



WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

RROMAC MEETING MINUTES February 19, 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
Denny Hruby
John Malnerich
Jim McCulloch
Jake Miller
Matt Pihl
Doug Riedweg
Gary Virgin
Lars Wahlstrom

Staff: Chair Duyck
Roberta Garcia
Keith Lewis
Victoria Saager
Dave Schamp
Stacia Sheelar
Andrew Singelakis
Gary Stockhoff
Todd Watkins

Absent: Mike Chombeau
Dave Sweeney

Guests: Dan Morgan

Welcome

Jim McCulloch called the meeting to order. Matt Pihl motioned to approve the January minutes and Doug Riedweg seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Guest Comments

Dan Morgan was in attendance, no comments.

Engineering and Construction Services Update

Several projects this year totaling over \$100 million this summer which is twice what has been done in the past. The layout of the Hwy 47 roundabout is being tested to ensure larger truck traffic can maneuver through it without issues; TIGER grant for \$10 million was received for the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) work. An IGA was executed within the last week. Work should begin later this year as planned. A [list of projects](#) can be found on the County webpage.

Operations and Maintenance Update

The Board of Commissioners initially directed Operations to repair Porter Road Bridge. Since the initial direction, the directive has changed and the Board has directed Operations to replace the bridge. Porter Road is part of the [Tualatin Valley Scenic Bikeway](#) route and a preferred route for the [Council Creek Regional Trail](#). Funding for the bridge replacement will come mostly from money allocated for Bike and Pedestrian Safety. The replacement is scheduled for next summer (2016).

Gary Virgin asked if the road issues would be addressed at the same time. Dave shared the project is still in the review stages, but staff is aware of the other issues.

Dave talked about the mild winter season and the amount of work the County crews have been able to accomplish with the warmer, drier weather. The Maintenance Planning section of Operations is currently looking for work to add into the annual [Road Maintenance Program](#) since they have been able to accomplish additional tasks during the winter. Forecasts are showing the possibility of colder weather toward the end of the month.

Every year a night crew is formed to go through the Night Road Logs and review all signs in the County to check for reflectivity, sign placement, condition, etc. After completing the process, Traffic Engineering and Operations work together to repair/replace any signs that have been noted with issues. The Night Crew was also able to spend a lot of time cleaning up and sweeping bike lanes this year since they were not dealing with weather events.

There was a discussion regarding the transportation package in the Oregon legislature and the gas tax. Andrew Singelakis addressed the committee and shared the County is now waiting to see what happens with the new governorship. Chair Duyck shared the Republicans will not support a low carbon fuel tax. If there is not a new package for the fuel tax, we will need to find a new funding source. Chair Duyck said they will be looking to RROMAC for advice as this moves forward.

Gary Virgin asked Chair Duyck to make sure whatever is done be done in a way that keeps the money in Washington County and keeps the money out of the hands of the state.

Gary Stockhoff shared if the gas tax is raised \$.04/gallon that would bring \$5 million a year to Washington County. If the gas tax is \$.035/gallon, Washington County would lose \$1.5 million a year.

Work Program and Budget Update

Todd Watkins handed out the [Draft Road Maintenance Program](#). The program will be made available for public review starting in early March.

Todd also shared there has been recent movement on a slide area at Hagg Lake on West Shore Drive near Hankins. The drop is about 4-6". Crews worked with ODOT about one and a half years ago to grind and rebase this area. Lanes have been shifted over using the bike lane and wide shoulder and concrete barricades are in place.

Drill rigs were already onsite to study the slide areas for the next year to see what is causing the slides.

Jim McCulloch asked about the possibility of the dam being raised and Chair Duyck confirmed any plans to raise the water level at the dam will not affect the roadway.

Todd shared there is multi-year project to repair five active slides and we recently submitted a federal grant application for \$5 million to complete this work at Hagg Lake. Our staff did an excellent job getting the grant through the process in the final hour and it looks promising.

Chair Duyck asked about the water line plans for Grabhorn and the timing in relation to the overlay work. Victoria explained the timing of the various drafts of the Road Maintenance Program and the steps in the review process. The draft is shared with other agencies and stakeholders so upcoming projects like the water line can be coordinated. Engineering and Construction Services is coordinating with Hillsboro Water and Tualatin Valley Water District on the [124th Avenue extension project](#).

RROMAC Bylaws, Vision, Mission, Goals, Action Plan

Jim McCulloch discussed he recently reviewed the RROMAC Bylaws and would like the committee to review the committee's mission and the goals of the committee. At times the committee can get off on to other topics due to the intelligence and knowledge of the membership. Is RROMAC doing everything it should be doing?

Dave Schamp discussed the history of RROMAC and how work activities were handled in years past. The [Gravel Road Upgrade Program](#) was developed and supported by RROMAC.

Dave suggested the committee look at adopting performance measures (include service level targets in the annual Road Maintenance Program); rural road safety (where should those funds be spent; develop a prioritized list); develop a gravel road rating program.

Chair Duyck spoke about the value of RROMAC. He reminded the committee there are times when things move slowly, but never underestimate the value of the committee. He shared how important the information shared by the committee on topics like the Vehicle Registration Fee can be to the Board. He also suggested holding a forum after the legislature adjourns this summer to include URMDAC and RROMAC along with all of the commissioners.

Matt Pihl suggested problems be solved with things already in place instead of always looking for a funding source. He suggested looking at a pilot program using private

contractors to help with maintaining some of the gravel roads. John Malnerich felt this was difficult in emergency situations, because it's hard to get the contractors to respond if the economy is booming or if it's after hours.

Jim McCulloch recommended Victoria present Transportation Funding 101 to the committee at a future meeting. This would help ensure the committee members all have a good understanding of all the different funding sources.

Alan Amabisca suggested the committee find out what dollar amount they should be striving for and determine what the impacts are of that funding. Educating the voters ahead of time is also key.

John Malnerich suggested the County save any grindings from road work and stockpile them to use for any future road reversions to save money.

March Agenda

Operations and Maintenance Budget Presentation – Dave Schamp
ODOT – Recap of the Hwy 219/Eagle Elsner project
Rural Bike Funding (Removed from Gain Share) – Shelley Oylear

April Agenda

Transportation Funding 101 – Victoria Saager