



RROMAC MEETING MINUTES

AS AMMENDED

February 15, 2007

Members:

James Burns
Robert Ewers
Eldon Jossi
Don Logan
Ken Moyle
Gary Virgin
Dave Vanasche
Wendy Mortensen
Hal Ballard

Absent:

Keith Fishback
Lars Wahlstrom

Staff:

Dave Schamp
Greg Clemmons
Keith Lewis
Victoria Saager
Janelle Lockbeam
Rich Girard

Guests:

Greg Miller
Tom Tushner
Dan Brown
David Sweeney
Denny Hruby
Gerald Kubiak

Welcome

Gary Virgin called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. Don Logan motioned to approve the December minutes and Wendy Mortensen seconded the motion. Introductions were made.

Tour Routes

Gerald Kubiak, consultant for the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Washington County, spoke about proposed plans for the Wine Country Scenic Tour Route. Gerald distributed a proposed map, fact sheet and driving directions for the proposed tour route. This route would promote tourism for Washington County, replacing the existing scenic route. Along with wineries and vineyards, other points of interest will be forests and wetlands, farm stands, views, train tressels, etc.

The chosen roads are existing two-lane roads and most can also accommodate bikes. All are paved with the exception of a 0.25-mile section on Eggers Road. Gerald Kubiak was asked if the Convention and Visitor's Bureau would pave any unpaved sections of their new route, specifically Eggers Road. He said they would consider it if RROMAC made the request. Wendy informed him that RROMAC was making that request. The tour is proposed to start near Helvetia and travels approximately 60 miles to the end near Sherwood.

The Scenic Tour Route Project Advisory Committee is listening and will respond to safety concerns. He noted there may be some funding available to do some road improvements where safety issues exist. They would like representation from the Farm Bureau and input on acceptable signage warning the traveling public of agricultural activities on the tour route.

The Corridor Management Plan will be complete and submitted to ODOT in May with anticipation of approval this fall.

An open house will be held at the County Historic Museum February 26, 2007, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

MSTIP Process

Dan Brown (CPM) spoke about the MSTIP process and the county's current review of transportation funding. About \$2.6 billion has been identified as needed for transportation improvements, far exceeding current resources. Dan suggested a new MSTIP program may go to the voters in 2008. Money spent on roads gives the best return on investment compared to other taxes paid. He noted that the rural area gets less funding because there is less traffic spread over more miles of road than in the urban area. The rural area does receive capital funding for bridge replacements. In addition, \$250,000 has been allocated from MSTIP toward rural road maintenance and the same amount for bike projects. Policies could be readdressed to redistribute funds, perhaps a levy to "invest in community". Dan suggested that RROMAC formulate an agenda with a solid presentation to the County Commissioners. Commissioner Rogers chairs the Transportation Committee. There was discussion about whether the application of a hard surface on a rural road is maintenance or a capital project. It may be best to consider it a capital project.

Drainage Recommendation

Greg Clemmons referred to the findings of the consultant (John Willis, CH2M Hill) regarding subgrade drainage and pavement performance. Open ditch appears to be the most cost-effective approach for roadside drainage. Dan Henry may be trying an under-surface French drain on Dick Road.

Porter Road

Greg Clemmons reported that a timber tressel bridge has rotted on Porter Road. Repairs are estimated at \$120,000. We do not plan to repair it because the replacement cost of the bridge is estimated at \$750,000. At this time there is a 13-ton weight limit on the bridge. An easy detour around this bridge is available. Eventually this bridge will be eligible for federal funding.

Gravel Road Upgrade

Keith Lewis handed out a Gravel Road Upgrade Priorities spreadsheet, reflecting the plan to move forward with the top three roads (Mullerleile, Seavy and Raynard roads) in 2007. As discussed previously, this year \$250,000 becomes available from MSTIP for rural roads. Keith would like to divide this money over three years for gravel road upgrades. This year he proposes to continue down the upgrade list with Dober Road using this MSTIP money. The committee

moved and seconded the motion to allocate the \$250,000 over the next three years and add Dober Road to the 2007 upgrade list. Approved.

Greg Clemmons noted that our application for Community Development Block Grant funds to upgrade Sell and Turk roads was denied. We plan to resubmit it again next year.

Miscellaneous

Temporary repairs were done to a six-foot culvert over Butternut Creek on 209th Avenue. For environmental reasons, a bridge may be put in its place. The estimated cost for a bridge at this location is \$1.5 million.

Greg handed out an article on EMBARK, a spray for agricultural ditches and asked members their opinion of this product. Dave Vanasche suggests mixing it with a broad leaf spray and applying it in one test area, not county wide. Farmers use it in their grass fields to make seed heads stand up for easier harvest. Rick Vlem at Wilco is a good person to work with on this.

Hoping for summer construction at the railroad tracks on Susbauer Road. The project is in final design with Western Railroad. Two more teens died February 7 in this vicinity.

Gary handed out a letter from Washington County Sheriff, Rob Gordon, giving his opinion of the value of paving some roads that are currently graveled.

Gary also handed out a schedule related to an upcoming Transportation Summit on funding initiatives.

336th Avenue north of Tualatin Valley Highway is a public dedicated road. The citizens from this neighborhood have taken the necessary steps to begin a Local Improvement District (LID) on their road. In this case, a short portion of roadway surface is gravel. The county carries the debt with the property owners paying the money back with a low interest. Motion to support LID on this non-county road was moved by Hal Ballard and seconded by Dave Vanasche. Motion was denied 3-4.

Victoria Saager displayed a current map identifying Measure 37 claims. She also distributed a Washington County bike route map available from the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Washington County.