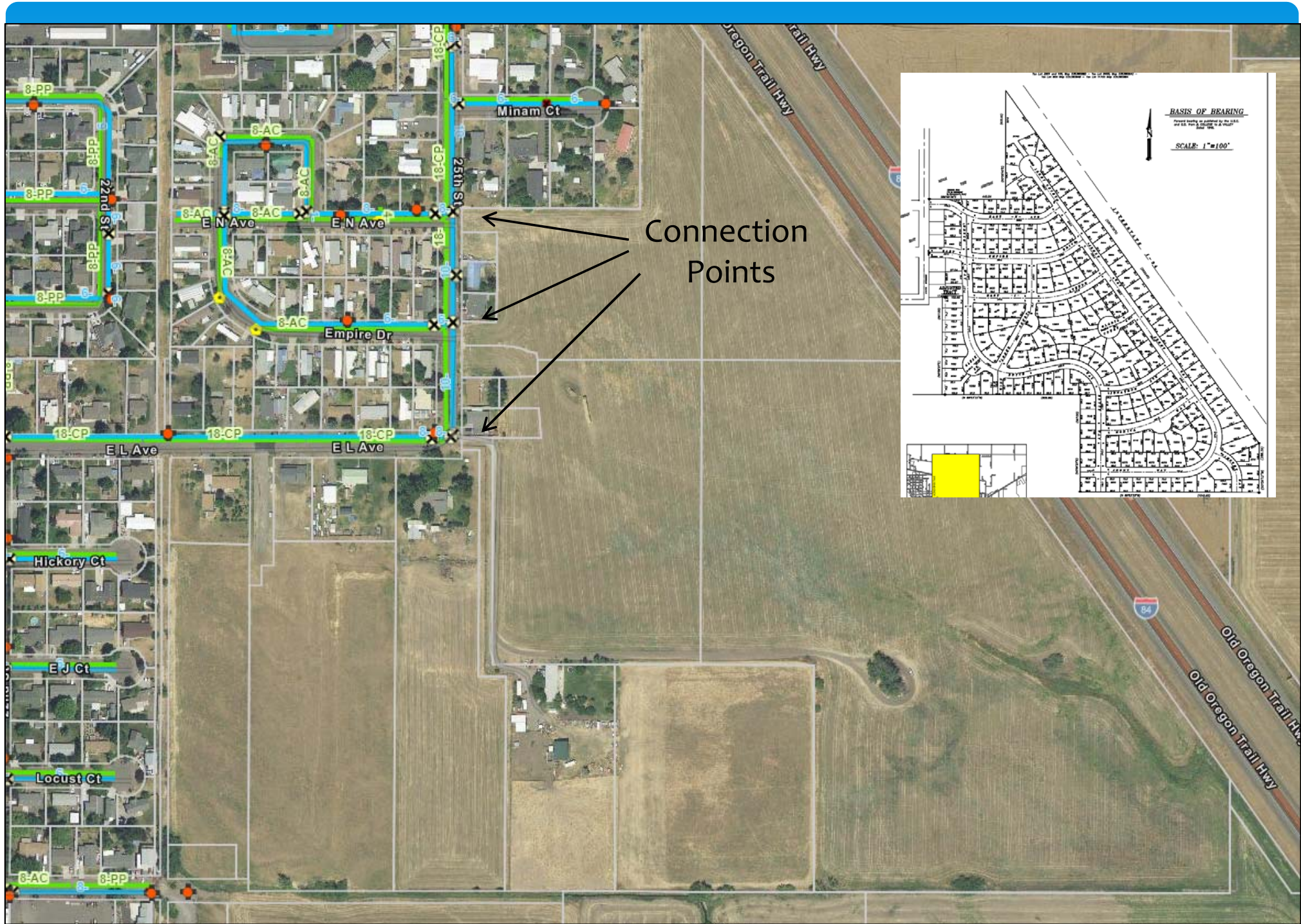
# Project Description

- \* Project would construct the primary distribution network required to bring City water and sewer services to the border of future proposed housing developments. The infrastructure would close the gap for development of getting services to the property and limit required infrastructure for new developments to the distribution network within the proposed development.
- \* **Total Project Cost: \$1,500,000**

# Project Location







# Land Acquisition—Future Police Station

- \* This funding would secure property for a future police station as a first step, like the model that was used when we acquired property prior to building our new fire station.
- \* Currently there is not an established plan or timeline for the funding or construction of the police station.
- \* Based on current construction costs and the size and scope of the project, we estimate the City would need \$3 to \$5 million to complete the project.
- \* Potential project funding options include a voter approved bond measure, Urban Renewal, a lease-purchase agreement, and grants.
- \* **Total Project Cost: ARPA Request \$650,000 land only (estimated \$3 to \$5 million construction cost)**



# Wildland Engine Purchase

- \* The addition of a wildland engine would allow for better protection of the wildland interface areas of and around La Grande. The interface areas continue to increase with new homes being built every year along the south and west boundaries of La Grande, including automatic aid to LGRFPD in the Morgan lake area. Wildfires generally cover a wide geographical area and have access issues that only wildland engines can address. The addition of the engine would also make the response to conflagrations possible, depending on staffing and local conditions.
- \* **Total Project Cost: \$155,000**

# Downtown Revitalization Plan Implementation

- \* Funding support for La Grande Main Street to implement revitalization activities outlined in the 2017 Main Street Refresh report. This plan outlines strategic objectives and activities in each of the four points of the Main Street Approach that are still relevant and achievable. ARPA funds will help fund new projects and activities to advance the goals outlined in the plan. Main Street will identify a specific scope of work for implementation of key activities, with measurable goals and objectives for Councils approval prior to funding disbursement. The request is for \$50,000 annually for a 3-year implementation.
- \* **Total Project Cost: \$150,000**



# Destination Retail Development

- \* Collaborative effort to strengthen La Grande Retail businesses by creating stronger more resilient businesses able to better capture existing retail leakage and create multiple destination retail experiences that can draw customers from throughout the region.
- \* ARPA funds would be used to partner with 12 existing La Grande retail businesses to attend Jon Schallert's Destination Business Bootcamp followed by Community Reinvention training in La Grande.
- \* **Total Project Cost: \$30,000**

An architectural rendering of a large, modern recreation center. The space is a multi-level gymnasium with a polished wooden floor. Several basketball hoops are mounted on the ceiling. In the background, there are bleachers and a counter area labeled 'THE CAFE'. People are shown walking and playing basketball on the court. The title 'Recreation Center' is overlaid in white text on the top half of the image.

# Recreation Center

- \* Preliminary design includes the construction of a steel building shell with at least two gymnasiums, multi-purpose rooms, restrooms/locker rooms.
- \* The building would serve as a multi-purpose community and sports event center and include after school programs, recreation classes, special events, and more. Rental and user fees revenues would increase general fund support, but likely not break even.
- \* **Total Project Cost: ARPA Request \$2 Million (estimated \$3 to 5 Million construction cost)**

# American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Public Comments

- \* Sharing of emails received prior to the Work Session*
- \* Online public comments/questions*
- \* Additional public comments*

*(Once this segment is concluded no further public comments will be entertained at this Work Session. Additional Public Comments will be entertained at the City Council Regular Session when the funding decision will be made.)*

# American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Council Project Prioritization

- \* City Council discussion of priority ranking of all projects based on input (\$3.022 million available)*
- \* City Council consensus on ranked priority list of project funding to be considered for approval at the October Regular Session*