



# WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

## RROMAC MEETING MINUTES January 15, 2015

The purpose of RROMAC is to study rural road operations and maintenance concerns in Washington County, work with County staff to develop program and funding alternatives and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

Members: Allen Amabisca  
Bill Ewers  
John Malnerich  
Jim McCulloch  
Matt Pihl  
Doug Riedweg  
Dave Sweeney  
Gary Virgin  
Lars Wahlstrom

Staff: Andre Bjornskov  
Chris Deffebach  
Roberta Garcia  
Tom Harry  
Terry Lawler  
Keith Lewis  
Kofi Nelson  
Shelley Oylear  
Stephen Roberts  
Victoria Saager  
Dave Schamp  
Stacia Sheelar  
Stacy Shetler  
Gary Stockhoff  
Todd Watkins  
Dave Schamp

Absent: Mike Chombeau  
Denny Hruby  
Jake Miller

Guests: Dan Morgan

### Welcome

Doug Riedweg called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. The committee approved the minutes from the previous three meetings, September through November.

### Guest Comments

Dan Morgan, guest, shared that Travel Oregon was out to ride several gravel roads recently (12 riders in total) and loved it. They only had one flat tire and that was due to the bike itself. There was a great article in Bike Portland with great photos as well. Victoria shared a link to the article in a previous email. There are many tourism opportunities in Washington County. This group ate in Banks and again in Helvetia during this 25-mile ride.

Gary Virgin asked if the group is considerate if they need to use a restroom facility and avoid using nearby crops. Dan assured Gary the group was aware of the concern and this was the reason for several stops along the ride at various facilities. Dan has also encouraged riders to take MAX transportation to Hillsboro.

Shelley reminded the group there is a map of gravel roads available on the [Washington County Roads](#) website. (The map name is Surface Type of County Roads.)

### **Washington County Transportation Study**

Chris Deffebach, Policy Analyst, shared information regarding the current Washington County Transportation Study and provided committee members with a copy of the [Overview Handout December 23, 2014](#). The study is being done to learn more about how to prepare for the implications of future development plans looking at travel needs, congestion, livability, community health, economic development among other areas. The County is working with city partners and looking at the twenty-year horizon. In the end the hope is to learn things the County didn't already know and look at trade-offs or other ways to do things.

Chris shared it is important to keep in mind this is a study not a plan. It will not go to the Board for action. They will seek public input by coming back to RROMAC, working with the Washington County Coordinating Committee, meeting with cities, etc. They are looking for volunteers to participate with diverse knowledge and both rural and urban perspectives.

Doug Riedweg asked what the commitment would be for the volunteers and Chris shared it would be ten meetings, two hours each for 16 months through spring of 2016. John Malnerich asked how this differs from the Transportation System Plan (TSP). The TSP looks only at currently adopted 20-year plans and limits what you can look at in the overall plan.

Also, the Transportation Study includes urban, rural, county and city unlike the TSP.

### **Operations and Maintenance Update on Porter Road**

Dave Schamp provided an update on Porter Road Bridge and its current condition. Staff went to the Board with several options, including do nothing and leave it weight limited, replace the bridge, repair the bridge, remove the bridge, or restrict traffic to bike/pedestrian only. The Board has directed staff to make plans to repair the bridge, so staff is currently evaluating and planning to repair the bridge this summer. Staff described that the extent of the repairs are unknown until work begins, also preparing for worst-case scenario of replacing the bridge if things don't go well.

### **Code Enforcement**

Andre Bjornskov attended to share information about the County's Solid Waste enforcement procedures. This group also handles any noise variance issues. A variance permit is required outside of the hours of 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. They regulate fees for eleven garbage haulers within the county. Andre can be reached at 503-846-3664. Andre provided a [Solid Waste Code Enforcement handout](#). You can also go to the Sheriff's Office webpage and click on [Code Enforcement](#).

Andre assured Matt Pihl they will always respond to reports of roadside dumping reported and investigate to try and find the responsible party.

Solid Waste wants to know about everything that is dumped on the roadside, because each bag of garbage could contain the final clue to a larger case.

Gary Virgin and Lars Wahlstrom both raised the continuing issue of Baker Rock tracking mud and dirt on to the roadways and not keeping the roads clean. They have tried to work with Baker Rock; they have taken photos, sent emails, done everything they know to do.

Tom Harry from Planning spoke about [priority levels](#) for enforcement calls and gave examples of the things he deals with throughout the county.

John Malnerich asked about dumping permits for dirt and how those permits are monitored. John says there are several people that violate the rules of their dumping permits. John said someone needs to step up and take responsibility to deal with these people breaking these rules and stop saying, that isn't my responsibility, that is the other person over there.

Kofi Nelson, Building Engineer, shared that their focus is life safety, stability and drainage. They have visited some sites many times, but they can only police the drainage issues.

Andre said dirt can be considered a solid waste and if someone is charging to have it dumped on their property, it is a violation of the disposal code.

Stephen Roberts, Policy Analyst, noted that each division is challenged with enforcing things and we don't have a consolidated "Code Enforcement" group. One location may have multiple violations and it's difficult to deal with these situations. Stephen will discuss the committee's concerns with the LUT leadership team.

Lars provided photos of Baker Rock issues to Tom Harry for follow-up.

### **Council Creek Regional Trail Master Plan Update**

Shelley Oylear provided handouts about the [Council Creek Regional Trail](#). There was an open house November 5 and subsequently at a December meeting the stakeholder advisory committee members selected the Rail 1 alignment from Hillsboro to Forest Grove and the East alignment from Forest Grove to Banks.

Shelley indicated the trail is currently not a priority for the Board of County Commissioners. It could be many years before funding is available for something like this to be built.

City of Forest Grove is working with a consultant to finish the final master plan at this point and looking to get the plan adopted by the cities. The County Commissioners will likely endorse the plan, but would not adopt the plan.

Doug Riedweg attended the open house and was surprised by the actual size of the trail. He expected it to be much smaller than the plan actually showed. He along with others had concerns about a large area of their property frontage being used for this, after seeing that the trail width was different than they expected.

### **Grading Permit Conditions and Enforcement**

Terry Lawler, Senior Planner, spoke about the [Preliminary Grading Review form](#). The form is used to determine if the land use codes apply. Terry works with the applicant to determine the need for a Land Use Application. Terry works closely with the Soil and Water Conservation District to review all submitted documents. She tries to give each applicant the benefit of the doubt and assume they plan to do what their application indicates. However, that is not always the case and it can become an issue later.

Planning is working to direct dirt into the quarries whenever possible, but there are times when fill dirt is needed, such as enriching marginal soil or other areas. Matt Pihl would like to see the Soil and Water Conservation District be able to affect the decision making process rather than just provide a recommendation.

Once the review is complete, the Building Division takes over and monitors for drainage issues per Kofi. He can only enforce issues that affect drainage. Doug asked for information on who should be called when the owner exceeds the amount of dirt they were supposed to receive.. Terry indicated they have tried to take it to the Board of Appeals without success. Kofi said the measurement is by truckloads, but the County has a difficult time monitoring how many trucks are actually delivered without being onsite all the time.

### **Vehicle Registration Fee Follow-Up**

Stephen Roberts shared a map laying out the Vehicle Registration Fee voting by areas within the county. The West Slope area voted in favor of the VRF as did a large portion of the Tigard area with the majority of western Washington County voting against the VRF.

City of Portland Street Fee is something to watch along with Lane County's proposed Vehicle Registration Fee and see how those go. We would work more closely with the cities going forward. Waiting for the State legislature to play out and hoping that may have had some affect.

Gary Virgin expressed concern about Washington County losing money to other counties due to the legislature.

Stephen said we had good coverage within the newspapers, but the political campaign never really took off and the message didn't get out to the right people quickly enough to educate them on the need.

### **Miscellaneous**

Annual nominations for the committee officers were made and Lars Wahlstrom nominated Jim McCulloch to be the Chair, John Malnerich seconded the motion and all were in favor. Matt Pihl nominated Doug Riedweg as the Vice-Chair and Allen Amabisca seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Todd Watkins handed out the first drafts of the [Draft Road Fund Surface treatments for 2015-16](#), identifying the planned overlays, chip seals and machine patching for this coming year. More discussion will follow at next month's meeting.

### **Next Meeting Agenda**

Work Program and Budget Update – Dave Schamp/Todd Watkins