



**RROMAC MEETING MINUTES
October 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: Bill Ewers
Jim McCulloch
John Malnerich
Doug Riedweg
Dave Sweeney
Lars Wahlstrom

Staff: Stephen Cruise
Steve Franks
Brian Irish
Janelle Lockbeam
Victoria Saager
Dave Schamp
Andrew Singelakis
Gary Stockhoff
Todd Watkins

Absent Denny Hrubby
Matt Pihl
Gary Virgin

Guests Dan Morgan
Mike Choi

Welcome

Jim McCulloch asked the committee to review the September minutes. Lars Wahlstrom motioned to approve the minutes and Doug Riedweg seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Guest Comments

Dan Morgan asked for weekly road maintenance status posted at the beginning of the week rather than the end. Brian Irish will attempt to refine gravel road maintenance schedules to help RIDE members know what maintenance performed on which roads.

Victoria noted that planned closures are posted on www.wc-roads.com as information becomes available. Weekly road work schedules are posted there also. Other social media sources for information are [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Dan shared that he has experienced access restrictions to Weyerhaeuser property in Columbia County. Some of their private and public roads are gated with fines for trespassing. Columbia County is working on a recreational use permit. Dave Sweeney suggests checking the Weyerhaeuser website for a Timberland Manager in Washington

County to contact. [See BikePortland blog story on this topic: [Weyerhaeuser enforcing gravel road permits amid confusion over public right-of-way.](#)]

Mike Choi asked about changes to Scholls Ferry Road near Roy Rogers.

Engineering and Construction Services Update

Gary Stockhoff said that ESC is very busy trying to wrap up projects before winter.

Project updates are:

- [124th Avenue](#) between Tonquin and Tualatin-Sherwood is out to bid.
- [Verboort roundabout](#) will be out to bid in November. David Hill roundabout is pushed out to January. Both will be underway next spring. Verboort will be closed for about four months.
- Porter Road will be closed next summer for approximately four months for bridge replacement.
- [Walnut Street](#) will go out to bid in December.
- Planning for the roundabout at [Meek, Scotch Church and Jackson School](#) roads is underway.
- The [10th Avenue](#) project in Cornelius is pending issues with the railroad.

Projects underway now are:

- [Farmington Road](#) widening east of Murray Boulevard – construction is being managed by the City of Beaverton.
- [Baseline Road](#) – north side is done, south side is delayed for utility relocations.
- [Cornelius Pass Road](#) – bikeways on the east side and new off ramp are coming along.
- [Brookwood](#) project is just starting, the new interchange off ramp will open on Monday, westbound ramp will be closed temporarily.

Open house was last night for ODOT's [TV Highway and 185th Avenue](#) intersection project. Medians will be installed on TV Highway, the south side will be widened, TriMet stops will be moved and pull outs added, and street lights will be added to help illuminate. The County is using Gain Share to help fund the project.

Projects coming up:

- [198th Avenue](#) widening (2018-2019) to three lanes from Blanton to Farmington, will include a new bridge, bike lanes, and a lot of drainage work.
- Elwert/Kruger Roads intersection will likely be a roundabout.
- Cornell Road at 25th in Hillsboro improvement, will involve Port of Portland.
- Roy Rogers widening to five lanes from Scholls Ferry to Bull Mountain or possibly Beef Bend Road. Developments and a new high school are going in near 175th and Scholls Ferry. New cost-share high-growth funding will fund this.

Gary noted that we're not getting discounts on bids like we were.

He responded to a question about roundabouts, noting that we are constructing the road surface in roundabouts with concrete rather than asphalt.

In answer to a question about Meek Road, Gary said that Meek Road will be closed off at Brookwood, that City of Hillsboro is building 253rd Avenue to provide connectivity.

City of Hillsboro's plan for Cornelius Pass Road to cross TV Highway and continue south to Rosedale ran into a problem with their original permit, but issues with the railroad appear to be resolved, so that work should start next spring.

The railroad is planning to replace the burned trestle near Tualatin-Sherwood Road.

Operations and Maintenance Update

Dave Schamp shared that with the continued good weather, the maintenance crews are caught up. Most vegetation operations were shut down during the summer because of extreme dry conditions but are now operating again.

A lot of calls have come in regarding bad gravel road conditions, but adequate moisture is needed to effectively grade gravel roads. A dry summer following a dry winter made for bad gravel road conditions. Grading the tops off of the washboards removes gravel and rock which will make mud when it does rain.

Golf Course Road [shoulder widening](#) is complete and now working on River Road. Next spring these roads will be paved. Next year widening along River Road will continue south. These rural road shoulder widening projects (including last year's Glencoe Road widening) are funded by Road Fund – our road maintenance funding. They are slow and expensive work, but are a huge safety benefit for all road users. Farm equipment, bikes and others will benefit from the safety features of the wider shoulders, and truck traffic will not break off road edges.

A question was asked about the Minor Betterment projects that are funded by Road Fund. Dave noted that no funding is planned for Minor Betterments next year, that instead we are budgeting for Americans with Disabilities (ADA) sidewalk curb ramp upgrades. In the 90s the County completed a 10-year program to upgrade curb ramps to then-current ADA standards. We are now inventorying the road system to identify upgrade needs to meet current standards and developing a transition plan.

Hagg Lake Perimeter Roads Update

Stephen Cruise gave an [update on the work at Hagg Lake](#). A three-year program of projects on the perimeter roads around Hagg Lake will address many maintenance issues

that had been postponed while waiting for a dam raise that no longer be done. Two culvert replacements, landslide stabilizations, drainage improvements, guardrail replacement, and overlay including shoulders will be done.

The overall budget for the [Hagg Lake Perimeter Roads](#) projects is \$12 million dollars to be shared 50/50 with Washington County Parks. [After this meeting, staff learned that the County was not successful in its application for \$5.85 million in federal funding through the Federal Lands Access Program.]

Road Reversion Evaluation Criteria

Todd Watkins brought up the ongoing topic of road reversions and how to prioritize these roads in poor condition.

Dave Schamp recalled how unpopular the decision to revert roads in 1997-98 was and how angry citizens were. Reversions will be considered when roads become hazardous. Reverting roads is the first step of rebuilding roads, in fact all but two roads that were reverted then are now paved.

Dave suggested putting funds toward roads that will do the most good, similar to the Gravel Road Upgrade program but in reverse. Identify criteria to use and create a list of roads to save; the roads at the bottom of the list will be candidates for reversion.

Safety is the number one consideration. But when the money runs out, hard decisions need to be made. We become aware when we get complaints of severe potholing causing out of lane travel.

It was suggested that to draft this policy, start with the low PCI road list, identifying which roads we would not revert. Then identify what criteria those roads have in common. Could be renamed the Preservation Policy rather than the Reversion Policy.

There was discussion about transportation funding, noting that neither MSTIP nor General Fund can be used for road maintenance. It was noted that although road miles maintained by the County are split about 50/50 rural/urban, most of the population and traffic is in the urban area. The Board-adopted [Road Maintenance Priority Matrix](#) drives maintenance spending – major roads carrying the most traffic are the highest priority.

It was acknowledged that the general public does not know how roads are funded. Andrew Singelakis noted that staff is working on educating the public about road funding.

Lars Wahlstrom suggests notifying property owners of the possibility of reversion and that a LID is an alternative to reversion.

Jim asked that staff take a stab at separating out low PCI roads to preserve. Todd will bring to the next meeting proposed criteria for a preservation policy vs. a reversion policy.

Eagle Elsner Review

Dave Sweeny shared information regarding the contract that ODOT had with Eagle-Elsner to maintain Hwy 219. He, Matt Pihl, and Dave Schamp met with Jake Elsner. The contract did not match actual performance, for example snow plowing was not done because they do not have plowing equipment. There was discussion about liability when work is contracted out. That was not clearly spelled out in the ODOT/Eagle-Elsner contract.

Dave Schamp said that the County already contracts out certain activities that are more cost-effectively done by contractors.

After discussion, the conclusion is that using private contractors may be a good source for catch up work such as grading and snow plowing to increase the level of service, but that would increase costs, not save any money. John Malnerich asked if graders could be rented. Dave said there are no extra operators to operate extra equipment.

Dave Sweeny noted that the discussion is navigating away from looking at having a private contractor take over County maintenance in an area and instead they are looking toward having contractors on call to augment County services to catch up when needed.

Miscellaneous

Victoria Saager noted that a media release announcing [advisory committee vacancies](#) has been published and is available online.

Future Agendas

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| November | Save the Road – Low PCI Roads Preservation Policy
Transportation Futures Study
Fleet Tour |
| December | Transportation Funding |