



Updates

Washington County
Department of Land Use and Transportation
155 North First Avenue - Suite 350
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124-3072

We are REACHing for excellence in customer service.

Updates

A Community Newsletter
Autumn 2007

of Washington County's Department of Land Use and Transportation

You have been asking... Are we all ready for winter driving? Winter storm response

Which roads get plowed first when the snow falls? Where can you get up-to-date road information when weather creates dangerous driving conditions? The Winter Road Operations guide informs roadway users about Washington County's winter storm response plans and includes maps of the priority routes that are the focus of our response to a storm.

More road information:

<http://www.wc-roads.com> click on Winter Road Operations or/and Road Closures

<http://www.tripcheck.com> for state highways



Winter Driving Tips

Winter driving can be tricky and downright dangerous. Better roads are important but do not take the place of careful driving. To keep your experience with winter driving from becoming a crash course, here are a few tips:

- Slow down
- Increase following distance
- Turn off cruise control
- Signal early and brake gently
- Be seen – turn on your headlights

Winter storms can cause power failures that affect signals. Here's what to do when traffic signals are not working:

1. Treat the intersection as an all-way stop: come to a full stop. Look both ways for traffic and pedestrians; when it is safe, drive cautiously through the intersection.
2. If there is other traffic, common courtesy requires that the driver who stops first goes first.
3. If in doubt, yield to the driver on your right.

Be courteous and careful. Never insist on being first at the risk of a crash.

When high water floods roads, making them too dangerous to travel, we close them. We also close roads when winds topple trees or bring down power lines. Please respect road closures. Heavy equipment may be operating, bridges and culverts may be out of service or other hazardous conditions may exist. Road closures are for everyone's safety and apply to all road users – motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists. It is unlawful to move or drive around a road closure barricade.

When speaking with motorists who were involved in crashes with pedestrians or bicyclists, one statement is commonly heard: "I never saw them until it was too late to do anything." Pedestrians and bicyclists can make themselves more visible to motorists by wearing light or brightly colored clothing and use reflectors or carry a light at night.

More winter driving tips:

<http://www.wc-roads.com> click on Driving Tips

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT> click on Winter Driving Tips

Si a usted le interesa recibir este boletín de noticias en Español, comuníquese con Angie Aguilar al 503-846-7819, o via correo electrónico: angie_aguilar@co.washington.or.us. Gracias.

Take 5 to Survive

For busy people it's difficult to set time aside to prepare for a disaster, but there are several things you can do in just 5 minutes – here's a good list! Visit www.ocem.org for more ideas...



- Discuss how your family will re-unite if an emergency separates you.
- Choose an "out-of-state" contact person. Instruct family members to call this person to relay information on their welfare if they're separated from their family and local phone lines don't work.
- Discuss how your family will cook, light and heat your home if you lose power.
- Purchase and store bottled water – one gallon per person/per day for at least three days. Don't forget your pets.
- Buy extra canned goods and a manual can opener.
- Create a plan for your pets in case you need to evacuate your home (pets are not allowed in emergency shelters).
- Test your smoke alarms and practice your fire escape plan.
- Ensure your important financial, personal and property documents are available after an emergency. Make copies of these documents (or scan to a CD-ROM) and send to a trusted counsel, friend or family member.

Click Worthy

For the latest on county roadwork:
www.wc-roads.com

County newsletter subscriptions:
washtech.co.washington.or.us/subscriptions/

Measure 37 Claims:
<http://www.co.washington.or.us/meas37>

On the Road Again – Coming to a roadway near you

Call 503-846-7800 for more information on any of these projects.

Bull Mountain Road at Hwy 99W is complete. This was a short-duration city of Tigard project that widened the right-turn lane and improved sidewalks. The county managed it through an intergovernmental agreement.

David Hill at Gales Creek Road is complete. The intersection was moved approximately 650' north to improve sight distance and intersection geometry. The project received many kudos from citizens for a job well done – way to go Abe Turki! (Project Manager).

Sunset Drive from Beal to University (Forest Grove) is complete. This MSTIP 3 project included new travel lanes, curbs and sidewalks, bike lanes, planter strips, street-lights and utility improvements.

Brookwood from Witch Hazel to TV Highway is progressing nicely. The new signal is functional and the new four way intersection is open. The old Witch Hazel intersection has been permanently closed. The contractor is working on plantings and punch list items. *Project completion date is May 23, 2008.*

Cornell from Evergreen to Bethany has begun construction. Storm drainage is being installed and roadwork has begun. Cornell will be widened from three to five lanes from Evergreen to Highway 26. The improvements will include turn lanes, signal modernization, bike lanes, sidewalks, illumination, and landscaping. *Project completion date is September 30, 2008.*

Oleson from Hall to Garden Home is now open to through traffic.

- South segment: The contractor has completed the installation of base paving and sidewalks and is completing illumination and signal installation. Final paving and striping will be completed next summer.
- Middle and North segment: The contractor continues retaining wall construction and storm installation work. *Project completion date is November 1, 2008.*

Scholls Ferry Bridge (Groner's Bridge in Scholls): The bridge deck was completed on October 22. North bound traffic will be routed onto the new bridge by December 1, 2007. South bound traffic will be routed onto the bridge in January 2008. *Project completion date is July 31, 2008.*

Lombard from Broadway to Farmington (Beaverton; tied to commuter rail project) is almost complete. The contractor is completing illumination, irrigation and landscaping work. This project is being constructed by Stacey and Whitbeck and managed by TriMet. Road and rail improvement completion date, within this two block segment (Farmington to Canyon) is tentatively scheduled for November 2007. *Completion for the commuter rail project and the widened road is May 2008.*

Bike and Ped Power... Hillsboro Five Sidewalk Project

Just in time for Trick or treating! Under an agreement with the city of Hillsboro, the county is managing the construction of concrete walks, driveways, and ADA ramps for neighborhoods near downtown Hillsboro. Sidewalks and driveways are completed on Baseline, Oak, Maple, 7th, and 12th Avenues; sections on 13th and Walnut should all be ready by Halloween. New curb and sidewalk is being built around the redwood tree near the intersection of 13th and Maple; a storm sewer line is being installed under the new curb. New topsoil, grass and street trees are included throughout. For more information, contact Dan Erpenbach at 503 846-7877 or daniel_erpenbach@co.washington.or.us

"NO PARKING" Signs are Vital to Public Safety

A NO PARKING sign may appear unimportant when compared to more exciting signs such as STOP or SPEED 55. However, on local and neighborhood streets where narrow street widths restrict parking, a NO PARKING sign is vital to public safety. If vehicles park in a no-parking zone due to missing signs, a fire truck or ambulance may not be able to pass through to respond to an emergency. Sight distances at intersections may be blocked by vehicles parking in restricted areas.



Lately, a noticeable number of NO PARKING signs are disappearing due to theft – especially in new subdivisions and developments. Replacing these signs is costly! Developers are required to replace all missing signs if the theft occurs during construction; the costs are likely to be passed on to the future homeowners. Once the construction is completed, the county is responsible for replacement (between \$100 and \$500 each) – that's your tax money.

The penalty for traffic sign theft is treated like any other theft. If, however, the theft leads to an injury, then the person may be found criminally liable. Those who would remove a NO PARKING sign may consider their actions inconsequential, but they are putting themselves and all of us at risk.

Transportation Funding is on Everyone's Minds

City and county officials from 13 Washington County local governments recently spent more than seven hours during two workshops discussing ways to refine, update and expand two local transportation funding programs that have served county residents well for 20 years. The two local programs – the Major Streets Transportation Improvement Program (MSTIP) and Traffic Impact Fee (TIF) program – have made improvements totaling over \$600 million since 1986, when voters first approved the programs. MSTIP funding comes from property taxes; TIF revenues come from fees charged against new development. The challenge now is how to use these tools and others to address the \$3.7 billion of needs identified in the transportation plans of Washington County local governments.

Officials are proceeding on a schedule that would put a new MSTIP on the ballot in November 2008. A modified or new TIF proposal may be on the May 2008 ballot. Questions? Call Senior Planner Blair Crumpacker at 503-846-3878. And stay tuned!

Citizen Involvement Calendar

Planning Commission

meets 1st Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.
3rd Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
Auditorium, Public Services Building
155 N 1st Ave, Hillsboro
Contact: Traci Shirley, 846-3519

Rural Roads Operations and Maintenance Advisory Committee (RRMAC)

meets 3rd Thursday @ 7:30 a.m.
Training Room 1, Walnut Street Center
1400 SW Walnut Ave., Hillsboro
Contact: Stacia Sheelar, 846-7623
www.co.washington.or.us/rrmac

Board of County Commissioners

meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.
4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
Auditorium, Public Services Building
155 N 1st Ave, Hillsboro
Contact: Noreen Lee, 846-8685

Washington County Board of Commissioners

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Dick Schouten, District 1
Desari Strader, District 2
Roy Rogers, District 3
Andy Duyck, District 4

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Directory of LUT's Divisions and Services (all area codes are 503)

Office of the Director 846-3823

- Public Affairs 846-4963

Administrative Services 846-4530

Capital Project Management 846-7800

- Right-of-Way 846-7870

Engineering/Surveying

- Engineering 846-7900
- Surveying 846-8723
- Traffic Engineering 846-7950

Land Development

- Development Review 846-8761
- Building Services 846-3470

Operations and Maintenance 846-7623

- Road Maintenance 846-ROAD
- Adopt-A-Road 846-7619
- Service District for Lighting 846-7626

Planning 846-3519

Updates

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