



**URBAN ROAD MAINTENANCE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**November 18, 2015**

**Members:**

Tim Connelly  
Ruth Deal  
Ray Eck  
Martin Granum  
Bonnie Hadley  
Anthony Mills  
Marty Moyer  
Larry Virgin

**Staff:**

Chris Deffebach  
Steve Franks  
Jennifer McCollum  
Ron Del Rosario  
Victoria Saager  
Dave Schamp

**Absent:**

Jason Yurgel

**Guests:**

Sgt. Tim Tannenbaum

**Welcome**

Martin Granum called the meeting to order. Introductions were made of all committee members and staff. Anthony Mills made a motion to approve the October minutes and Larry Virgin seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Transportation Futures Study – Chris Deffebach**

The [Transportation Futures Study](#), funded by the state legislature, takes a proactive look at transportation needs over the next 50 years for Washington County. It is intended to help us imagine, plan and identify long term transportation goals and strategies. There is a focus on improving our current transportation system as well as creating new reliable connections. The hope is that looking at these issues as a study helps people think of options.

Here are some key points the study will address:

- Focus on national changes/trends – aging populations, travel behaviors, smaller autonomous vehicles, economic and technological changes and housing preferences.
- New growth in the county – will it fit with the plan for our community?
- Delays and lack of reliability on Hwy 26, specifically the Sunset tunnel.
- Deficiencies in north-south connectivity to Sherwood; I-5 and I-205.
- Arterials serving too many conflicting loads; cars, bikes, walking, etc.
- Spill-over traffic onto non-arterial roads.

What opportunities do we have now?

- Safer connections for biking.
- More affordable travel options.
- Transit services improvements including WES and MAX.
- New investments needed to meet earthquake standards.
- Sources for raising revenues to pay for improvements.
- Possibility of tolls to fund projects.

Two different future scenarios will be developed making different assumptions about future growth: (1) Current trends will continue, forecasts will hold; and (2) rising economic tide will increase our rate of growth, higher growth than forecasted.

There will be an opportunity for public comment after the New Year.

### **Traffic enforcement – Sergeant Tim Tannenbaum**

Sergeant Tannenbaum joined the committee to discuss traffic enforcement and how it affects public safety. He exhibited the [online Traffic Complaint form](#) and discussed how those requests are processed.

It was mentioned that most URMD Safety Improvement projects are pedestrian projects. Would more traffic enforcement help as much with pedestrian safety as building walking paths does? Sgt. Tannenbaum stated that traffic enforcement has a temporary impact on safety but eventually people go back to their bad driving habits, so it is not an effective long term safety measure. Enforcement works for a short time but the Sheriff's Office works with LUT for the long-term impact. Basically, engineering has a bigger impact than enforcement.

Larry recommended that the Sheriff's Office have a follow-up option for their online service. Sergeant Tannenbaum noted that as a great idea. He explained that when a complaint is received online, a deputy is assigned to investigate. Each deputy will track what work has been completed for the request.

Sgt. Tannenbaum stated compliance with the 25 mph zones is the hardest to work with because the pedestrian's impression is that cars are going faster than they really are. Mike Mills ([Neighborhood Streets Program](#)) has put up signs on many roads to remind drivers to slow down. The Sheriff's Office has found a combination of their enforcement with LUT's engineering works the best.

Several committee members recommended PSAs targeting residents for school zones. Sgt. Tannenbaum noted there is a "Dear Motorist" letter Washington County Crime Prevention office will send out to a motorist if you report the vehicle identification, license plate and a description of the driver.

Although there has been a decrease in fatal vehicle accidents, there is concern that the increase in cell phone usage may influence those numbers. Sgt. Tannenbaum was asked if there is concern in law enforcement regarding the legalization of marijuana. He went over the numbers showing Colorado's increases in DUIs since marijuana was legalized there. He thinks that Oregon will see similar increases. Deputies are getting additional training to recognize drug and alcohol abuse.

Victoria mentioned that [www.wc-roads.com](http://www.wc-roads.com) has links to the Sheriff's Office [Traffic Complaint](#) and [Road Service Request](#) online forms.

### **Safety Improvement Project Updates – Ron del Rosario**

Ron presented [URMD safety improvement project updates](#).

#### Projects for 2013-14:

- The McDaniel Road widening was completed last month.
- The Laidlaw Road project is in final design phase. Because of the addition of a pedestrian bridge, there are additional permits required.

#### Projects for 2014-15:

- Kinnaman Road project - Ray mentioned he did not think the committee agreed to use black tar asphalt out to the road because it makes kids walk closer to traffic. He was under the impression a separate path would be built. Anthony said he thought it was working fine for now. He sees kids walking there all the time and thinks it is better than it was before. Martin and Bonnie agreed. Ron stated the improvements are significant. Ruth agreed a pathway is the preference over the extended shoulders but this is an improvement. Ron mentioned sometimes there are issues with storm water and we have to comply with Clean Water Services rules and sometimes there just is not the space to expand.
- 209th Avenue sidewalk project is expected to be complete by December 2015.
- Cornell Road curb ramps have been updated for ADA compliance.
- Thompson Road has been widened and has sidewalks. It has really made a difference. It should be finished by the end of December 2015.

Projects for 2015-16: Most projects for 2015-16 are still in design phase. The 174th Avenue and Rock Creek Road projects will be going out to bid soon.

Ray Eck stated the Rigert Road project [recommended for 2016-17](#) should be on the north side. He does not want the committee to use its money if the south side will eventually be developed from the neighborhood development. Ron explained we would make the project on whichever side the engineers decide is the best choice. Sometimes the consultants make a change after going out to see the work area. Survey will mark the suggested area to improve, and then it is

up to the committee to cancel the project if they are not in agreement with the consultants' decision. Several members wanted the north side to be developed.

### **Quarterly Performance Measures Update – Victoria Saager**

One of the most useful tools we have is the Asset Brower program. It is used by Traffic Engineering when deciding potential safety projects. It was developed in-house by LUT staff and has many applications in our daily work. Information available includes permit data, road jurisdiction, traffic lights, streetlights, city boundaries, bridge and culvert locations, accident data provided by ODOT, current road projects and much more.

Victoria showed the committee the feature that displays accidents for the last five years on the map. She showed several different layers of information we can access for more specific information on types of accidents. Victoria used TV Hwy as an example of a road with multiple accidents.

Sgt. Tannenbaum asked if Asset Browser was available to everyone; Victoria indicated it was only available internally to County employees.

Anthony asked whether there has to be someone killed before a change on a dangerous road is fixed. Dave indicated one of the main things Traffic Engineering looks at is accidents and whether or not it can be fixed by an engineering solution. Anthony asked how we could fix these dangerous locations before someone gets hurt. Victoria said it is a matter of priority. Dave said that is why this committee's work is so important.

LUT received 339 [requests for service](#) last year. Vegetation remains the most common request, then trash debris pick up, drainage issues, and pothole and rough road issues. Our goal is to complete requested services within 30 days or get back to the requestor to notify them when we will complete the work. Victoria stated she thinks we are probably getting these processed quicker than 30 days on average, but our documentation process needs to be streamlined.

Larry asked if each request for service created a work order. Victoria answered that sometimes the requests do not generate any work. For example, some vegetation or site distance issues require that we send a letter to the homeowner to notify them they are responsible for the work. The homeowner is given 30 days to remedy the issue (unless it is a safety issue – we take care of those immediately) so that affects our timeframe to complete the service request. Ray asked for an example of a site distance issue. Victoria gave examples including fences, motor homes, and storage pods that might be blocking the view around a corner.

Over the past five years, vegetation remains our most requested service. Glass, garbage, and debris removal is another highly requested category. We also got more requests for shoulder maintenance and sweeping this year.

Ruth stated we do not pick up small animals. Victoria replied we pick up deer or livestock if they are in the road. [Animal Services](#) picks up dogs and cats. They scan the pet for microchips so the owner can be notified. Raccoons, skunks, and other small animals are not picked up – “nature will take its course.” Another option offered by Solid Waste is to double-bag the carcass and put it in the trash. Dave said it is difficult and expensive for the County to get rid of dead animals, but we do respond to dead animals considered road hazards. Victoria mentioned the online [Road Service](#) request includes a check box for dead animal in the road.

Sgt. Tannenbaum asked whether we sweep roads after [chip seals](#). Dave said yes we do.

Dave also explained vegetation requests have decreased since contractors have taken over slurry seals and overlay work. Vegetation removal was an expense that now is taken care of by contractors at the same time they do the roadwork and they do not charge extra. This has saved a significant amount of URMD funds over the past three to four years.

Bonnie asked what should be done about leaves clogging the gutters. Ruth stated citizens get confused about who is responsible for leaf clean up and requested clarification. Dave said [Clean Water Services](#) (CWS) provides street sweeping within their jurisdiction. CWS encourages residents to take leaves to [leaf disposal sites](#) every fall. Some cities offer street tree leaf pickup services. Bonnie suggested reminding homeowners in September to pick up their leaves.

Ray asked Dave who was responsible for the trees cut down on Cornell Road. Dave stated the Home Owner Association removed them because the trees were destroying the sidewalks.

Victoria shared three [Surface Treatment Customer Satisfaction](#) survey responses for micro-surface paving:

- One citizen was upset workers were not helpful in giving additional options for accessing neighborhoods while work was going on.
- One said we did a good job on 173rd Avenue.
- One requested a berm on Canyon Drive to address water on their driveway.

Victoria shared the [Neighborhood Streets Program](#) quarterly activity summaries. The NSP is funded by URMD.

### **Miscellaneous**

Printed copies of the [Department of Land Use & Transportation Annual Report FY 2014-15 and 2015 Five-Year Strategic Plan](#) were made available at the meeting.

The [Community Involvement Program Transition](#) Planning Team will wrap up its work and a final report will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners after the first of the year.

The [Traffic Safety Committee](#) will have a meeting about pedestrians being hit by MAX trains. Their goal is to remind folks to be alert and aware when walking near trains. Larry recommended putting gates in; however, Anthony thinks a gate will distract people more.

[MSTIP](#) 3e project selection will start ramping up soon. Staff is collecting projects to be included in March or April for public outreach.

### **Future agenda topics**

December

- No December meeting

January

- New membership-elect new officers
- Sidewalk study update
- Major construction projects for Washington County
- Orientation on major projects that are beneficial to committee
- Cornelius Pass Road update
- Transportation Funding - how do we best educate people on how we use the gas tax to get what they want
- Schedule joint RROMAC/URMDAC meeting

The meeting was adjourned.