

RURAL ROADS OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 11, 2019



Members Present:

Allen Amabisca	David McCoy (alternate)	Gary Virgin
Denny Hruby	Ken Moyle	Lars Wahlstrom
Michael Jamieson	Matt Pihl	
Daniel Morgan (chair)	Doug Riedweg	

Absent:

Michael Lyda (alternate)	Gayle Ostgard
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County Staff Present:

Melissa De Lyser	Keith Lewis	Stacy Shetler
Steve Franks	Sherri McFall	Todd Watkins
Steve Kelley	Cindy Remy	

Guests:

None

1. Welcome, Introductions and Approval of May 2019 Minutes

Chair Dan Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m. He welcomed the group and took attendance.

Melissa De Lyser introduced new Operations' staff member Cindy Remy, Senior Program Communication and Education Specialist.

Regarding the draft May 9 meeting minutes, Member Amabisca indicated he was absent from the May meeting. Member Jamieson clarified that his comments regarding bridge solutions were for guard rails only. With those revisions, Member Jamieson moved to approve the minutes and Member Riedweg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Guest Comments

There were no guest comments.

3. Division Updates (as needed)

Capital Projects Services (CPS):

Joe Younkens was not present.

Engineering, Traffic and Survey (ETS)

Stacy Shetler, County Engineer, updated the Committee on ETS events.

Cornelius Pass Road will be closed from Old Cornelius Pass Road (north of US 26) to US 30; dates likely to be July 18 – October 8. The work will be done in 12 hour shifts, 6 days/week. Multnomah County is improving the road to try to accommodate the heavy trucking load that it sustains. There is an official detour coordinated between Multnomah and Washington counties via US 26. Member Jamieson said he's heard trucks will route themselves through Longview and Vernonia.

Johnson School Road delineators caused issues with farm implements, so the delineators in front of guardrails were removed and reflective buttons installed instead.

ETS placed a speed feedback radar trailer on Blooming Fern Hill Road due to a request at a Community Participation Organization (CPO) meeting. The resulting data will be shared with the Washington County Sheriff's Office (WCSO). Member Morgan asked what the data reflected. Stacy shared that some speeds were much higher than the posted advisory of 40 mph.

Member Riedweg suggested checking speeds at Johnson School Road and Tongue Lane. Stacy will check the schedule to place the radar trailer.

Stacy shared that he attended a telecom meeting about 5g technology in rural areas. He discovered that 5g is not likely to be pushed out to rural areas and that the existing 4g towers will remain for some time.

Operations (Ops)

Todd Watkins explained that chip seal work, which typically begins the week after July 4, began this week on Monday but was stopped due to weather. The unseasonable wet weather this spring and summer has caused us to adjust most of our project dates.

There is an upcoming lavender festival on Bishop Road. The County wasn't aware of the festival and surface stabilization work has not been done yet, due to rainy weather. The County will prioritize work and encourage the contractor to complete it to enhance regional events, when weather allows.

As previously requested by Member Jamieson, the LUT Ops org chart was distributed.

4. Gravel Roads and Bridge Subcommittee Reports

Bridge Subcommittee: Member McCoy gave an update and a one-page summary of the meeting discussion was distributed.

Member Jamieson shared that the Bridge Subcommittee discussed use of rural roads for emergency services. In rural areas, medical emergencies receive response via fire engine. Aaron compiled information for the subcommittee about Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVF&R) fire vehicle weights and lengths. It was determined that most of their vehicles are less than 50,000 lb. The subcommittee chose to use that weight as a threshold for bridge prioritization. A one-page handout titled "RROMAC Bridge Subcommittee – July 2019" was distributed.

Todd shared that the County created and maintains a Motor Carrier Reference Map of county roads and assets that contains length and weight limits; it is frequently updated and available on the web. In fact, we are currently awaiting approval from the Board requesting a new load limit on a road, which will require updating the map again.

Gravel Road Subcommittee: Member Moyle shared an update and a one-page handout titled "Gravel Road Subcommittee Minutes for 7/3/19" was distributed."

Member Moyle indicated that the subcommittee's focus is on Surface Stabilization. We refrain from calling it a dust abatement program because the priority is road condition and safety, though dust abatement is very much a positive result of the process.

He referenced the Gravel Road rating table and shared that the County is trying to rate all its gravel roads by September. The subcommittee is rating the criteria used to rate and upgrade those rural roads. Todd shared that part of the process for Surface Stabilization is applying lignin sulfonate. This is the same treatment that private citizens use when they apply for a Dust Control permit with the County. Member McCoy shared that greenhouse covers have a new European technology that uses a poly covering that sheds dust. Member Morgan shared that everyone's expectation of what a gravel road should be is different and the rating process we are developing allows us to set a standard expectation. Todd shared that gravel roads themselves are all different and that the most dynamic factor of a gravel road is that is constantly changing, sometimes day-by-day. The deterioration curve is much shorter than paved roads, culverts, bridges, etc.

Member Pihl asked if the County has tried to split the spray process into two sessions: one each before and after grading. Keith replied that we haven't tried that as it would take twice as long.

He shared that we try to grade the road a couple days prior to the contractor spraying. Member Pihl commented that he splits it on his private roads. He said that by doing it all at once, the larger pieces of gravel get sprayed on top but the spray never makes it down to the fine gravel underneath. Keith indicated it may be worth trying.

5. Transportation System Plan 101

Steve Kelley, Senior Transportation Planner, LUT Long Range Planning, works on and with the County's "Transportation System Plan" (TSP). Steve shared a PowerPoint presentation and fielded questions. Steve discussed how state planning rules are intended to protect rural roads and communities from intrusion by urban traffic.

Member Virgin asked how the County communicates rural transportation issues, such as urban traffic using rural roads, with the State. Stacy Shetler responded that County Commissioners recently approved a third government affairs policy person to work with other government agencies, including the State of Oregon. Member Jamieson asked if observations are passed through the government affairs person up to the legislature. Steve replied that we do have a structure to initiate that type of communication and stated the purpose of the TSP is to follow the guidelines and comply with State planning rules. There was discussion of the role Metro plays in regional decision making.

Member Morgan asked what it means to protect rural roads from urban traffic intrusion. Steve explained that the challenge is how to manage the commuter use of certain rural roads without significant capacity expansion or otherwise encouraging urban traffic to use rural roads. Member Amabisca observed that restrictions placed on the urban roads naturally detour traffic to rural roads. He suggested that accommodations should be made in the developments themselves to provide direct routes for the urban traffic to stay within the urban area.

6. Confirm Meeting Follow-Up/Action Items: What and Who?

After discussion, members agreed that RROMAC's next meeting will be held September 12. Proposed topics will be subcommittee reports, quarterly road maintenance program update, and Pavement Condition Index (PCI) update.

Sherri will schedule the next Bridge Subcommittee meeting in late July.

Member McCoy suggested disaster funding as a topic on a future agenda. Todd responded that it could possibly be a topic a future meeting.

Potential October topics include Willamette Water Services returning for follow-up to their May presentation to RROMAC.

7. Meeting Adjourned

Member Jamieson moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Virgin seconded. Committee voted to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

8. Tour of the Walnut Street Center

After adjournment, Todd led members on a tour of the Walnut Street Center.

Next meeting: Thursday, September 12, 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.