



Department of  
Land Use & Transportation

WASHINGTON COUNTY, OREGON

**RROMAC**

RURAL ROADS OPERATIONS AND  
MAINTENANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**May 10, 2018, 7:30 to 9:00 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:** None

**County Staff Present:** Aaron Clodfelter, Melissa De Lyser, Steve Franks, Brian Irish, Gary Stockhoff, Courtney Threewitt, Todd Watkins, Jennifer Williams

**Guests:** None

### Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes

Dan Morgan opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and stating that the minutes are being recorded. Matt Pihl made a motion to approve the April meeting minutes; Doug Riedweg seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved as written.

### Guest Comments

None.

### Engineering and Construction Services (ECS) Update – Gary Stockhoff

Gary said next year will be a really big construction year. Overlay bids opened last week and we received some good bids. Work will begin in July on those.

- Glencoe Road sidewalk project will be built with Gain Share money. The new sidewalk is on the east side of Glencoe. Landowners will be responsible for maintenance of the new sidewalk.
- Roy Rogers Road (Scholls Ferry to Bull Mtn) goes to bid in June.
- Bull Mountain Road will close June 2nd for 8 weeks for installation of utilities, including a major waterline and sewer line, also a roundabout at the intersection of Bull Mtn and River Terrace Blvd. Also, a new signal will be installed at Bull Mountain and Roy Rogers.
- Tualatin-Sherwood Road will have the waterline project.

Gary shared with RROMAC that he accepted a position with Benton County and will start there June 4th. Joe Younkens will be the Interim County Engineer and will be attending the RROMAC meetings.

Gary Virgin requested a signal be installed at Clark Hill Road and Farmington Road. Gary Stockhoff said he would follow up with Stacy Shetler.

### **Operations and Maintenance Update – Todd Watkins**

Operations Division is in Spring/Summer mode. Crews are concentrating on thermoplastic, crack sealing, striping, and brush cutting. Baker Rock is the apparent low bidder for both overlay contracts. This work should be complete by end of summer. Work on the overlays will not begin until after July 1 and the contracted work will be completed by the end of summer/early fall.

Operations and ECS are both losing employees and dealing with a reduced workforce and more work to complete. This makes it harder to complete projects. All Operations' recruitments are on hold for the summer.

Todd said that chip seal work is the priority, and other crews might be reassigned to ditching or striping depending on the situation. Supervisors assign crews to priority projects daily and they strategize on a daily basis to coordinate the work performed by all the crews.

### **County Road Maintenance Responsibilities –Todd Watkins**

Todd began by stating that the crux of the issue about the County's obligation to provide road maintenance is the annual "Road Maintenance Program." It is a policy, adopted by the Board, that establishes priorities for road maintenance. It includes a multitude of activities, but not everything the Operations and Maintenance Division does, and leaves room to accommodate opportunities and needs that come up during the year.

Todd said Operations does not work on public dedicated roads (also known as local access roads), since we can't by state law, unless we are authorized by the Board. Nor do we work on private roads. However, we do have an obligation to maintain, by state law, roads designated as County Roads. We have the ability to determine what level of maintenance we provide to County Roads. This is what the "Road Segments Not Maintained" list in the Board-adopted "Road Maintenance Program" is intended to do. Besides the roads on this list, there are other roads we don't work on each year—some don't need work and others may have their maintenance deferred due to limited resources and higher needs/priorities elsewhere. Another factor that drives maintenance decisions is the Board-adopted "Road Maintenance Priority Matrix." It provides a numerical ranking that guides our work. Todd explained that the "Roads Segments Not Maintained" list is provided as a matter of convenience; it states that, based on our priorities, these are the road segments we do not expect to get to, for road maintenance.

Todd suggested that a more appropriate question, other than “What is the County’s obligation for road maintenance?” might be “Are there some roads where their County Road status should be removed?” That would mean the County is no longer responsible for maintaining them.

Much discussion followed about issues related to the County not maintaining roads and the work of the Roads Not Maintained Subcommittee, both what it has done already and what it might do in the future. In response to further discussion about the County’s legal liability for not maintaining roads, Todd reiterated that while the County has an obligation to maintain County Roads, the Board can supersede that obligation, which it does through its policies. The County does everything it can with the resources it has. Todd clarified that he is talking about county roads that are actually constructed and in use as opposed to “paper roads” which are simply unimproved public rights-of-way, which the County does not have any maintenance obligation for. Gary said he thought the discussion was “getting into the weeds” and suggested that if members had specific questions about specific roads, to ask about those “offline” – outside of the RROMAC meeting.

After further discussion, Todd said that the Board recognizes that the County has limited resources, and that the “Road Segments Not Maintained by Washington County” list included in the “Road Maintenance Program” clearly indicates that those roads will not be maintained, but it does not say we can’t maintain them. Todd also noted that the list is a relatively small segment of County Roads.

Comments from RROMAC members included that RROMAC wants a systematic approach to decision making instead of a case-by-case approach. In response, Todd and Gary both said that to some extent the work staff does on a daily basis is on a case-by-case basis, since the reality is staff cannot “push a button” and an answer will appear. Instead, there are many elements that come into play and staff makes the best decisions it can based on all those many elements and factors.

At the conclusion of the discussion, consensus was that the work of the Roads Not Maintained Subcommittee will result in a tool that can be used to evaluate the level of road maintenance and what roads to include on the “Roads Segments Not Maintained” list. The tool is a spreadsheet the committee is developing. It includes three factors: Accessibility, Attracting, and Connecting. The spreadsheet will be a tool with metrics, so that the road evaluation process is predictable and repeatable. In sum, the spreadsheet will be the tool for evaluating and prioritizing roads to include on the not maintained list, with a threshold for what roads are not maintained (those roads that, after evaluation, fall below the threshold). This will be something that can be pointed to as the tool to provide the County guidance about what roads are not maintained. It will provide a rationale that says if these conditions exist, this is what will take place.

### **Other Follow-Up from RROMAC's April meeting – Steve Franks**

Steve reported that staff responded to the two guests who attended RROMAC's January meeting. Dave Vanasche submitted a letter to RROMAC at the January 11 meeting. On March 12, Gary Stockhoff sent Mr. Vanasche an email responding to all of his questions. Dave McCoy also attended RROMAC's January meeting, and afterwards wrote his concerns down in a letter dated February 6. Steve Franks sent Mr. McCoy an email on March 12 responding to the three issues he raised. Both constituents have been responded to and their concerns addressed by staff. Dan Morgan said he spoke with Dave Vanasche about the roundabout and why he believed it was not sloped right. Gary Stockhoff said that the new versions are more sloped but the fact is that trucks are going too fast. The designs have been modified and a lot of changes were added to future roundabouts. There is no simple fix but some changes have been added. Steve also stated that he shared the bridge list with RROMAC members, as requested at the April meeting.

### **Discuss Next Meeting and Agenda**

June meeting:

- Bring Roads Not Maintained Subcommittee report and matrix back to study in detail.
- Bridges presentation.
- Engineering and Construction Services presentation on Highway 47/Banks Road intersection project.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Lars made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Allen seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned.

**Next meeting:** June 14, 2018 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.