



**RURAL ROADS OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of June 10, 2021**



MINUTES

Members Present:

Loren Behrman	Dave McCoy	Matt Pihl
Marc Farrar	Dan Morgan	
Mike Jamieson	Ken Moyle	

Members Absent:

Jeff Hindley	Kristine Kennedy	Doug Riedweg
Denny Hruby		

County Staff and Commissioners Present:

Aaron Clodfelter	Sherry McFall	Jerry Willey
Brian Irish	Michael Nemeyer	Todd Watkins
Deanna Kurtzbein	Diane Overstreet	Joe Younkins
Keith Lewis	Ken Schlegel	

Guests:

None

1. Welcome, Introductions and Approval of March 2021 Minutes

Chair McCoy called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m. He welcomed members and staff.

Member Mike Jamieson requested the minutes be changed as follows: Member Jamieson stated that he was not at the March meeting but has points to add to the discussion regarding paper roads or road signage. He hoped it would continue today or be added to the agenda for a future meeting.

Member Matt Pihl moved to approve the March 2021 minutes. Member Marc Farrar seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Rural Roads Pavement Condition Index (PCI) Update

Brian Irish shared his screen displaying the Rural Roads Pavement Condition Index (PCI) data. Same PCI report as provided in past meetings; reports are run in the fall and in the spring. Brian highlighted data regarding rural arterials, collectors, and local roads and shared that it does not show anything unexpected. Overall pavement index remains above 80. Target PCI for rural locals is 70 and we are way ahead of that. We are replicating last year’s program for this year’s surface stabilization program.

Member Jamieson asked about employment numbers and if they are stable and if we have enough staff to perform the work. Todd stated that we had a decent recruiting season and that Operations is currently recruiting for an Engineering Technician I.

Brian shared a draft of the Road Maintenance Work Program, which will be submitted to County Commissioners for approval before the new fiscal year. He indicated that in-house pavement surface treatments planned for this summer include a thin lift asphalt overlay and that there will be no chip seal overlays this summer. Asphalt paving, formerly known as machine patching - think of it as spot paving in targeted areas - will include rural collector Helvetia Rd and various rural locals. Contracted work for the road fund overlay will include two urban arterials, five collectors and one rural arterial, which is Beef Bend Rd. This work will impact the data that will be generated in the fall's PCI update.

3. Guest Comments

There were no guest comments

4. Bridge Subcommittee Findings & Recommendations

Aaron Clodfelter recapped the creation of the bridge subcommittee and the decisions and recommendations made by the committee since its formation. It was formed to address bridges and replacement priorities, use of MSTIP funds and House Bill 2017 funds for bridge replacements, with prioritization of bridges as a focus. The subcommittee selected three categories to organize recommendations: structural, functional, and environmental. The most pressing item was the need for emergency response to be at the forefront of decision-making for bridge replacements. A baseline rating of 50,000 lbs. was determined, to allow a fire truck or engine to be able to cross a structure for adequate emergency response. Operations is hoping to build prioritization modeling into the new Asset Management system the County is currently implementing, which is about a year out.

Member Jamieson asked if this information regarding the recommended baseline has been communicated to all fire departments in the County and whether it will be ongoing. Aaron shared that the baseline wasn't directly indicated but specifications for some of the equipment has been provided, as well as which bridges cannot carry those loads. The State of Oregon is now beginning to look at load ratings of emergency vehicles. It is a big issue that has not been directly addressed before. Member Jamieson stated that it is an important component, and that communicating the baseline is important, and wants communication to be ongoing.

Member Morgan inquired about how this will look in the new Asset Management system model. Aaron explained that the system is still in its infancy and that piece is still to be determined. Member Morgan also asked about the South Road bridge, and Aaron replied that the County has decided to move forward with replacement. Member Pihl asked what the primary driver is for the decision to replace it. Aaron shared that with the wildfire evacuation order for Cherry Grove in 2020, it became clear that without South Road bridge there would only be one way out. Member Pihl wondered if that would be a consideration for other roads, and Todd affirmed that population density and alternate routes would be also be factors for consideration. He added that it was a low volume road and the cost of repairing and replacing had to be considered. South Road bridge is proposed to be a one lane bridge wide enough to accommodate agricultural vehicles, emergency vehicles, and other types of vehicles. The proposed cross section will be brought to the group, possibly within the year.

Member Jamieson thanked Aaron for his work.

5. Rural County Road Usage During Emergencies

Member McCoy started the discussion regarding emergency response during forest fire event or an earthquake. He stated he found a wide array of information about emergency procedures on the County

website (<https://www.co.washington.or.us/EmergencyManagement/index.cfm>). He noted that the northern part of Washington County is designated as vulnerable to wildfire due to lack of access, steep south-facing slopes, and timber with branches to the ground. He shared that the County has done a lot of work regarding earthquakes, with mobile communication towers available to replace potential downed communication towers. He took note that almost every segment of emergency planning loops back to roads being the critical piece. He proposed RROMAC develop a chain of command/handbook in the event of emergencies. Discussion included County emergency preparedness, community volunteers (equipment), re-establishment of access to certain roads (Sherman Mills), and availability of fuel.

Member Farrar recommended that County staff make a presentation to the committee to provide information about emergency response to give a better idea of what the County has in place in the event of an emergency. Ken Schlegel provided some background and referenced the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, which would answer some of the questions about what areas have been identified. The plan is up for review right now and Ken proposed that someone from RROMAC could participate in the review; helping identify what mitigation actions and projects can be listed within the plan. Ken indicated that the Emergency Volunteer Management Plan is a good resource for what help is needed, how individuals can get involved, and how to help in general (<https://www.co.washington.or.us/EmergencyManagement/Preparedness/get-involved.cfm>). He also suggested that committee members reach out to John Wheeler, County Emergency Management Manager. Ken stated that emergency transportation routes and maps were last updated in 2007, and the five-county region has just completed phase one of updating emergency transportation routes regionally. Funding was just received for phase two; that work will soon begin.

Member Moyle asked if Washington County is coordinated with the state emergency plan and detour routes. Aaron replied that the county identified routes acceptable as an alternate to state routes and Todd Watkins confirmed that those alternate routes were incorporated into the regional emergency transportation routes.

Todd recommended that interested individuals reference the Emergency Management Annex, part of the Emergency Management Plan, detailing county-wide fuel management and fuel distribution (link here: https://www.co.washington.or.us/EmergencyManagement/upload/FA-V_Emergency-Fuel-Mgmt_Approved_2021-0120.pdf). He reminded the committee that RROMAC was updated by the previous Emergency Manager, Scott Porter, in Spring 2019. Todd also recounted that past planning efforts and encountered problems when making too-specific plans. As a result, the county creates generalized concept plans. Keith Lewis added that the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) holds meetings that are attended by himself and Ken Schlegel, at which things such as transportation routes are addressed. The five counties involved are: Clackamas, Washington, Multnomah, Columbia and Clark counties. The RDPO website can be found here: <https://rdpo.net/>.

Ken Schlegel stated that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will collect data from all jurisdictions to coordinate local resources and identify areas that need attention. LUT Operations and Maintenance would help to support that by identifying and concentrating on priority routes, etc. In response to Chair McCoy's request to have access to these plans, Ken stated that it isn't always publicly available or published, and he will mention this to the Emergency Manager as to what is available on the website. Ken will be working on the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan review project for the next 12-18 months and invites anyone who would like to participate in that project to contact him. He will plan to return to RROMAC with an update within the year.

6. Meeting wrap-up

Commissioner Willey provided an update on County Commission activity. The final budget approval is scheduled for June 15. He shared that American Recovery funds will be available in July and the County is identifying where that money will be allocated. Washington County is working with Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook counties on the rural broadband program. A master plan is in place and awaiting funding to become available.

Chair McCoy asked about the RROMAC meeting schedule. Sherri McFall shared the annual schedule of topics and asked committee members if there were topics to add.

Chair McCoy asked to add the definition of paper roads to the September meeting.

Member Jamieson asked to add ORS 368.331, vacating a county road as a future topic. Sherri McFall asked for clarification. Is the request to discuss road closures or long-term signage? He requested it encompass a variety of situations related to roads that are closed, signage, vacated, gates, jersey barriers etc. He suggested specific topics be submitted by members at the September meeting. Member Jamieson also requested guidelines to help property owners navigate the issue of people trying to use public lands. Todd acknowledged the various aspects of this topic and explained that solutions to some of the issues surrounding this topic are beyond the scope of Operations and Maintenance. Member Behrman requested future discussion on this topic include inviting someone from Law Enforcement and from Survey.

Topics for upcoming meetings:

- ✓ Identify specific issues related to closed roads and use of public lands
- ✓ Road Maintenance Program Report
- ✓ Service Request update
- ✓ Emergency update from Ken Schlegel

7. Adjournment

Chair McCoy asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Farrar moved. Member Behrman seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Next meeting: September 9, 2021 at 7:30 a.m.
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