



Rural Roads Operations and Maintenance Advisory Committee Meeting

March 9, 2017, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Walnut Street Center

1400 SW Walnut Street, MS 51, Second Floor Training Room 1
Hillsboro, OR 97123-5625

MINUTES

Members Present: Denny Hruby, Michael Jamieson, Daniel Morgan, Ken Moyle, Matt Pihl, Doug Riedweg, Gary Virgin, Lars Wahlstrom

Absent: Dave Sweeney, Allen Amabisca, John Malnerich

County Staff Present: Melissa De Lyser, Steve Franks, Jennifer McCollum, Andrew Singelakis, Gary Stockhoff, Todd Watkins

Guests: None

Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes

Lars called the meeting to order and thanked RROMAC members for their participation at the joint URMDAC/RROMAC meeting in February, which included Dave Schamp and Victoria Saager's retirement celebrations.

Lars asked the committee if they had reviewed the December 2016 minutes. Matt Pihl made a motion to approve the minutes and Gary Virgin seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved as written.

Guest Comments

None.

Engineering and Construction Services Update – Gary Stockhoff

Gary stated that the rain has put some projects behind schedule and postponed others. Projects are also being delayed by utility work not being completed in time for the County to complete the work. Major issues this season have been utility work coordination and inclement weather.

Gary discussed the following projects:

- [Jackson School Road](#) - This project will complete a roundabout that will better connect Jackson School Road, Evergreen Road, and Rogahn Street. The project is being managed by

City of Hillsboro staff, since this section of Jackson School Road is under the jurisdiction of the City of Hillsboro. The project has been delayed by bad weather.

- [SW 124th Avenue](#) - This project will extend 124th Avenue from Tualatin-Sherwood Road to Grahams Ferry Road. City of Hillsboro's Water Department and Tualatin Valley Water District (TVWD) will also be coordinating efforts with this road project by installing the first section of their new water transmission line, connecting to the Willamette River Water Supply System. Gary is not sure if the water pipe is being installed yet; however, the plan is to have the waterline working by 2025. The hope is to install 200 to 300 feet of pipe per day.
- [Springville Road](#) – This project will make needed safety and capacity improvements to Springville Road between 185th Avenue and 178th Avenue. This project is out to bid.
- [Springhill Road Bridge](#) - This project will replace the existing wooden structure with a new concrete bridge. The new bridge will be wider than the existing 20 foot structure.
- [158th Avenue](#) - This project will widen 158th Avenue between Walker Road to just south of Jenkins Road to five travel lanes (two lanes in each direction with a center lane).
- [209th Avenue](#) – Washington County will coordinate with the railroads and ODOT Rail to upgrade the intersection of 209th and TV Highway. The project will improve mobility for bikes, pedestrians, and moto vehicles.

Members discussed several future projects that will impact the right-of-way (ROW). PGE and Verizon are looking to upgrade their services, which will affect homeowners and the ROW. The committee also discussed the need for more rock to be available in Washington County. This issue has been shared with LUT's planning section, for planning staff to potentially evaluate the County's regulations and planning process related to rock quarries. This issue would need to be placed on Long Range Planning's work program for the work to take place.

Operations and Maintenance Update – Todd Watkins

The Operations and Maintenance Division is in transition mode, with Dave Schamp's recent retirement as division manager and other recent staff changes, and the focus of work is shifting into spring work and preparing for summer work. Storm recovery, particularly problem areas that were heavily damaged, is still being worked on. Many service requests have been received from the public.

This year, Operations will have paving contracts for the paving of both urban and rural roads. There will not be a chip seal program this year. There has been a lot of utility work recently which affects our ROW. Crews are filling potholes with cold mix, which is a temporary patch. These will need to be fixed later with a permanent patch.

The slide on the backside of Hagg Lake is getting worse. One lane has been closed for over a year. Cracking and settlement is now moving into the open lane. The road has also been weight limited. We will be sending a notice to the people who live in that area that the road may end up being

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closed. We will do what we can to keep the road open as long as we can, but it's very volatile situation.

2017 Committee Planning Discussion – Lars Wahlstrom & Todd Watkins

Lars reviewed RROMAC's by-laws with the committee and discussed the purpose of the group. He put the question to the committee members: what can RROMAC do to make a difference? Todd recommended coming up with a list of projects or ideas for future meetings, which would give county staff more time to plan for the meetings. Comments made included:

- ❖ Dan Morgan stated he sees the purpose of the committee as being there to support the County and to provide direction to Operations and ECS to help keep them on track.
- ❖ Denny Hruby said he enjoys visiting with the public and helping them understand why we need more resources to maintain our roads.
- ❖ Gary Virgin said he sees the committee discussing the long-term health of County roads. He suggested using current data and current funding to create a future plan to assist with the most used roads and creating a RROMAC work program.
- ❖ Doug Riedweg would like to see more Washington County Sheriff's officers involved with traffic enforcement/traffic safety.

Additional ideas discussed included:

- RROMAC is a reality check for staff.
- RROMAC discussions provide opportunity for identifying and discussing big issues – issues from RROMAC members and issues from staff.
- There are concerns about traffic safety on rural roads (including speed of traffic, cut-through traffic) and the Sheriff's Office awareness, involvement, and enforcement. "Can't build your way out of the safety issue." Perhaps invite a Sheriff's Office representative to a future RROMAC meeting.
- Ask the Board to put more Sheriff's officers on the road for traffic enforcement and traffic safety.
- RROMAC worked hard to assist with the Vehicle Registration Fee; recognize and use the committee's power.
- At a State level, RROMAC could send letters to support and request help for our rural roads.
- Subcommittees could be formed to discuss future projects.
- How is RROMAC different from URMDAC -- is there some overlap? Consensus was that the two advisory committees have completely different roles.

- The interface between rural and urban areas in Washington County is something unusual in the county, due to Washington County's character (both rural and urban, increased interest in rural tourism and bicycling).
- RROMAC could be a little more active (or proactive) and provide more of a voice to staff about issues. But: "it's a two-way street" – RROMAC members provide input to staff, staff provide input to RROMAC. If RROMAC is a bit more proactive, then staff and RROMAC might be able to avoid playing "catch up" on issues.
- Specific topics mentioned for potential future discussions included road reversions, pavement management systems, the County's Road Maintenance Priority Matrix, and the Adopted Pavement Condition Index (PCI), funding streams – current and future – for roads, the impacts of increased development on roads.

Todd and Lars recommended members bring a list of topics to the next RROMAC meeting about what they would like to discuss at RROMAC meetings over the next year.

Prescriptive vs Permissive Rights – Michael Jamieson

RROMAC member Michael Jamieson presented information related to rural roads, focusing on court cases and legal issues related to prescriptive rights versus permissive rights. Issues discussed included how roads are mapped and the accuracy of mapping; vacation of right-of-way and issues related to right-of-way vacations; the maintenance of Local Access Roads (also known as Public Dedicated Roads), including how Road Fund dollars cannot be used to maintain them.

Discussion included that some of these issues are legal issues which RROMAC may not be able to assist with, maintenance of roads is an ongoing issue, and the maintenance of rural local access roads (public dedicated roads) is a pervasive issue. Todd noted he has discussed some of these issues with County Counsel. It was suggested that an update on this issue might potentially be included on the list of RROMAC topics for this year.

Miscellaneous:

- Elect Officers:

Lars opened the floor for nominations for RROMAC Chair. Gary Virgin nominated Lars and Matt Pihl seconded the motion. Doug Riedweg nominated Matt Pihl as Chair but he declined. Matt Pihl then nominated Dan Morgan as the Vice Chair. Dan accepted the nomination. The committee members were all in favor of both nominations. Lars Wahlstrom accepted the nomination to Chair the committee. Dan Morgan accepted the nomination to assist as Vice Chair of the committee.

- The Committee photo was not taken since three members were not in attendance.
- Set agenda for next meeting:
 - Update on budget – new VRF fees (how that will affect RROMAC)
 - Brainstorm about ideas for additional funds

Future agendas and potential future topics

- ✓ Increased development and the impact on roads.
- ✓ Challenges – manage damaged roads with possible new funding streams.
- ✓ Use current data and current funding to create a future work program for the most used rural roads.
- ✓ Traffic enforcement and traffic safety. How do we affect the outcome of these acute issues?
Gary and Todd will discuss how to pull something together.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: April 19, 2017, 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.