



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 2006

of Washington County's Department of Land Use and Transportation

You have been asking...for intersection improvements at West Union and Helvetia Roads

Washington County engineers have changed the traffic pattern at that intersection north of Hillsboro, making it a four-way stop. Northbound traffic on Helvetia will still be allowed to make the heavily used eastbound turn to West Union at the bypass intersection south of the stop sign. Westbound traffic wanting to turn south will now be required to make that turn at the four-way stop. New signs and warning rumble strips have been installed; a red solar-powered flashing light will be installed soon. County crews worked hard to make the changes prior to the onset of Standard Time, earlier evening darkness, and rainy conditions.



We are committed to the safety of all roadway users and to operating the county roadway system in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner. We thank you for your patience and careful attention to driving. For more information, please contact Tom Tushner, County Traffic Engineer, 503-846-7950.

Know your road and keep safe - focus on those yellow lines:

Believe it or not, the lines on the road are telling you a lot of important things. Do you know what they are saying? Take a moment for safety and test yourself:

True or False:

1. When a solid yellow line marks the left edge of your lane, passing is prohibited. (T) or (F)
2. A yellow center line divides two-way traffic. (T) or (F)

Choose A or B:

3. When a double yellow line is in the middle of the street, a left turn from a driveway is: (A) prohibited or (B) allowed when safe.
4. When crossing a dashed yellow line to pass a vehicle, proceed with extreme caution, because: (A) you are in a lane with potentially oncoming traffic or (B) curves or hills may be ahead.

Answers are on the reverse side

Bike and Ped power...

We love our bikers and our walkers, and we want you to stay safe in gloomy winter weather. Please remember to wear bright, reflective clothing. Carry identification. And "ICE" your cell phone with emergency contact information. Store the word ICE in your phone address book with the number of the person you would want to be contacted "In Case of Emergency". It's so simple - please do it.

In Roads for Fish program wins award

On October 12 Washington County's Department of Land Use and Transportation was awarded the Rock Creek Watershed Partners **2006 Good Steward Award** in recognition for our contributions to the health of the Rock Creek Watershed. In Roads for Fish is not exactly a "program", but more like a window to see the powerful environmental improvements we are making along with our capital projects. We were pleased and proud to accept, and offered in return copies of our new *Green ABC's* coloring book for children. Let us know if you could use some for children in your life, and here is to a greener, fishier future.

Si a Usted le interesa recibir novedades o noticias de su comunidad en español, comuníquese con Angie Aguilar al 503 846-7819, o via correo electronico: angie_aguilar@co.washington.our.us. Gracias.

Planning ahead for North Bethany

The North Bethany Concept Plan has a new project website at www.bethanyplan.org. The site provides general project information and updates, including information about the two groups that will help guide development of the concept plan: the Stakeholder Work Group and the Technical Advisory Group, as well as meeting packets, summaries and project reports. A public open house is planned for January; check the "Upcoming Events" link on the site for detailed information. For project information, please contact Angela Brown in the Planning Division at 503-846-3968.

Transportation Funding Attitudes

There are lots of opinions regarding our transportation system and how to pay for improving it. A recently commissioned survey provides a better sense of what Washington County residents are thinking. Here are some of the perceptions of the 409 residents who were sampled:

- Transportation is mentioned by two-thirds of respondents as one of the top two challenges facing our local governments. (Education came in second at 34 percent.)
- Nearly seven in ten residents "strongly agree" that "Transportation is a county-wide issue, so decisions need to be made jointly with the cities in the county."
- A majority of county residents support seeking additional funds to address identified needs. (Ten percent responded that "no additional funds should be sought.")
- Development fees are a favored funding source. Truck fee, business tax, and a vehicle registration fee are also high on the list.
- Efficient use of tax dollars, good planning, and "keeping promises" are considered among the most important aspects of transportation services.

On the Road Again – Coming to a roadway near you

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

Commuter Rail/Lombard Realignment: Broadway to Farmington

This road project will be constructed together with the Commuter Rail, construction of which is under way. For updates go to www.trimet.org/commuterrail or contact TriMet Community Affairs at 503-962-2150. The project will realign Lombard Street to the west at Broadway, eliminating the current offset intersection. The Lombard realignment is tentatively scheduled for spring 2007. **The estimated completion date for both projects is fall 2008.**

Five Sidewalk projects

Pedestrian and bicycle improvements are taking place at five locations throughout Washington County: SW 170th Ave. from Elmonica LRT Station to Merlo; SW Butner Rd from Woodward Way to Marlow; SW Park Way from Parkwood Dr. to Marlow; SW Murray from Farmington to TV Highway; and SW 198th from TV Highway to Johnson. Currently the contractor is removing trees, vegetation, storm drain lines and curb. Gutter and sidewalk construction has begun at some locations and utilities are being relocated.

Oleson Road - Fanno Creek to Hall

This project will improve the two existing travel lanes, add sidewalks and bike lanes, left turn lanes at selected locations and install a new traffic signal at SW 80th. Emery and Sons are constructing a new 16-inch waterline beginning at SW Hall and working northward toward Garden Home. Beginning January 2007, NW Natural will begin installing a new 6-inch gas line at Garden Home Road to Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway, and PGE will begin relocating utility poles. Lane restrictions/delays are in effect Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and on Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Use Scholls Ferry Road as an alternate route. **Estimated completion: fall 2008.**

Susbauer Road Bridge/19th Avenue over Council Creek

This project replaced the narrow bridge over Council Creek at the north end of the town of Cornelius. It was funded by the Oregon Transportation Investment Act (OTIA). The contractor has completed the main construction of the bridge. Minor work on the final details continues. **Estimated completion: November 30, 2006.**

Brookwood –Witch Hazel at TV Highway

This MSTIP project will reconfigure the two signalized intersections, TV Highway at Brookwood and TV Highway at Witch Hazel. The existing Witch Hazel intersection and railroad crossing will be permanently closed. Brookwood will be extended south through the vacant school property and connect to Witch Hazel Road at SW 247th Avenue. A new railroad crossing will be built. The contractor is clearing trees in preparation for construction. Utility relocation work continues. Drainage work will follow. **Estimated completion: November/December 2007.**

Nehalem River - Timber Road Bridge Replacement

This \$1 million project replaced the narrow weight-limited bridge at the north edge of the town of Timber. The contractor has completed the main construction of the bridge. Final paving is planned for early December, weather permitting. There may be a two-day daytime road closure to complete final paving. If this occurs, advance notice will be posted. **Estimated completion: December 2006.**

Sunset Drive - Beal Road to University Avenue, Forest Grove

This project will include new travel lanes, sidewalks, bike lanes, planter strips, streetlights and utility improvements. Utility work is in progress and will continue through January 2007. Roadwork will begin this November with the installation of the sanitary sewer. **Estimated completion: October 31, 2007.**

Philip Harris Bridge wins Oregon APWA project of the year award

The Oregon chapter of the American Public Works Association has awarded its Transportation Project of the Year Award to the county for the new Phillip Harris Bridge over the Tualatin River. It recognizes the extraordinary work of the county's Capital Project Management and Engineering/Surveying teams in partnership with the consultants and Wildish Standard Paving, the construction contractor. Working together they delivered the new bridge in record time and on its \$5.5 million budget. The award was presented during their Fall Conference in Pendleton October 12. Way to go, team!

I-5 to 99W Connector Project open houses ahead

Transportation planners have recognized the need for a connection between I-5 and Hwy 99W for more than a decade. The I-5 to 99W Connector Project is hosting open houses to gather input about potential solutions. We will be asking for ideas and sharing information about:

- potential corridors where new transportation facilities could be located and where they should connect to I-5 and Hwy 99W
- potential improvements to existing roadways or intersections that could improve travel
- constraints or areas that should be avoided as corridors are developed

Join us for one of the following open houses:

November 29, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Tualatin High School
22300 SW Boones Ferry Road, **Tualatin**

November 30, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Middleton Elementary School
23505 SW Old Highway 99W, **Sherwood**

December 6, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Wilsonville City Hall
29799 SW Town Center Loop E, **Wilsonville**

For more information, phone:

503-595-9915, e-mail: info@i5to99w.org
or Web: www.i5to99w.org

Answers to Know your road:

1.T 2.T 3.B 4.A

Click Worthy

For the latest county news:
www.co.washington.or.us

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

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, 846-3971

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
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Bob Davis

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Kathy Lehtola

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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