

Washington County's Department of  
**Land Use & Transportation**  
2006 Annual Report



**Serving the People of Washington County**

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Washington County's Department of  
**Land Use & Transportation**

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**Change and growth** are facts of life in Washington County.

But they are not just “happening”.

Citizen and local government efforts are helping shape a livable and economically strong future for our communities. To this end, the Department of Land Use and Transportation (LUT), under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners, works with citizens and businesses, providing comprehensive land use and transportation services.

LUT staff are **REACHING** for excellence in customer service through:

- Reliability** - consistent service
- Efficiency** - timely response
- Assistance** - resourceful solutions
- Courtesy** - respect for all
- Honesty** - open communications

## The Department of Land Use & Transportation's mission is twofold:



To plan, build and maintain the county's transportation system



To prepare, implement and enforce land use plans, policies and related state and county mandates

## Over 360 LUT employees

provide a wide range of transportation, planning, permitting and road construction and maintenance services. Those primarily concerned with land use are in the Public Services Building, 155 N. First Avenue, Suite 350, in downtown Hillsboro. Those primarily concerned with transportation are located at the Walnut Street Center, 1400 SW Walnut Street on Hillsboro's west end.

Working in coordination with our city, regional and state governments, the department provides the following public benefits:

Administrative Services

Planning

Land Development

Engineering and Surveying

Capital Project Management

Operations and Maintenance



## Administrative Services

*coordinates LUT's payroll, the budget, preparations for emergencies, provisions for the safety of employees, and public information and education. They are the liaisons with Human Resources and Information Technology Systems.*

*LUT operated in 2006 with a budget of \$267 million and a staff of 362.*



*We maintained our excellent working relationship with the Office of Consolidated Emergency Management (OCEM); the most notable effort was a county wide TipOff exercise, dealing with a series of hypothetical terrorist attacks.*

*In our safety program we had 21 accidents and 31 lost work days – that was 30 percent fewer accidents than in 2005, but a 24 percent increase in lost days. Our accident frequency is at the national average for public works agencies, but our severity rate was higher in 2006.*

*The most notable improvement in public information was the debut of the Washington County Roads ([www.wc-roads.com](http://www.wc-roads.com)) Web site, fostered by Operations and Capital Project Management public outreach staff. The site organizes and makes accessible current information about all our transportation-related construction and maintenance work. It is also an immediately updateable source of emergency road information.*



**Washington  
County  
Roads**

**Click on this symbol on the Washington County website to get to the Roads Page.**

**Planning** *provides transportation planning, economic and demographic information services, and, in the urban unincorporated areas of Washington County, community land use planning.*

*The Board of County Commissioners has given the Planning Division direction to undertake planning for large portions of land recently added to the Urban Growth Boundary north of Bethany and also near Bull Mountain.*



*In 2006, consultants were hired to begin concept planning for North Bethany, to establish a vision and framework to guide new development there. Located generally north of Springville Road between NW 185th Avenue and the county line, the area is being planned as an extension of the existing Bethany community to the south.*

*The 800 acres will support a mix of housing types, parks, schools and neighborhood services and be supported by a multi-modal transportation system. The adoption of a Concept Plan will be followed by development of comprehensive plan policies and goals for the North Bethany area. The work should be complete and development poised to begin in late 2008.*

**Land Development** provides plan and development review, building inspection (structural, plumbing, electrical and mechanical), and code enforcement.



## Land Development Statistics for 2006

- **596 Land Use Case Files** (215 rural and 381 urban)
- **773 Land Use Actions** (272 rural, 501 urban)
- **83 New Subdivisions** with 1247 total lots
- **53,609 Phone Calls** concerning developments code enforcement and ordinances
- **21,029 Citizens Visiting** the Land Development division in person
- **879 New Homes** Single Family Residential; 95 Manufactured Homes
- **864 Additions/Remodels** Single Family Residential
- **43 New Multi-Family Residential Buildings** with 436 total units
- **22 New Commercial Buildings**
- **322 Tenant Improvements** Commercial
- **379 Code Enforcement Violations Abated**
- **873 total Measure 37 Claims Received** (including claims from 2005)

## Engineering and Surveying

provides design and survey expertise, maintains and replaces traffic control devices and handles traffic engineering.



Traffic Engineering continued its efforts to reduce long-term energy costs. In fiscal year 2006-07 it retrofitted 610 existing signal lamps with LED's (light-emitting diodes) at traffic signal-controlled intersections. An additional 700 units are back-ordered and will be installed upon delivery. The retrofit results in approximately 90 percent energy savings.



## Survey Statistics for 2006

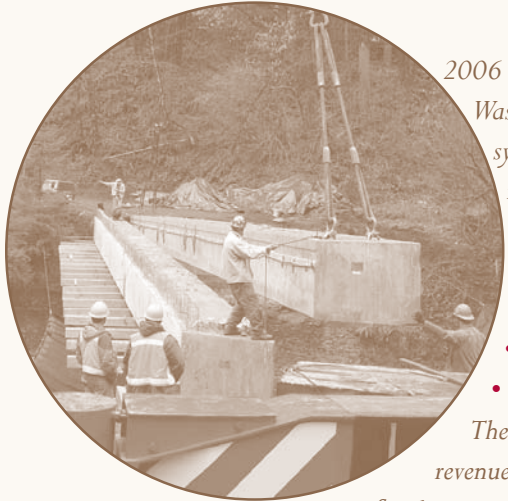
- **110 subdivisions approved**
- **6.06 miles of county roads established**
- **55 Public Land Corners re-monumented**



## Engineering Statistics for 2006

- **325 traffic signals maintained** - approximately 60 are intersection beacons and programmable school flashers
- **3,000 traffic signal repairs**
- **3,029 citizen requests for traffic signs**
- **900 street lights maintained**
- **350 street light repairs**
- **72 traffic analysis staff reports** associated with land development proposals

## Capital Project Management oversees major transportation improvement projects, including roads, bikeways and bridges.



2006 was the “Year of the Bridge” for Washington County’s transportation system improvements. Bridge replacement projects include:

- Susbauer
- Greener Road (2007)
- Timber over Nehalem River
- Vernonia over Nehalem River
- Scholls over Tualatin River (2007)

The State of Oregon’s OTIA III program revenue was an important source of funding for these new bridges.

The escalation of transportation capital construction costs has exceeded the rate of inflation in other sectors of the economy. This is due to the rising cost of energy, along with rapid rises in the costs of asphalt, concrete, steel and fuel.

LUT has identified a need for transportation improvements totaling more than \$2.3 billion over the next 20 years. Current revenue sources for that time frame will generate only \$700 million. The Board of County Commissioners is working to identify the most appropriate and effective means to finance the county’s transportation capital construction - and maintenance - needs.

The county’s transportation capital improvement program is funded from the county’s Major Streets Transportation Improvement Program (MSTIP) and Traffic Impact Fees paid by developers (TIF). MSTIP is a dedicated stream of property tax income of approximately \$23 million per year for capital improvements. TIF fees make possible an average of \$10 to 15 million of new transportation infrastructure per year.

## Capital Construction in 2006

- **13.4** miles of new or improved roadway
- **15.9** miles of new bike lanes and sidewalks

The value of the right-of-way bought from county property owners for transportation improvements in 2006 was **\$3,691,193** - up **23%** from \$3 million in 2005.



### Costs (average) of Common Improvements:

These costs do not include the money needed to do engineering design, obtain land use and environmental permits and purchase right-of-way. They also do not include the costs of additional cuts, fills, or retaining walls required in hilly terrain.

- **Left-turn lane**  
 @ “T” intersection (no signal) ..... **\$275,000**  
 @ 4-way intersection (no signal) ..... **\$675,000**
- **Traffic signal** ..... **\$300,000**
- **Urban Arterial**  
 5 lanes, curbs, bike lanes, sidewalks ..... **\$5.25 mil/mile**  
 3 lanes, curbs, bike lanes, sidewalks ..... **\$3.7 mil/mile**
- **Urban Collector**  
 3 lanes, curbs, bike lanes, sidewalks ..... **\$2.2 mil/mile**
- **Add a bike path**  
 6 feet to each side of road with ditches ..... **\$1.2 mil/mile**
- **Bridge replacements**..... **\$250 /sq.ft.**

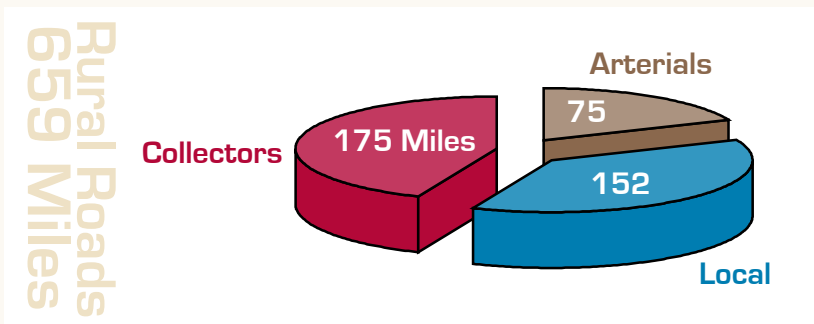
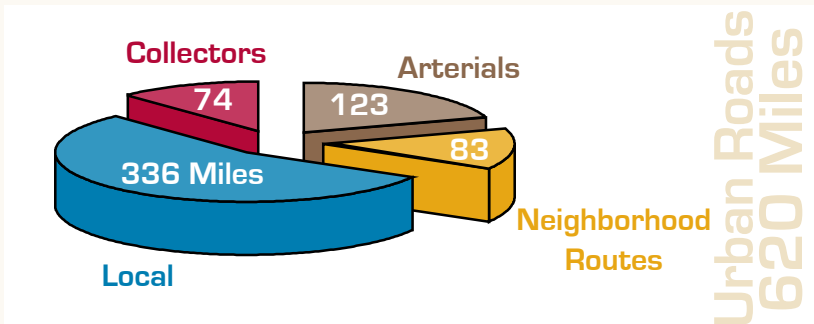


## Operations and Maintenance

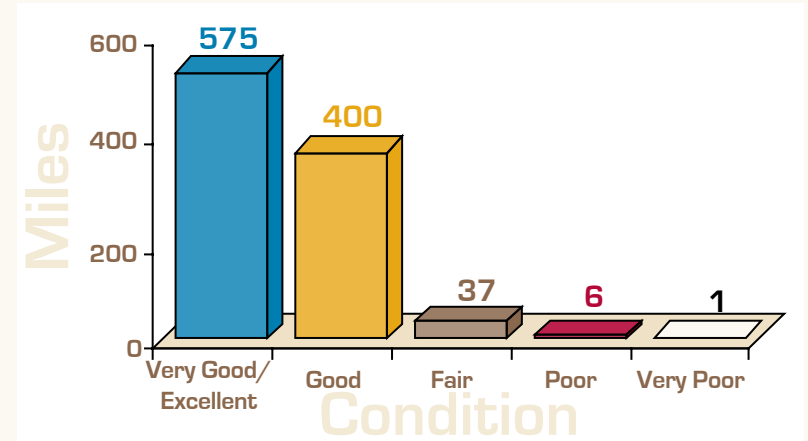
*maintains and repairs roads, bridges and drainageways; tends roadside vegetation; and oversees private construction activities that occur within the public right-of-way.*

## County Road System Statistics for 2006

1,279 Total Miles (1,018 paved; 261 gravel)



## Road Condition of Paved Roads in 2006



## Maintenance Activities Performed on the County Road System in 2006

- 948 miles of road striping
- 62 miles of paving contractor and county crews
- 232 miles of gravel roads graded (target is four times per year)
- 1,137 miles of vegetation maintenance
- 24-hour snow and ice removal during winter storms
- 24-hour emergency response year around

**Service District for Lighting**  
 10,599 street lights  
 39,786 street light customers

**Adopt-a-Road**  
 77 cleanups in 2006  
 The Adopt-a-Road Program is Land Use and Transportation's largest volunteer effort.

## Commuter Rail



Thanks to U.S. Senators Gordon Smith

and Ron Wyden, Congressman David Wu and the other members of our federal delegation, we obtained final congressional approval for the Washington County Commuter Rail line in 2006. Construction is underway. This rail project will link the job centers and populations of Wilsonville, Tualatin and Tigard to Beaverton at the Beaverton Transit Center and the light rail system. We anticipate ridership to begin in 2008. Thanks are also due to the Oregon legislative delegation from Washington County who committed to partial funding of this project in 1999 and have continued their support to this day.

For more information about the Commuter Rail go to: [www.trimet.org/commuterrail](http://www.trimet.org/commuterrail)



## Thinking About Getting Involved?

*One way for citizens to be informed and have an impact on land use and transportation issues is to get involved in their local Citizen Participation Organization (CPO). There are 15 CPOs in Washington County, organized geographically. They are coordinated by Oregon State University's County Extension Office. Go to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/washington> or call 503-725-2300 to be put on their mailing list and receive meeting information.*

*LUT also has citizen committees to help guide our work. Some are permanent, like the Planning Commission and the Rural Roads Operations and Maintenance Advisory Committee. Some are temporary, as when a Project Advisory Committee is set up to provide guidance on a particular capital project. Please contact us if you would like to learn more; call 503-846-4963.*

*If you'd rather help in a more outdoors, hands on way, consider Adopting a Road! You and your colleagues can choose a stretch of roadway in which you can take special pride. Call Adopt-a-Road at 503-846-7619.*

## Contact Us

### Office of the Director

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- Public Affairs 503-846-4963

### Administrative Services

503-846-4530

### Planning

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[lutplan@co.washington.or.us](mailto:lutplan@co.washington.or.us)

### Land Development

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- Development Review  
503-846-8761
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503-846-3470

### Engineering and Survey

[lutengin@co.washington.or.us](mailto:lutengin@co.washington.or.us)

- Engineering  
503-846-7900
- Surveying  
503-846-8723
- Road Survey  
503-846-7925
- Traffic Engineering  
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### Capital Project Management

503-846-7800

[lutproj@co.washington.or.us](mailto:lutproj@co.washington.or.us)

- Right-of-Way  
503-846-7870

### Operations and Maintenance

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- Service District for Lighting  
503-846-7626
- Adopt-A-Road  
503-846-7619

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*Report designed by: Bonita Oswald, LUT Graphics Designer*

BRO46 • 04/07



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