



Updates

Washington County
Department of Land Use and Transportation
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We are REACHing for excellence in customer service.

Updates

A Community Newsletter
Winter 2011

of Washington County's Department of Land Use and Transportation

You have been asking - Who do I call to talk about...?

Several county agencies are available to address community members' concerns. Here is their contact information:

- [Hazards next to or in the road](#) – Land Use and Transportation Operations, 503 846-ROAD (846-7623)
- [Violations of Community Development Code](#) – Land Use and Transportation Current Planning, 503-846-8761
- [Abandoned vehicles](#) – Sheriff's Office, 503-846-2700
- [Noise or public health issues such as tall weeds, accumulated trash or lack of proper sanitation](#) – Health and Human Services, Solid Waste, 503-846-8609
- [Animal issues](#) – Bonnie Hays Small Animal Shelter, 503-846-7041

If your complaint is with your neighbor, you might try talking with them first. Sometimes, the problem is solved with a simple discussion. If talking directly doesn't work, consider mediation. The [Beaverton Dispute Resolution Center](#) serves Washington County residents who live east of 185th Avenue, including Tigard, Tualatin, and Sherwood. The [Hillsboro Mediation Program](#) serves the county west of 185th Avenue, including Cornelius, Forest Grove, North Plains, and Banks. Both programs are successful at helping people resolve their differences.



URMDAC – Supporting County Efforts for Well Maintained Urban Roads

The new [Urban Road Maintenance District Advisory Committee](#) is up and running. At their January meeting, they reviewed five years of pavement maintenance history and the roads planned for sealing and paving this summer. They also reviewed the recently published



[URMD Annual Report](#). URMDAC meets the third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are open to the public, and time is set aside to hear from the public. For more information, contact Stacia Sheelar at 503-846-7623 or contact the committee at URMDAC@co.washington.or.us.

Signs of snow or ice – Our crews are ready!

Last winter's night crew trial proved to be successful, so again this winter we have some crew members on night shift. Their primary assignment is routine road maintenance, but they're available at the drop of a snowflake to de-ice and sand roads or to respond to other emergency needs. And after the ice melts, the night crew sweeps up the sand while you sleep, reducing daytime traffic impacts.



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

Find a speaker for your organization:

<http://www.co.washington.or.us/LUT/GetInvolved/community-presentations.cfm>

Washington County Videos: www.youtube.com/WashingtonCntyOregon

Meet the new Washington County Commissioners and find out who represents you:

<http://www.co.washington.or.us/BOC>

Wise Use of Federal Funds in 2010 Strengthen Our Community

When the federal government offered local governments the opportunity to compete for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, county staff quickly marshaled resources to apply and win the grants. Our goals were to improve traffic safety, operations, and upgrade infrastructure (at little or no cost to our local funds!).

In 2006 county staff had examined the signal system and recommended using flashing yellow arrow (FYA) signals at intersections to improve commute times and reduce pollution from idling cars. Using ARRA funds, and in collaboration with ODOT and the cities of Tigard and Tualatin, FYAs were installed in 2010 at 174 intersections to improve traffic flow.



Innovations in traffic signals now allow the use of video detection to improve safety, reduce maintenance costs, and adjust to changing congestion. The ARRA funds enabled 80 intersections to be upgraded.

Federal funds were used to install solar powered flashers in 15 school speed zones. To save on energy and maintenance costs these projects installed LED lights, retimed traffic signals and replaced interior illuminated signs throughout our system.

It was a perfect storm of opportunities and improvements. The ARRA funds were available for "shovel-ready" projects and the county was able to deliver. While the ARRA funding paid for the installations, private contractors often did the work. For example, electrical contractor, Signal Construction Group of Woodburn, installed the flashing yellow arrows.

These projects have received accolades from several sectors, including the Julian Prize for sustainability from the American Public Works Association.

On the Road Again

Capital Road Projects completed in 2010

Traffic is moving again. We want to extend a huge thank you to everyone for their patience while we improved this busy street in Tigard. Improvements to the intersections



of **Highway 99W at Hall Boulevard and Greenburg Road at Main Street** are substantially complete. A few pending tasks will be finalized in the spring when temperatures are warmer.

2010 proved to be a busy year overall for capital transportation projects. Additional projects completed last year include: **Saltzman Road (Cornell to Bauer Woods), 185th Avenue (Kinnaman to Shaw), Tualatin-Sherwood Road at Gerda, Susbauer Railroad Crossing, Sellers Road Realignment, Banks-Vernonia Trailhead, Spiesschaert Road at Council Creek, Council Creek Bridge, Cornelius Schefflin Road, and Kaiser Road intersections at Bethany and Laidlaw.**

Ongoing Capital Road Projects

The installation of an **Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)** and traffic adaptive signal system, including Pan Tilt Zoom cameras, are being installed on **Tualatin-Sherwood Road** between I-5 and Teton Avenue.

Through the use of this ITS, real-time roadway condition information can be gathered for decision making to improve overall traffic flow and aid in reducing congestion. *Completion date is April 2011.*

Widening work continues on **Glencoe Road** between Highway 26 and West Union Road. The road is being widened to three lanes with the addition of sidewalks, bike lanes and street lights. *Completion date is May 2011.*

The bridge on **Cornelius Pass Road** at Beaverton Creek has been replaced and the road was reopened on schedule after being closed for six months. Improvements to the remaining segments of Cornelius Pass will continue through spring. Completion date is July 2011.

New Projects Coming for 2011

- David Hill Road Extension
- Brookwood Avenue (TV Hwy to East Main)
- 185th Avenue (West Union to Westview High School)
- Glencoe Road Bridge at McKay Creek
- Scholls Ferry Road/River Road Roundabout
- Meacham Road Bridge at Dairy Creek

In Roads for Fish – Improving Water Quality and Stream Flow

With completion of the **Cornelius Pass Road bridge**, both water quality and stream flow have been improved. At both ends of the new bridge, stormwater filters are installed to capture road oils and other impurities before the water makes its way back into the stream. The City of Hillsboro is responsible for maintenance and replacing the filters periodically. The **River Road bridge**, installed in 2008, used bioswales along the bridge embankments providing a natural stormwater filtration system. In addition both bridge replacements used spans eliminating in-stream pilings and improving the streams' flows.

Bike and Ped Power – Summer Creek Natural Area Trails

On January 7 the county joined City of Tigard, Clean Water Services and Metro to celebrate the purchase of the Summer Creek natural area. This 48-acre site is located in the center of the city, adjacent to the Fanno Creek Greenway Trail.



The diverse landscape of the natural area supports turtles, frogs, hawks, owls and herons. The county was an early and vocal supporter of this purchase, helping to leverage some of its own share of Natural Areas bond funds (approved by Metro-area voters in 2006) to ensure the city's \$5 million purchase from the Tigard School District.

The Summer Creek property will become a part of the region's Intertwine, a network of parks, trails and natural areas that allow people to interact with nature close to home. The majority of the property will remain a natural area, but the city intends to solicit public comments about possible amenities at the site. For more information, contact Steve Martin, Parks & Facilities Manager at City of Tigard. Call 503-718-2583 or e-mail him at steve@tigard-or.gov

Shhhh...County Helps Quiet Train Horns in Tualatin

The county contributed funds to help its agency partners, the City of Tualatin, TriMet, and Metro, pay for the installation of wayside horns for the WES commuter rail and freight trains through Tualatin. About one-third of the project's cost was covered by ARRA federal stimulus funds.



In addition to the quiet zone and installation of wayside horns, TriMet also improved pedestrian safety features at two crossings in Tualatin.

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: Gretchen Olson, 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

Urban Road Maintenance District Advisory Committee (URMDAC)

3rd Wednesday @ 4 pm
Training Room 1, Walnut Street Center
1400 SW Walnut Ave., Hillsboro
Contact: Stacia Sheelar, 846-7623

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: Philip Bransford, 846-8685

Washington County Board of Commissioners

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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

Development Services

- Current Planning 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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