

## Stephens, Jesse

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**To:** Stephens, Jesse  
**Subject:** Communication with Boone County Legislators Regarding Funding Opportunities

Dear Board of Trustees,

Through the help of the Boone County Commission, we've been able to make a funding request to the state legislature to help with capital funding for the Route B related projects. This would include eliminating the Richardson Acres and Brown Station facilities, along with the Cedar Gate facility and building a sanitary main generally along the Route B corridor and then connecting to the Rocky Fork treatment plant, and making certain upgrades to the treatment plant. These efforts are preliminary at this point, but if these requests materialize into a funding source, I will notify the board. We will continue to update you throughout the legislative process with progress updates. It is our understanding that the budget is likely to be finalized sometime in May, so there may be more information available at the May board meeting on this matter. Please see the attached information that was presented to the State Legislature regarding this request.



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## **Boone County Regional Sewer District – Route B Sewer Expansion**

The Boone County Regional Sewer District is requesting \$10 million in one-time capital funding for use in building a major sanitary sewer trunkline along the Route B highway corridor between Columbia and Hallsville. Consider the following:

- Public sanitary sewer availability along the Route B highway corridor is currently sporadic, limited and decentralized.
- Residential, commercial, and industrial growth along the Route B highway corridor is severely limited due to the lack of available sewer.
- The Route B highway corridor parallels the COLT railroad spur. Sewer availability would provide unique economic development opportunities for railway users. A \$3,500,000 EDA grant investment is being made to enhance the railway corridor.
- Zoning has been approved for a potential \$20,000,000 transload facility along the corridor, but sewer availability is currently lacking for this project.
- The Boone County Master Plan has identified the Route B highway corridor as a priority area for growth and development where utilities should be available and planned.
- Boone County is expected to need an additional 37,000 housing units by 2050, and a sanitary sewer trunkline could serve thousands of additional residential homes in this area.

The Boone County Regional Sewer District desires to build a major sewer trunkline north of Columbia and south of Hallsville. This line would allow for regionalization of sanitary sewer service in the area and bring many failing sewer treatment systems into environmental compliance.

The trunkline would connect to the Rocky Fork regional wastewater treatment facility, which is capable of tremendous growth. Funding our request would allow this existing wastewater plant to expand from 460,000 gallons per day to 690,000 gallons per day. This will allow for major industrial water users along the corridor, as well as many new housing developments.

There are many large acreage tracts of ground lying east and west of the Route B corridor, which are well suited to residential housing development. Affordable housing opportunities in Boone County are limited due to the large housing demand and low supply available. Reasonable property values along this corridor combined with available sewer would offer significant growth potential for workforce housing in the county.

The Boone County masterplan has identified this corridor as an opportunity for multi-modal transportation growth, and a potential commuter line connecting Columbia, Hallsville, and Centralia. Without sufficient sanitary sewer, rail hubs and transportation nodes are not feasible, and this existing resource will continue to be underutilized. With most other utilities generally available along this corridor, sanitary sewer service is the missing component to shovel-ready sites and affordable housing in this area.