



Updates

Washington County
Department of Land Use and Transportation
155 North First Avenue - Suite 350
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124-3072



We are REACHing for excellence in customer service.

Updates

A Community Newsletter
Spring 2009

Washington County's Department of Land Use and Transportation

You have been asking... Is transportation Stimulus money coming to Washington County?

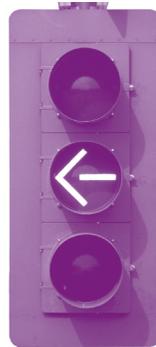


Capital Projects Manager Gary Stockhoff says that Washington County will receive \$6.1 million in federal stimulus funds to improve transportation infrastructure. Approximately half will be used to complete various urban and rural repaving projects. The rest of the money will complete safety and energy upgrades to traffic signals, interior lighted street signs, and solar school flasher units, and finish a traffic

signal retiming contract. The county is working hard and fast to prepare all necessary designs and project applications so that ODOT can bid out our projects to private contractors in the next 3-8 months. This will ensure we meet the intent of the federal funds, which is to get as many people back to work as soon as possible.

Remember: A Flashing Yellow Arrow = Turn With Caution

Have you ever been frustrated waiting at an empty intersection for the signal to change? Relief is in sight. In 2008 FYA's were installed at a dozen locations. New revenues (can you say stimulus?) means well over 100 intersections will be retrofit with FYA's over the next year or so. FYA's reduce delay and help ease congestion on the county road system. Motorists must exercise caution when making a left turn on a FYA, and much like a Right Turn on Red, must yield right-of-way to on-coming traffic, bicyclists and pedestrians. Some helpful publications are the DMV Driver's manual (page 24), <http://www.odot.state.or.us/forms/dmv/37.pdf>; also http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/TRAFFIC-ROADWAY/docs/pdf/Flashing_Yellow_Arrows.pdf



Building Staff Targets Schools for Speedy Delivery

Recent land development activity includes the submittal of various projects at ten different schools. The projects vary in scope, from seismic (earthquake) upgrades, fall protection, partial remodels, and site work. Washington County is working in cooperation with the school districts to enable the construction work and our inspections to be completed during the time available - the sometimes all too short summer vacation.

Oleson Road Blooming with Daffodils and DJC Award



Have you driven recently rebuilt SW Oleson Road lately? Take your time - enjoy the flowers - and marvel at the bikers, walkers, and parents pushing baby strollers who agree the results from this MSTIP project were worth the years of effort and upheaval. Here's an email quote: "We who drive it daily appreciate the brightness of the flowers after such a dreary winter." And the Daily Journal of Commerce has taken note; they nominated Oleson Road as a "Top Project" in their Public Works/Infrastructure/Transportation award category. This is the premiere building and construction award program in the region - we'll find out if we won on April 30. 

Si a usted le interesa recibir este boletín de noticias en Español, comuníquese con Angie Aguilar al 503-846-7819, o via correo electrónico: angie_aguilar@co.washington.or.us. Gracias.

North Bethany Plans Nearing Decisions

Bethany

community of distinction

90 participants provided comments on the preferred Concept Plan at the North Bethany Community Planning April 6 open house. The project team, Stakeholder Work Group and Technical Advisory Team will use that input to refine the plan in early May; it will enter the actual ordinance process in early July, with anticipated plan adoption this fall. An information session is set for Thursday, June 4 to provide guidance on the public hearings process and review opportunities for public testimony to the Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners. The session will be from 4:30 - 7 p.m. at the Public Services Building, 155 North First Avenue, Hillsboro. For more information please visit the website: www.bethanyplan.org.

Click Worthy

County Web Site Completely Revamped

It's been a long time coming, but we are very pleased to be launching our second generation, much improved and user-friendly new county web site. Check it out at <http://www.co.washington.or.us> - and let us hear from you! It is best navigated and experienced using Internet Explorer version 7 and the pending version 8, as well as Mozilla Firefox 1, 2 and 3. Apple Safari also seems to work well. The Main URL for the Department of Land Use and Transportation WAS <http://www.co.washington.or.us/deptmls/lut/lut.htm> but IS NOW: <http://www.co.washington.or.us/LUT/>

On the Road Again – Coming to a roadway near you

Call 503-846-7800 for more information on any of these projects.

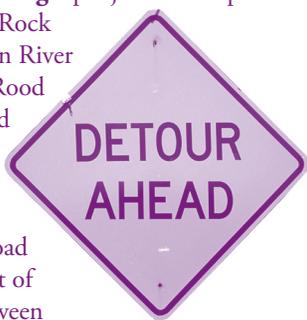
10th Street is a City of Hillsboro project which Washington County is managing. A new right turn lane is being constructed on SE 10th, from Main to Baseline. This includes widening the roadway and constructing drainage, sidewalks, curb ramps and lighting. The contractor is finishing preparation work for paving the alley by Starbucks and installing curb and gutter. The poles for traffic signals will be installed and landscaping will be completed in June. *Project completion date is June 2009.*

SW 170th/173rd Avenue project will improve this important north/south link between Walker and Baseline Roads. The project is coming along nicely and is half way complete. The contractor will begin work soon on building a large box culvert, retaining walls and sound walls. There will be a 60-day road closure when the new box culvert is constructed - date TBD. *Project completion date is December 2009.*

SW 209th Bridge project will replace the existing Butternut Creek culvert with a new bridge. Utility relocation and contract work is anticipated to begin mid May. A closure of SW 209th Avenue will be required to perform utility relocation, the removal of the existing culvert and substantial completion of the new bridge. The closure is scheduled from *June 15 to September 4, 2009.*

NW Murray Boulevard/Cornell Road project includes widening NW Murray to five lanes between Highway 26 and Cornell, and adding a traffic signal and turn lanes on Cornell between 143rd and Science Park Drive. PGE and Verizon will be pulling their wires for the new services and the contractor will be installing new curb and gutter, sidewalks, and paving the roadway. *Project completion date is August 2009.*

River Road Bridge project will replace the bridge over Rock Creek and widen River Road between Rood Bridge Road and Davis Road to three lanes. The work on Witch Hazel Road and the segment of River Road between Davis and Witch Hazel is complete. However, River Road between Rood Bridge Road and Witch Hazel Road (the location of the bridge) will remain closed to all traffic, including pedestrians and bicyclists, through January 2010. A detour route is posted and unfortunately increases a commute a maximum of 3.5 miles each way. The good news is the project is running at least two months ahead of schedule making the *estimated completion date January 2010.*



West Union Not So Wet

West Union Road, a historic east-west route north of Highway 26, used to flood several times a year at Deerfield, just east of 185th. Drivers were delayed by detours and neighborhoods disrupted by the resulting cut-through traffic. County crews had to spend a lot of time (meaning your \$) stockpiling “high water, road closed” signs at the site and in putting the signs out and taking them down. County engineers designed the fix, and last summer it was constructed by contract using Major Streets Transportation Improvement Program (MSTIP) funds from your property taxes. This winter the improvement was tested, and found successful. Voila – problem solved, money saved.

Urban/Rural Reserve Lands Lining Up

This “50-year UGB” designation process continues with candidate areas being defined. Within the next couple of months recommendations for specific urban and rural reserve areas will emerge for the public and the advisory committees to refine in late summer/early fall. Eight regional open houses were held in April, along with discussions with CPOs, business, development, agricultural and environmental organizations, to build awareness and receive comments on the candidate areas. All comments are being made available to the Washington County Reserves Coordinating Committee and the Board of Commissioners for their consideration. It is vital that residents across the three counties get involved in this effort. Visit the website at www.co.washington.or.us/reserves; attend a Washington County Reserves Coordinating Committee meeting; watch for upcoming community events. On the website you also can request a speaker for your organization – we’re here to help the community learn and become engaged.

I-5/99W Connector Project Turns a New Page

In February the I-5 to 99W Connector Project Steering Committee voted 6 to 2 to recommend to Metro that “Alternative 7” be included in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as the most viable alternative to reduce congestion and improve access to and between OR 99W and I-5 in the southwest metropolitan area. “Alternative 7” combines elements of the original six alternatives studied and may be a more context-sensitive, cost-effective and sustainable way to solve the area’s ever-growing travel demands. It provides a network of connecting roads (three new or widened east-west arterials and one extended north-south arterial), along with walking and cycling facilities and transit improvements to distribute trips more evenly in and through the project area, compared to a single, large new “connector” expressway. It has fewer adverse effects on natural resources and residential and commercial land uses than the other “build” alternatives studied, and provides the flexibility to phase improvements over time. The PSC’s recommendation now goes to the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) as part of the current RTP update process. A final RTP is scheduled to be approved by the Metro Council in early 2010. To learn more, please visit the project website www.i5to99w.org.

Code Enforcement Ratcheting Up

Part of the county’s response to the economic downturn is staff reassignments. Some staff are working in areas outside their regular job scope. Part of this shift means more man (and woman) power working on code enforcement. This has significantly increased the volume of response to violations within the county as well as our ability to address older files and close those that have been abated. That’s good news - for most of us ;)!

Citizen Involvement Calendar

Planning Commission

meets 1st Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.
3rd Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
Auditorium, Public Services Building
155 N 1st Ave, Hillsboro
Contact: Dixie King, 846-3519

Rural Roads Operations and Maintenance Advisory Committee (RRMAC)

meets 3rd Thursday @ 7:30 a.m.
Training Room 1, Walnut Street Center
1400 SW Walnut Ave., Hillsboro
Contact: Stacia Sheelar, 846-7623
www.co.washington.or.us/rrmac

Board of County Commissioners

meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.
4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
Auditorium, Public Services Building
155 N 1st Ave, Hillsboro
Contact: Noreen Lee, 846-8685

Washington County Board of Commissioners

Tom Brian, Chair
Dick Schouten, District 1
Desari Strader, District 2
Roy Rogers, District 3
Andy Duyck, District 4

County Administrator

Bob Davis

Department of Land Use and Transportation Director

Kathy Lehtola

Directory of LUT's Divisions and Services (all area codes are 503)

Office of the Director 846-3823

• Public Affairs 846-4963

Administrative Services 846-4530

Capital Project Management 846-7800

• Right-of-Way 846-7870

Engineering/Surveying

• Engineering 846-7900

• Surveying 846-8723

• Traffic Engineering 846-7950

Current Planning

• Development Review 846-8761

• Building Services 846-3470

Operations and Maintenance 846-7623

• Road Maintenance 846-ROAD

• Adopt-A-Road 846-7619

• Service District for Lighting 846-7626

Long Range Planning 846-3519

Updates

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