

Hermiston

Urban Renewal Agency
www.hermiston.or.us/ura

Dr. David Drotzmann
Director

Hermiston Urban Renewal Agency Sends Draft Plan to Affected Taxing Districts Public hearing set for August 12, 2013

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hermiston, Ore. – The Hermiston Urban Renewal Agency voted Monday to forward the Draft Downtown Urban Renewal Plan and the Draft Downtown Urban Renewal Report to the taxing entities which would be affected if an Urban Renewal District is created in the city. Any recommendations made by the taxing entities can be accepted, modified or rejected by the Hermiston City Council when it holds a public hearing on the plan August 12. The drafts of the plan and report are available on the City of Hermiston website at www.hermiston.or.us/ura.

The Hermiston City Council approved the development of a Downtown Urban Renewal Plan in December when a feasibility report indicated that an Urban Renewal District could generate between \$2.5 million and \$4.5 million in revenue to pay for improvements. The City Council created an Urban Renewal District Planning Advisory Committee (URD-PAC) to make recommendations on district boundaries and potential projects to revitalize Hermiston's downtown commercial core. URD-PAC members worked throughout the Spring to develop project ideas and presented those ideas at several community forums throughout May and June before finalizing the list of proposed projects June 13.

The proposed list of projects includes grant money to property owners to spur façade improvements, development of a plaza space in the downtown to attract people to spend time there, and many other projects outlined on the project website. The total cost of the projects is estimated at \$2.5 million. The revenue to pay for the projects does not come from a new tax, instead the district diverts any additional revenue created by new property value into the District, rather than going to existing taxing entities. Copies of the Urban Renewal Plan and Report are available at www.hermiston.or.us/ura.

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The City of Hermiston is a vibrant, and growing community of nearly 17,000 residents located at the cross-roads of the Pacific Northwest. Located near the intersection of Interstate 84 and Interstate 82, just minutes from a Columbia River port and the Washington state line, Hermiston is capitalizing on its strategic location as a transportation center and gateway to Oregon. To learn more about the exciting future of Eastern Oregon's largest city, go to www.hermiston.or.us.