


**RURAL ROADS OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

DATE: September 19, 2013

TO: Washington County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Lars Wahlstrom, Chair   
Rural Road Operations & Maintenance Advisory Committee

RE: Recommendation on the Vehicle Registration Fee

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The Rural Road Operations and Maintenance Advisory Committee (RROMAC) strongly supports properly maintaining the County's road system and associated appurtenances. Agriculturally based businesses are highly dependent upon our rural roads, which typically are the first to realize a decrease in service when resources are stretched thin.

RROMAC is very much in tune with the fiscal challenges faced by the County's road maintenance organization. We have reviewed the data and agree that gas tax based revenue is not keeping pace with the increasing costs and that deferred maintenance or reconstruction will be much more expensive in the long term than proactive preventive maintenance. We recognize and appreciate the County's ongoing efforts to ensure available funds are being used efficiently and point to the recent Pavement Preservation and Maintenance Review as evidence of that commitment.

Washington County has a history of being proactive regarding transportation related needs and the positive results speak for themselves. This County is the economic hub of the State and the condition of our roads plays an important part in that success. It is imperative that we properly maintain and protect the significant investments already made in our road infrastructure.

RROMAC is encouraged by the Board's recent actions to identify ways to provide additional revenue for road maintenance. Asking the County's residents to contribute more funding for road maintenance is not a question to be taken lightly and we applaud your thoughtful and collaborative approach to this difficult decision.

While RROMAC's focus is on rural road issues, we recognize the importance of well maintained roads throughout the county. Based on our broad knowledge of the situation, RROMAC supports implementing a countywide vehicle registration fee dedicated to road maintenance activities. We also support the use of a portion of the funds for technology-based improvements in traffic control systems to improve traffic flow.

At our September 19, 2013 meeting RROMAC approved the following motion:

***“We recommend that the Board of County Commissioners immediately initiate the necessary actions to implement a countywide vehicle registration fee with the resulting funds dedicated to road maintenance and technology based traffic control improvements. We support the implementation of the full \$43 annual fee and further recommend that you take this action without a public vote.”***

Thank you for your leadership in initiating this essential and bold step to help ensure the future of Washington County remains bright. RROMAC stands ready to lend our support and assistance to this important effort in any way possible.

c: Andrew Singelakis, DLUT Director  
Dave Schamp, Operations Manager