



Department of
Land Use & Transportation

Rural Roads Operations and Maintenance Advisory Committee Meeting

August 10, 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: Allen Amabisca, Denny Hruby, Michael Jamieson, Daniel Morgan, Ken Moyle, Matt Pihl, Doug Riedweg, Gary Virgin, Lars Wahlstrom

Absent: John Malnerich, Dave Sweeney

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

Guests: Chair Andy Duyck, Commissioner Bob Terry, Anne Kelly

Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes

Lars called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone back. Gary Virgin made a motion to approve the June minutes. Allen Amabisca 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 said there are multitudes of projects in a multitude of stages going on in Washington County right now. He mentioned work is underway on bridges, roadways in the urban areas, and Hwy 26 widening (ODOT project). Farmington Rd is almost ready for the official ribbon cutting. Several Major Streets Transportation Improvement Program (MISTIP) projects are ongoing. His group is working with the Water Consortium regarding the new water pipeline installation. There are no projects around Intel right now but there is a project near NIKE on Jenkins Rd and Walker Rd.

Gary Virgin asked Gary Stockhoff about roadwork going through the Nike vicinity wetlands. Gary said it is really challenging and they try to stay away from them if possible. Michael Jamieson asked about mitigating issues with beavers. Todd answered that beavers are protected and are a natural part of the environment. We have some techniques but relocation or removal are usually not options.

Gary stated his division is struggling to find resources for design and construction; materials are a challenge to acquire. They are trying to meet the expectations of the citizens, and find working with utilities well in advance of the beginning of projects helps tremendously.

Operations and Maintenance Update/ Countywide PCI Update – Todd Watkins

Operations and Maintenance is in the middle of repair work from damage created by last winter's weather. There are many surface works and repairs going on but no chip seal program this year. Washington County has a paving contractor for grinding and the surface pavement-marking program.

The new striper is currently down for repairs and the hot weather slowed vegetation crews down on brush cutting due to fire danger. There are also multiple paving contracts out for summer construction season. Employees on our crews have been encouraged to take extra breaks and drink lots of water while working through the summer heat. Todd echoed the struggle to find resources, materials, and private contractors to complete our work program.

Todd gave a brief summary of the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) update. The harsh winter reset our computer model for pavement management. A consultant will visually inspect all county roads this year to provide us accurate pavement condition data. Rural local roads were the first to be inspected and the anticipation was that they would be the most damaged from winter. There was a \$2 million increase in reconstruction cost for repairs/reconstruction of damaged roads. The consultant is working on the rest of the county roads. Todd noted the older slurry seals caught the brunt of the damage from winter weather. More wheel path distress was found in rural areas from snow tires and chains. More transverse cracking was also noticed on roads. This is related to the freeze/thaw factor and creates soft spots. We will be doing more spot repairs and crack sealing. The previous year Operations received 238 requests to fill potholes; this year 534 requests were received. Todd sees a future filled with more paving and more repairs.

Michael Jamieson asked if the consultant would assess gravel roads. Todd answered no, since we do not grade in the summer time. We will evaluate those roads when the wet weather returns. When the roads are wet, they are easier to mend with a motor grader. If some roads are bad, we might have to work on them more. Surface Stabilization (previously referred to as dust abatement) will be put down on a handful of roads for safety.

Allen Amabisca asked what the plan for Davidson Rd repairs is. Todd answered that many log trucks use that road. We will maintain the road and it is eligible for timber road revenue that will assist with the maintenance of the roads. We do recoup some money that way. We encourage calls to let us know when an issue is present.

Michael asked if the county could notify citizens when a road is removed from the road maintenance list. Todd said it is on his radar, but needs to get our County Counsel's input before he brings it to the committee.

Lars asked what the biggest issue in Todd's opinion is. Todd answered resources are the biggest issue and challenge.

Update on Quarry Ordinance – Anne Kelly

Anne Kelley, Senior Planner shared that Long Range Planning has been working on an ordinance (824) that would allow quarries that have less than 2 million tons of aggregate as a special use. Anne noted that Oregon's land use regulations are strongly geared to protecting significant natural resources. Her presentation explained the background/reason for ordinance, aggregate production levels for various counties, origin of aggregate, proposed "conditional use" standards, key considerations, primary concerns, and status/next steps.

Dan Morgan inquired about impacts of hauling of aggregate versus logging. How do you weigh one against another? Operations looks at these applications, however, the county's land use regulations do not regulate logging trucks.

Gary Virgin cited issues with a past quarry that had a well failure. Gary proposed we have strong county oversight if there will be smaller quarries approved, to regularly check the well water quality and water levels, and be proactive with a monitoring program to at least annually monitor conditions to make sure they are complying with the mining plan that would be presented. Doug Riedweg agreed. Anne answered that uses allowed by special use permits are not as protected as uses allowed by regular use permits—special uses have more requirements or oversight. While some protection is allowed to the business owner, there is also protection for natural resources. Thus, conditions are given to quarry owners, and they are required to follow them.

Commissioner Bob Terry mentioned Dixon Mountain Rd was sliding due to high volumes of quarry trucks. Matt Pihl mentioned not only the size of the quarry is important but also aggregate quality is important. Anne said the draft quarry ordinance does not include a condition for that.

Anne shared that the hearing is set for September 5. The proposed standards will be sent to Jennifer McCollum to forward to committee members. Lars offered the committee's assistance in checking the ordinance over. Chair Duyck said the ordinance season only goes until October and if there are comments please get them in as soon as possible.

Update on Transportation Funding status – LUT Staff

The Vehicle Registration Fee (VRF) will bring in approximately \$8.1 million and will go into effect in 2018. Operations' budget will increase from \$25 to \$45 million, almost doubling the program. State funding will help with bridges. Todd put together a draft work program showing how these amounts will keep our maintenance needs satisfied. In addition to maintenance, safety improvements and sidewalk upgrades will be funded.

Chair Andy Duyck said that for maintenance of current roads, we are looking good. RROMAC will have to decide which roads need to be taken care of first. Todd will recommend roads that need immediate assistance. In the past, some roads were improved through neighborhoods forming Local Improvement Districts (LIDs), while other road improvements were paid by the county. Now neighborhoods that paid for road improvements themselves are asking for repaving. Chair Duyck recommended not continuing with the gravel road upgrade program until decisions are made about LIDs by RROMAC and the Board of Commissioners. Chair Duyck said he is happy to see bridges will be funded with the state funding package.

Commissioner Bob Terry mentioned the replacement or creation of new roads is still not resolved for the long term, citing that gas taxes will not fund the future maintenance needs of Washington County.

Andrew shared that a section of Cornelius Pass Road was signed over to the state. Allen Amabisca asked if we were going to have to trade maintenance on a different road. According to Andrew, Farmington Road is a possibility.

Matt Pihl asked why the gas tax is not being increased enough to fund the roads. Commissioner Terry answered that electric cars don't pay the gas tax. Chair Duyck said that proposals to raise the gas tax that cause the big truck companies and AAA to complain, arguing they are being hit harder.

Chair Duyck stated the new bicycle tax of \$15 per bicycle would bring in about \$1 million per year.

Future agendas:

- PCI update from consultants – Todd & Brian
- Quarries update – Anne Elvers
- Tour of Fernhill Water Treatment Facility (this fall)
- Michael Jamieson asked to be added to the agenda regarding “do not maintain roads.”
 - Do we need a process to review these roads? How do we go forward?
- ODOT update for work on Hwy 8 and Hwy 47 (near McMennamins) – tell us what they are doing in Washington County. (October)

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Miscellaneous:

Todd mentioned some roads are being designated as “snow zone” roads that would require traction devices during snow events. Commissioner Terry asked if we were still considering using salt. Todd answered no we are not.

Chair Duyck mentioned the Bureau of Reclamation is deciding whether to build a new dam or fix the old one at Hagg Lake. Stimson Lumber would need to be relocated if they build a new dam. This project has been funded.

Todd mentioned we are closing West Shore Drive for about four months starting in September.

Chair Duyck thanked Commissioner Terry for coming to the meeting and shared that he was the original chair of RROMAC.

Todd mentioned crews would stay in the yard the morning of the eclipse. They will be dispatched from here. He does not want to have crews in a mess on the roads.

Melissa thanked Operations for taking tables and chairs to the David Hill Road ribbon cutting ceremony and saving the day when the supplier cancelled at the last minute.

Todd said he would call CWS and build an agenda around a fieldtrip to the Fernhill facility for this fall.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: September 14, 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.