



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
Winter 2010

of Washington County's Department of Land Use and Transportation



To find the Updates newsletter on the county web site, go to <http://www.co.washington.or.us/News/Newsletters>

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You may also follow county road news on Twitter <http://twitter.com/washcoroads>

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.

You have been asking... about north/south infrastructure – we need more of it!

It is a fact that 70% of the traffic in Washington County stays within the county, much of it traveling north and south, and Highway 217 is often over capacity. Washington County began as a farming community; roads were farm to market - east/west, connecting our towns and farms with Portland. Fewer north/south connections were built. Also eastern Washington County is quite hilly, which does not make for an easy grid system. And since the 1970's the county has not allowed the "undergrounding" of streams (burying them in long culverts). In earlier times this was done extensively in Portland, which made it easier to impose a "grid" of straight streets there.



Murray Boulevard near Hart Road

We worked east and west on Cornell, Baseline, Farmington, Scholls Ferry, and Tualatin Sherwood roads. Recently we are concentrating our efforts on north/south arterials and collectors - Cornelius Schefflin Road, Cornelius Pass, Jackson School Road, Brookwood Parkway, 185th, Murray, Roy Rogers Road, 170th, Saltzman, Oleson Road, Bethany Boulevard, and even the WES Commuter Rail line, improving them to handle today's transportation needs. We are building capacity and connectivity – and for bikes and pedestrians too! *See stories on Saltzman and Cornelius Pass on page 2.*

Since the mid 1980's county property tax dollars (MSTIP \$) have gradually improved existing arterials and collectors and added new sections to give us more of a transportation grid – and more good choices for

Night Time Crews Ready to Roll

Rather than calling folks to come in early when winter weather threatens the morning commute, would it be more efficient to have a road maintenance night crew on duty, ready to de-ice and sand roads?



To answer that question, we started a trial night crew. Their primary assignment is to perform routine road maintenance activities, but they're available at the drop of a snowflake to react to weather or other emergency needs. If the test is successful, the night crew may be back next winter.

Urban Roads Committee Needs Members

And do you live in urban unincorporated Washington County (outside city limits)? If you do, your neighborhood street is probably maintained by the Urban Road Maintenance District. A new citizen advisory committee will review service levels and annual work programs and make recommendations about future road maintenance. There are still seats available. For more information, contact Stacia Sheelar at 503-846-7615 or visit <http://www.co.washington.or.us/CAO/BoardsCommissions/index.cfm>

MAX to Tigard and Sherwood? All-day WES??

Two of three front runners for the region's next high-capacity transit link are in Washington County. Metro's top tier projects include 1) new transit service – light rail, bus rapid transit, commuter rail or rapid streetcar – in the transportation corridor that connects Portland to Tigard or Sherwood and includes Barbur Boulevard and Interstate 5 and 2) the WES commuter rail corridor that connects Beaverton to Wilsonville, which could see WES service upgraded to all day service with trains running at 15-minute intervals. 3) is a corridor along Powell Boulevard, connecting Gresham to downtown Portland. These connections will be incorporated into the still-developing 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, formally establishing them as targets for available high capacity transit funding as it becomes available. See <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/index.cfm/go/ly.web/id=26680> for more information.



On the Road Again

Cornelius-Schefflin Road Segment "E" over Council Creek

Cornelius-Schefflin Road is now open to traffic; there will be intermittent delays though the end of the project. The 1.1 miles between Verboort Road and Council Creek have been widened and improved. Estimated construction cost is \$2.3 million. *Completion date is June 2010.*

Council Creek Bridge on Cornelius-Schefflin Road

The bridge was raised above flood elevation and now has sufficient width to meet the needs of trucks, autos, farm equipment, bicyclists, and pedestrians. The contractor continues to work on minor final completion items. Estimated construction cost is \$4.4 million. *Completion date is June 2010.*

NW Spiesschaert Road Bridge over Council Creek

The new road was built and the contractor has finished the first layer of pavement. Final pavement will be laid this spring/summer. In July, the contractor will remove the existing bridge over Council Creek. Estimated project cost is \$877,011. *Completion date is June 2010.*

Saltzman Road from Cornell to Bauer Woods Drive

The contractor is finishing the new storm pipe along west side of Saltzman Road, and the utility conduits and overhead utility lines and transfer of services along the east side. A new water line and retaining walls will follow. Estimated construction cost is \$5.3 million; *completion date is December 2010.*

For more about these projects and road closure information go to www.wc-roads.com or call 503 846-7800.

Saltzman Road Being Rebuilt

NW Saltzman Road is a major north-south transportation corridor between NW Laidlaw Road and the Sunset Highway. The improved road will have three lanes (two travel lanes and a center turn lane), bike lanes, curbs and sidewalks, lighting and landscaping, as well as storm sewer improvements. Phase one (Cornell Road to Bauer Woods Drive) will be completed by December 2010. Phase two (Bauer Woods Drive to Thompson Road) will be constructed later when funding becomes available. Funded by MSTIP 3, the total cost is \$11,500,000. <http://www.co.washington.or.us/LUT/TransportationProjects/saltzman.cfm>

Bike and Ped power... School Zone Flasher Signals Up and Running

As of the new year, fifteen schools had helpful new flashing yellow beacons installed: Aloha HS, Brown JHS, Chehalem ES, Findley ES, Groner ES, Indian Hills ES, Kinnaman ES, Stoller MS, Sunset HS, Tom McCall MS, Cedar Mill ES, Lenox ES, West Union ES, North Plains ES, and Visitation. To read more about the county's use of federal ARRA stimulus money, go to <http://www.co.washington.or.us/LUT/Divisions/CPM/federal-stimulus-money.cfm>

Cornelius Pass Road Getting New Bridge – and Short Closure

Cornelius Pass is one of only two major arterial north-south connecting roads in Hillsboro, stretching between Route 30 and Route 8 (Tualatin Valley Highway). Washington County and the City of Hillsboro are upgrading the mile-long stretch from Frances Street to the Quatama MAX light-rail station, replacing the bridge over Beaverton Creek and widening the road to five lanes with bike lanes and sidewalks.



Cornelius Pass at Quatama Looking South

Waterlines will also be upgraded. There will be a six to eight month closure from Quatama to Samantha Lane, just north of Baseline Road, beginning in spring 2010, to replace the bridge. The project is paid for by a combination of MSTIP county property tax funds and developer-paid Traffic Impact Fees. For more information contact project manager Abe Turki, 503-846-7859, abraham_turki@co.washington.or.us or go online to www.wc-roads.com

InRoads for Fish... Washouts on Old Scotch Church Road and SW 97th

In November, a 48-inch culvert washed out on SW 97th Avenue south of Canyon Road in Beaverton, leaving a large hole in the road. Heavy rains may have contributed to the washout. Emergency repairs were not feasible, so the road remains closed until the culvert can be replaced late this summer. Then in January, a four-foot diameter cottonwood tree next to Scotch Church Road toppled over into McKay Creek, causing a landslide and undermining the road base. Engineering and environmental staff determined that emergency repairs could be undertaken. Assuming good weather and no unforeseen delays, the road was scheduled to reopen by January 29.

All work performed in our roadways is done to minimize or avoid actions that may cause harm to endangered fish species, resource waters or wildlife habitats. Sometimes that means a road will remain closed until environmentally responsible repairs can be made.

Federal Energy Grant for Green Development

The U.S. Department of Energy has granted \$500,000 over two years to assess the County's codes for obstacles in achieving higher levels of sustainability. We will hire a "green" consultant to oversee the project and assign current planning and building staff to it. A task force of private sector experts - architects, engineers, home builders, affordable housing advocates, and environmental groups - will help assess obstacles to green development and give us feedback on community priorities. In 2011 the grant will help incorporate "greener" standards into the Washington County Building Codes and the Community Development Code.

Ready for an Emergency??

Preparing for emergencies is the responsibility of everyone. Whether it's a snowstorm or earthquake, making sure you and your family are prepared to sustain yourself for at least three days will greatly reduce the stress of any type of emergency event. Think about how you will heat your home without electricity. Store bottled water, extra canned goods and discuss with your family a plan on how you will re-unite if an emergency separates you. More tips on personal preparedness can be found at www.ocem.org

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: Dixie King, 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
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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

Current Planning & Building Services

• 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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