

Building & Maintaining North Bend


The Reality of Our Foundation

Presented by Ralph Dunham, Public Works Director



The Team Behind the Scenes

16.5 Full-Time Employees serving the entire city.



Engineering

Project design, records mapping (GIS), and utility management.

Funding: 30% from utilities and property taxes.



Planning

Guiding land development and code enforcement.

Funding: 55% from property taxes.



Building

Plan reviews, inspections, and safety of structures.

Funding: 100% from building permit fees.

Connecting Our Community: Streets



(Scope)

57 miles of paved roads (plus 7 miles gravel, 6 miles historical concrete).

(Upkeep)

2,200 roadway signs maintained and **4 miles** of shoulder mowing.

(Logistics)

It takes **exactly 6 weeks** for our sweeper to complete one full pass through the city.

(Funding)

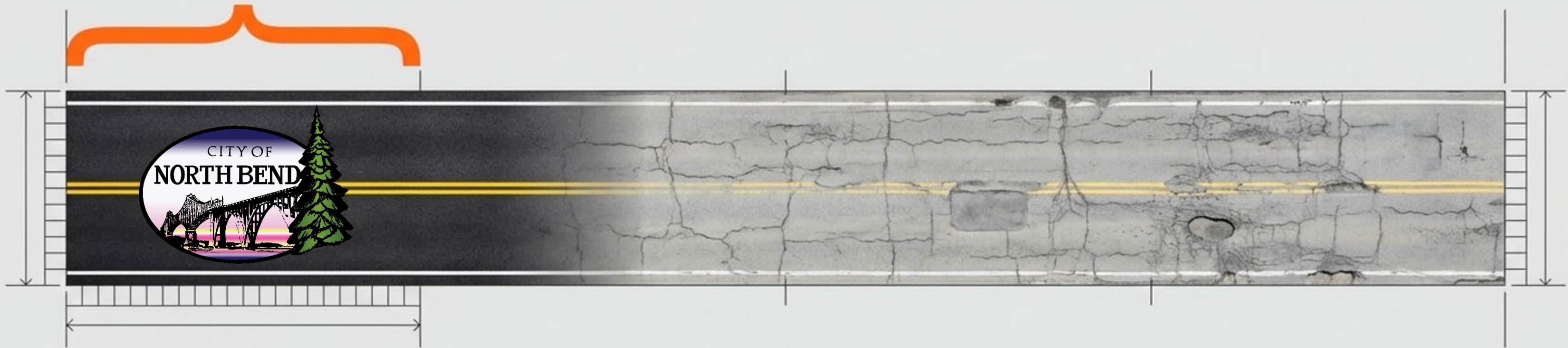
Funded by the State Gas Tax (Generates ~**\$1M/year**, with **\$400k** allocated to capital improvements).



The Hard Math of Road Repair

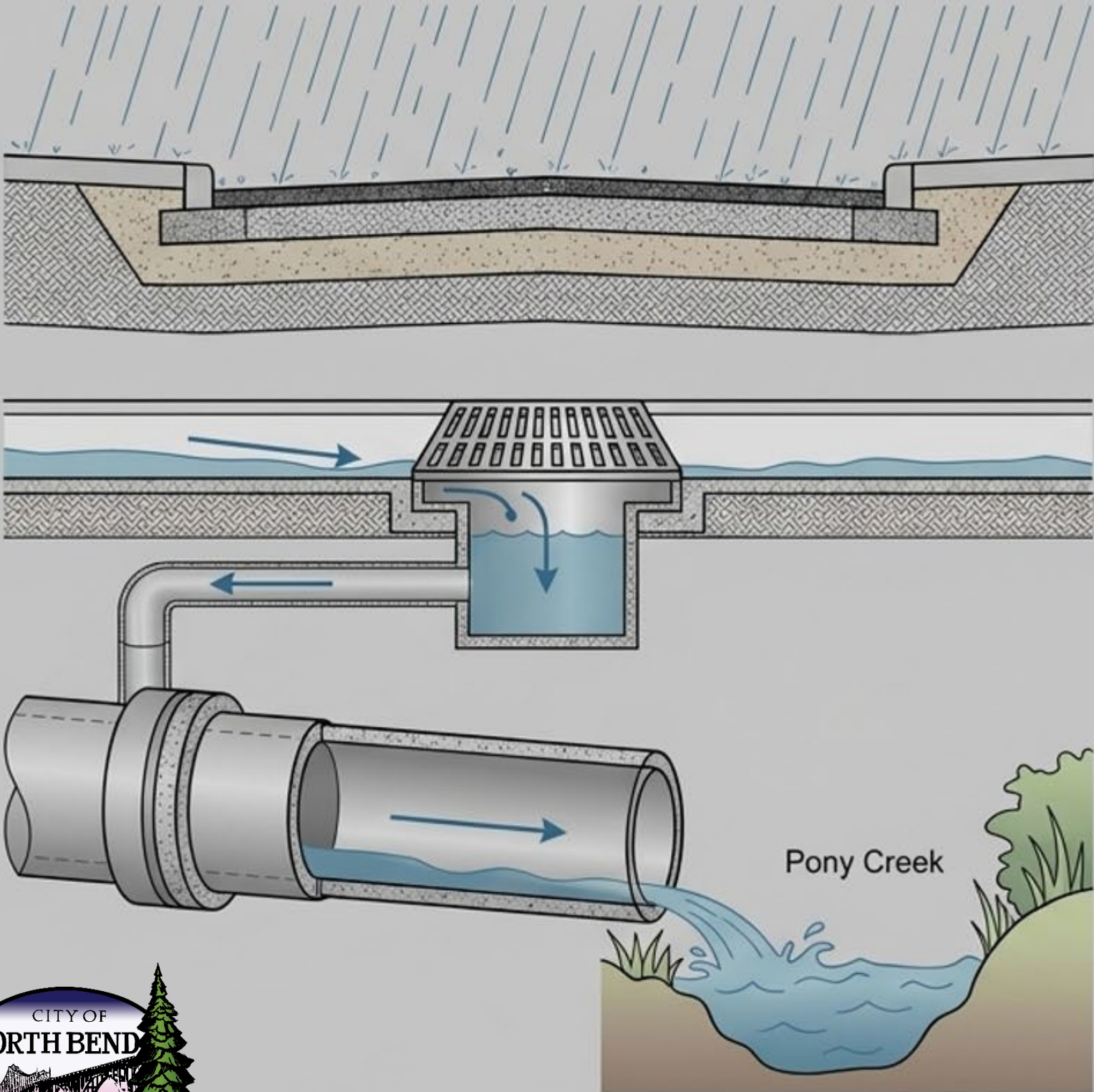
Most asphalt in North Bend was laid between 1950 and 1980. Since 2000, only **1.8** miles of new original roadway have been built.

\$400,000 Annual Capital Budget = 1/4 Mile of Roadway Replacement



With 57 total miles to maintain, our limited state gas tax funds require ruthless prioritization and strategic planning.

Beneath the Surface: Stormwater Systems



28 miles of drainage piping | 1,100 catch basins

Funded by the \$5.49/month Stormwater Fee.

Most pipes were installed between 1950 and 1980. With a standard 50-year design life, the average age of our system is now entering its critical replacement window.



Essential Sanitation: Wastewater

1 Treatment Plant,
10 Pump Stations,
51 miles of mainlines.

Operating efficiently
at 76% of population
capacity.



Funded by the \$36.66/month
Wastewater Utility Fee.

Age vs. Lifespan




Total 51 Miles of Mainline

The Red Zone

39% of our underground sewer lines are 70+ years old, pushing well past their intended 50-70 year lifespans.



The Big Picture: Our Infrastructure at a Glance

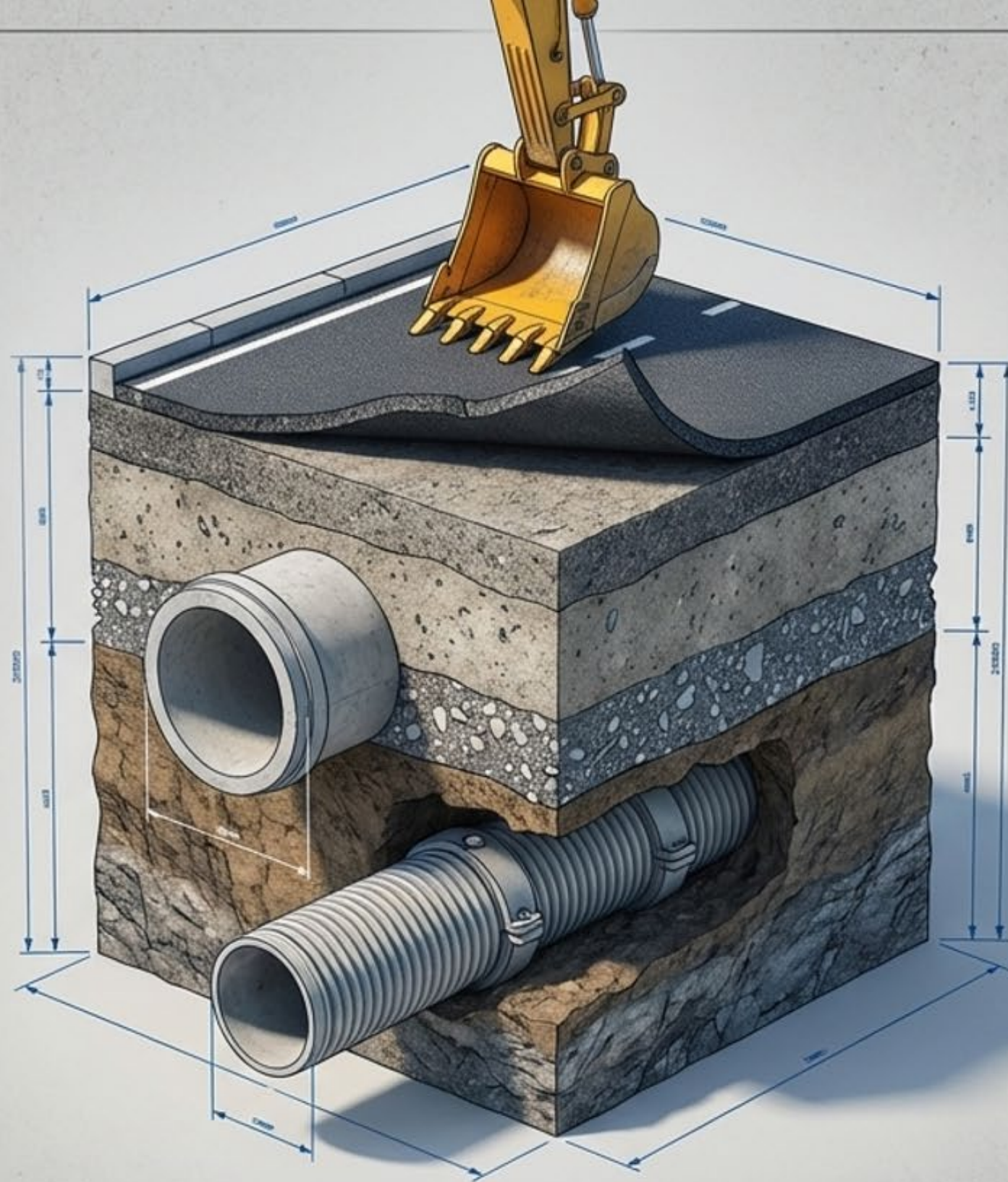
Infrastructure Health Matrix	 Streets	 Stormwater	 Wastewater
Scale	57 paved miles	28 miles of pipe	51 miles of mainline
Dedicated Funding Source	State Gas Tax	\$5.49/mo Utility Fee	\$36.66/mo Utility Fee
Current Age / Condition	Mostly built 1950-1980	Nearing 50-year lifespan	Average age 57.7 years

Stretching Every Dollar: The “Dig Once” Approach

1. Identify: Find streets that need paving and have failing pipes below them.

2. Combine: Merge street, stormwater, and sewer funds into a single, unified project.

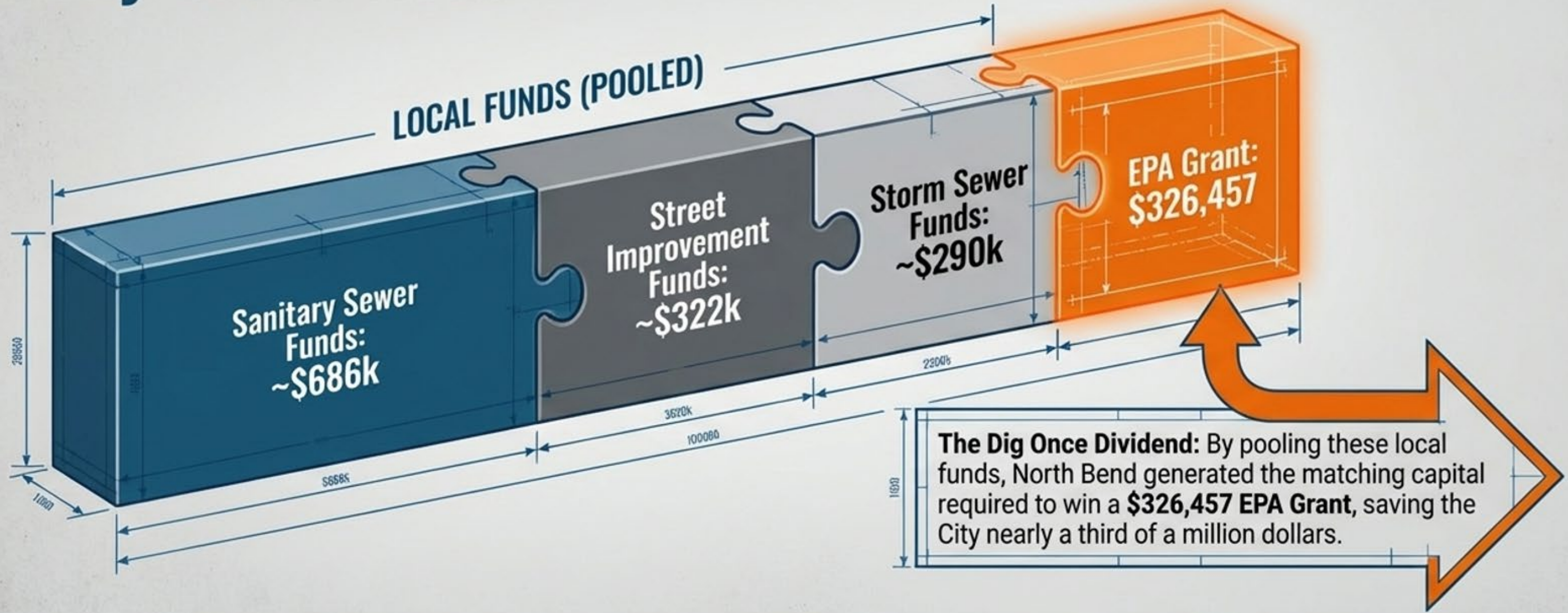
3. Execute: Tear up the road once. Fix the sewer, fix the storm drain, repave the surface.



The Result: Saves taxpayer money, minimizes neighborhood disruption, and unlocks matching grant funding.

Case Study in Efficiency: Pony Creek Road

Total Project Cost:
\$1,299,537



The Result: Maximizes local investment to secure external funding, delivering a million-dollar project with significant savings.

Work in Progress: 2024–2025 Projects



Wastewater Upgrades



Pump Station #4 Replacement (\$870k)
Broadway Ave sanitary mainlines (\$1.25M)
Lombard St. sanitary upgrades (\$327k)

Surface Improvements



Completed paving on 12th St, Oak St, and Grant St.
Major paving/utility work underway at Pony Creek Rd and Crowell Ln.
Virginia Avenue surface repairs.

A Roadmap for the Next Decade

The Stormwater Master Plan

Partnering with Civil West Engineering to complete a comprehensive scientific assessment by the end of 2026.

Targeting Historical Problems

Shifting from short-term “band-aids” to permanent, engineered solutions for known drainage challenges in areas like the Waite St. and Madrona/Myrtle blocks.

Data-Driven Paving

Utilizing specialized “Cycl” pavement assessment tools to objectively evaluate and prioritize neighborhood road repairs for 2026 and beyond.



Our Commitment to North Bend



Transparency: Clear, open reporting on how your tax and utility dollars are invested.



Efficiency: Maximizing every dollar through smart, combined "Dig Once" engineering.



Stewardship: Doing the hard work today to ensure our aging infrastructure safely serves the next generation.

The Public Works team is out there every day working for you. Thank you for your investment in our city.

