



# 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 2009

Washington County's Department of Land Use and Transportation

## You have been asking...what about that FYA removal?

On October 4 the year-old Flashing Yellow Arrow (FYA) at SW Murray and Scholls Ferry in Beaverton was removed and replaced with a traditional left turn arrow. The FYA had improved traffic flow and was popular, but due to the specific geometry of this intersection, motorists were having problems negotiating the turn. Many did not pay close enough attention, which led to several accidents. In this case, safety trumps efficiency. But good news - **1 Down, 372 Up** - by June 30, 2010, 372 new Flashing Yellow Arrows should be installed throughout the county.



*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](mailto:angie_aguilar@co.washington.or.us). Gracias.*

## Marching Band Opens New River Road Bridge

On October 20 River Road neighbors joined agency staff and the contractors in celebrating the grand opening of this newly constructed bridge. Highlights included sixth graders Brianna Miyama and Anu Calotis from Witch Hazel Elementary School reading their winning essays on how this new bridge will connect communities. With a "Hip hip hip Hillsboro!" the girls helped Mayor Jerry Willey cut the ribbon, officially opening the road. Motorcycle officers escorted the Hillsboro High School marching band and dance team, who marched across the bridge to the tunes of Taking Care of Business and Louie, Louie. And commuters breathed a sigh of relief as River Road reopened to through traffic, three months ahead of schedule (and below budget!)

## Urban/Rural Reserves Decisions Near

Over 250 people attended the August 20 public hearing in Hillsboro on Metro's Reserves process; over 100 testified, providing the county's advisory committee much good information.

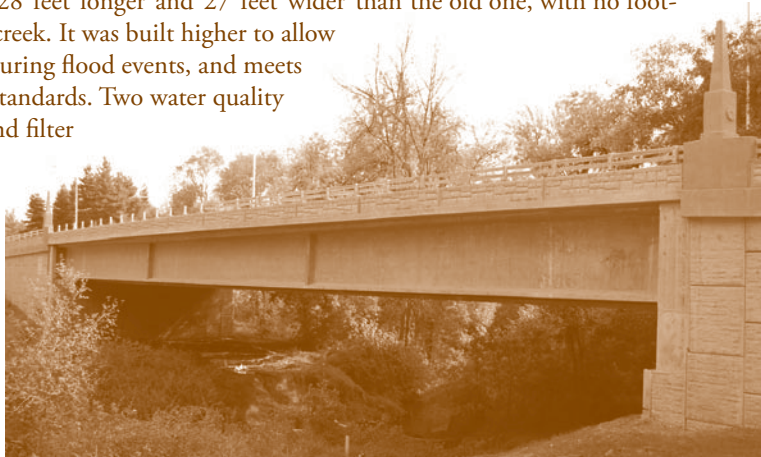


In September they forwarded their recommendations to the regional steering committee and the "Core 4" (one Commissioner from each county and one Metro Councilor) decision-makers. Through the end of the year, the Core 4 will continue to hammer out agreements, which will be brought back to the public for another round of comment before final inter-government agreements are signed. Stay tuned for more opportunities to get engaged. Visit the website often, as the process is moving quickly:

[www.co.washington.or.us/reserves](http://www.co.washington.or.us/reserves)

## InRoads for Fish: River Road Bridge an Environmental Winner

The new bridge is 28 feet longer and 27 feet wider than the old one, with no footings directly in the creek. It was built higher to allow adequate drainage during flood events, and meets today's earthquake standards. Two water quality swales will collect and filter all the storm water runoff from the road and the bridge. And engineer Jim Perkins' famous bat boxes are installed to provide roosts for those beneficial bug eaters.



## North Bethany Inching Along

Communities of distinction take time. The North Bethany community planning process will continue throughout the winter as staff works with stakeholders to refine details in the approach. The goal is to bring the plan to fruition in 2010 with all the appropriate ordinances in place. Creating a unique community from whole cloth is a demanding task requiring patience and dedication, and the stakeholders and staff are demonstrating both. Stay abreast of the process at:

[www.bethanyplan.org](http://www.bethanyplan.org)

## Winter Road Readiness

Are you ready for another Pacific Coast winter? When the weather creates dangerous driving conditions, don't drive. But if you must drive, make sure you and your vehicle are prepared.

Check for up-to-date road information:

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

<http://www.wc-roads.com> click on Road Closures

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

**Bethany**  
community of distinction

## On the Road Again – Coming to a roadway near you

**170th/173rd Avenue (Baseline Road to Walker Road)**  
NW 173rd Avenue at Waterhouse Creek, south of Walker Road, is open. The signal at 173rd and Baseline was removed and the major arterial route is now 170th. 173rd from Baseline to Shady Fir Loop is now a Neighborhood Route. The contractor is completing striping and landscaping. *Project completion December 2009.*

**River Road Bridge** opened to traffic on October 20, 2009. The contractor will continue to work on plantings and other finishing work through the fall and winter. *Project completion January 2010.*

Construction has begun on **Saltzman Road** from NW Cornell Road to NW Bauer Woods Drive. The contractor is installing a new storm pipe on NW Dogwood and between Burton and Bauer Woods Drive, and excavating and installing new conduits for overhead utilities at the Cornell and Saltzman intersection and in front of St. Pius church and library. *Project completion December 2010.*

Construction on **NW Cornelius-Schefflin Road** over Council Creek has begun. Widening and safety improvements will come to 1.1 miles of Cornelius-Schefflin Road between Verboort Road and Council Creek. Two culverts will also be replaced. The road is closed between the roundabouts (Verboort Rd) and is scheduled to re-open at the end of January 2010. *Project completion January 2010.*

Construction on **NW Spiesschaert Road Bridge** over Council Creek has begun. This project will remove the bridge on Spiesschaert Rd over Council Creek, north of the City of Cornelius, and create a new intersection 1400 feet north of the existing one. The project involves grading, paving, drainage, structures, signing and striping. It is funded by the Oregon Transportation and Investment Act (OTIA). *Project completion December 2009.*

*For more about these projects and road closure information go to [www.wc-roads.com](http://www.wc-roads.com) or call 503 846-7800.*

## Want to help influence the decisions that affect your community?

Your Citizen Participation Organization (CPO) provides an opportunity for involvement in local land use and livability issues. CPOs are advisory to Washington County and interact with city, regional and state governments. Together CPOs can strengthen communities and influence decisions of local government- but only if citizens care enough to get involved. CPOs meet regularly in most neighborhoods To find out more call Sally Yackley at 503-821-1128 or go to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/washington/cpo>



**Extension Service**



More winter driving tips:  
<http://www.wc-roads.com> click on Driving Tips  
<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/winterdriving.shtml>

Follow Washington County Roads on Twitter:  
<http://twitter.com/washcoroads>

View our videos on our new YouTube channel:  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/WashingtonCutyOregon>

For information on building permit submittal and issuance:  
<http://www.co.washington.or.us/LUT/Divisions/Building/index.cfm>  
Click on Permits, then History and Summaries.

## Transportation Development Tax Discounted

Remember the Transportation Development Tax voters approved last November? On average, it doubled the amount county and city officials collect from developers to help pay for growth-induced transportation system improvements. Well, times were different then. With historically low levels of construction activity and high levels of unemployment, on October 20, 2009 the Board of Commissioners adopted a temporary discount to the TDT. The new effective rates – a 20 % discount this fiscal year, 10 % next fiscal year and 5 % in FY 2011 - go into effect on December 1. The discount rates will be reviewed annually by the Commissioners; the temporary discount will automatically be discontinued on June 30, 2012.



## Bike and Ped power...Cornell Crosswalk Serves Sunset High

Sunset High School students, their friends and family, can all breathe easier since the installation of a new crosswalk on busy Cornell Road. The crosswalk is the result of a partnership with the Beaverton School District, Sunset High School, the Sheriff's Office, Beaverton Police Department and the Latter Day Saints seminary, working together with County Traffic Engineering. The project was skillfully handled and brought into being by the hard work and dedication of Eilene Wolven, Engineering Tech 2. Great work, Eilene!

## The Perfect Storm...of Traffic Improvements

Within the next year, drivers should see a noticeable difference in traffic flow.

- A new county Traffic Operations control center monitoring current traffic conditions through regional closed-circuit video cameras,
- 1,420 updated pedestrian display signals,
- 372 new flashing yellow arrows,
- newly-coordinated signal timings for 10 corridors,
- and 32 new solar powered School Zone flasher units

are all coming together to create the perfect storm - a better transportation system in Washington County and the region.

## Citizen Involvement Calendar

**Planning Commission**  
meets 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.  
Auditorium, Public Services Building  
155 N 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Hillsboro  
*Contact: Dixie King, 846-3519*

**Rural Roads Operations and Maintenance Advisory Committee (RROMAC)**  
meets 3<sup>rd</sup> 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/rromac](http://www.co.washington.or.us/rromac)

**Board of County Commissioners**  
meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.  
Auditorium, Public Services Building  
155 N 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Hillsboro  
*Contact: Noreen Lee, 846-8685*

- Washington County Board of Commissioners**  
Tom Brian, Chair  
Dick Schouten, District 1  
Desari Strader, District 2  
Roy Rogers, District 3  
Andy Duyck, District 4
- County Administrator**  
Bob Davis
- Department of Land Use and Transportation Director**  
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
- Current Planning**
  - 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
- Long Range Planning 846-3519**

## Updates

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