



RROMAC MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2009

Members:

Jim Burns
Robert Ewers
Wendy Mortensen
Ken Moyle
Keith Fishback
Eldon Jossi
Matt Pihl
Lars Wahlstrom

Staff:

Dave Schamp
Tom Tushner
Keith Lewis
Victoria Saager
Janelle Lockbeam
Gary Stockhoff
Todd Watkins

Absent:

Lanny Garland
Gary Virgin
Dave Vanasche

Guests:

Doug Riedweg
Tamira Clark, ODOT
David Kim, ODOT

Welcome

Bill Ewers called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. Wendy Mortensen motioned to approve the June minutes and Jim Burns seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Dust Abatement

Dave Schamp asked the group their thoughts of the placement of dust abatement that the county has applied for the safety program. Consensus is that the application is placed in the right spots.

There are two programs for dust abatement. One is a \$65k per year safety package funded with OTIA money that treats areas chosen by county staff to enhance safety. As roads are upgraded, dust abatement previously applied to the upgraded road will be applied on another gravel road to improve safety. The other is a process paid by citizens for dust abatement application. They must submit a permit application and apply it at their expense.

Traffic Update

The 2009 traffic counts are in. Volumes have decreased 12% to the levels observed in 2005. The theory of this decline is the cost of fuel consumption and the economy is down.

Grahams Ferry Road has had problems recently. A fatality occurred and a semi truck struck the railroad crossing despite numerous posted warnings.

Rural Resource Roads

Todd Watkins asked the committee to review the 2009-2010 Rural Resource Roads spreadsheet. These roads are a higher priority for maintenance. He would like the committee to make sure the appropriate roads are identified.

ODOT Midway/Laurel

Tamira Clark and David Kim from Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) gave an update on the ODOT Safety Projects on OR 219. They presented a comment sheet along with ideas from area residents, safety statistics for the five projects completed within the past four years, and a Summer 2009 Oregon Road Projects booklet.

The Browns Corner project will move forward. Work will begin next summer.

The Midway project could be postponed. Matt Pihl moved to support moving forward without delay, with ongoing pursuits to construct a jug handle at the Midway intersection that has minimal impact on farmable land. Lars Wahlstrom seconded the motion. Motion carried 7 to 1. Wendy Mortensen thinks lowering the highway speed can help.

Summer construction 2009 will include 13 projects in the Portland Metro area that is budgeted for \$110 million dollars. Be patient through work zones.

Wendy complimented the night paving on Hwy 26. It went very smoothly.

David mentioned that a variable speed zone will be used as an interim fix for congestion at the intersection of Hwy 26 and Hwy 47. During high volume times the speed zone will be lowered.

Miscellaneous

Lanny Garland resigned from RROMAC due to medical reasons.

Victoria Saager will proceed with a media release on sharing the road with farm equipment. Current ODOT data is not available until September. Victoria will go ahead using available ODOT information.

Washington County Fair is July 30-August 2, 2009. Washington County will have a booth providing the public with construction maps and other information, games and learning tools for kids.

Dave Schamp distributed a Sightline Institute article regarding Northwesterners using less gasoline.

Please call the Operations phone number (503-846-ROAD) with any observed lack of production from county crews. Please call as soon as possible with as much information as possible (i.e. location, time of incident, description).

Wendy Mortensen motioned to adjourn and Lars Wahlstrom seconded the motion.