



Department of  
Land Use & Transportation

WASHINGTON COUNTY, OREGON

**RROMAC**

RURAL ROADS OPERATIONS AND  
MAINTENANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**January 10, 2019, 7:30 to 9:30 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

Michael Lyda (Alternate)

David McCoy (Alternate)

Dan Morgan

Ken Moyle

Gayle Ostgard

Matt Pihl

Doug Riedweg

Gary Virgin

Lars Wahlstrom

**Absent:** None

### County Staff Present:

Aaron Clodfelter

Melissa De Lyser

Steve Franks

Keith Lewis

Sherri McFall

Todd Watkins

Joe Younkins

**Guests:** None

### Welcome, Introductions and Approval of November 18 Minutes

Chair Dan Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m. He welcomed the group and invited to everyone to introduce themselves.

Member Michael Jamieson stated he'd received confirmation of his reappointment to a four year term; however, RROMAC bylaws state that member terms are two years. He requested bylaws be updated to reflect four year terms. Todd said that update of RROMAC bylaws will be on a future RROMAC agenda.

Member Jamieson reminded committee that alternate members can only vote when committee members are absent; therefore, he requested that absent members should be identified immediately after the call to order.

Member Ken Moyle asked about a focus on pavement maintenance in the November minutes. Todd Watkins, Operations Division Manager, assured that there are four tiers that will receive focus (Tier 1: Routine Grading / Tier 2: Isolated Surface Stabilization / Tier 3: Full Length/Width Surface Stabilization / Tier 4: Paving).

Regarding approval of the draft November minutes, Member Jamieson said clarification was needed about the concern he expressed about Pottratz, that his concern was not about partying as stated in

the draft minutes, but about lack of fire and forestry access. Member Gary Virgin moved and Member Jamieson seconded the motion to approve the November 2018 minutes, with the one change noted. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Guest Comments**

There were no guest comments.

### **Election of Officers**

Member Matt Pihl nominated 2018 Chair Dan Morgan to serve as RROMAC chair in 2019. Seconded by Member Lars Wahlstrom. Motion passed unanimously. Member Wahlstrom then nominated Member Moyle to serve as vice chair. Seconded by Member Doug Riedweg. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Engineering and Construction Services Update – Joe Younkins**

Joe Younkins, Interim County Engineer, discussed current Washington County capital improvement projects, referring to a “Washington County 2019 Road Work Map, Draft” dated January 9, 2019. RROMAC roads of interest are those inside Washington County but outside of the Urban Road Maintenance District (URMD). Projects discussed included:

- Scotch Church Road: widening the road to 12’ lanes with 6’ shoulders. The creek makes a 90’ turn and parallels the road, so it requires enhanced focus. We are aiming to complete the project in 2019. The Scotch Church Road bridge will be similar to the recently replaced Vanderschuere Road bridge.
- Mt. Richmond, most northerly bridge near Patton Valley: bridge replacement and removal of load restriction.
- Elwert Road/Kruger Road: road improvements to accommodate increased traffic from Hwy 99 past Sherwood High School. The project includes improving intersections. Our goal is to complete it in 15 months. With the current government shutdown, the Corps of Engineers are not completely staffed, and new environmental permits are delayed. We are still able to work on the project with some existing permits.

There was a question about how well the County is coordinating with utilities, as utilities-related work seems to cause a delay in some projects. Mr. Younkins responded that utilities are a big issue for the County, and that we have recently been collaborating more successfully with PGE and Frontier. PGE is doing some major work right now – a massive capital project over 5 years. Mr. Younkins concluded by noting that when it comes to utilities, it’s always important to remember there is just as much below ground as above.

Member Wahlstrom asked who oversees quality control work? Mr. Younkings responded that quality control for capital improvement projects is managed through the inspection process. LUT has on-staff inspectors, contracted inspectors, and inspectors that specifically review utility work. Member Wahlstrom noted that sometimes the work done is temporary, pending further utility or other work, with full, final quality established on the final finished product.

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

Todd Watkins said that our ability to predict certain types of maintenance is sorely restricted by this year's limited snow and precipitation levels. A dry winter often leads to a wet spring, which affects our work schedule and our contractors' work schedule.

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has offered us an opportunity to send crews to train with them if we get snow, so that our operators get additional experience. We are waiting for optimal weather to participate in that training. Right now we are doing routine work and putting next year's work program together.

Member Denny Hruby asked about the ability of the County to contract snow removal to contractors in emergency situations. Mr. Watkins discussed the challenges posed, including writing specifications, determining methods used, assigning the work. We have three graders and six full-size plows with sander attachments and four small plows with sander attachments. Snow is best managed when we can get to it immediately or it packs and becomes ice, which is more difficult to remove. We use snow plows attached to dump trucks on snow in the urban areas, which can articulate when met with resistance. Graders blades are stationary and can cause damage when they hit a fixed object like a manhole or raised pavement marker. Snowstorms in Washington County are inconsistent, which makes it difficult to develop a scope of work and specifications for a contract. He shared that we've not been able to get a contractor program for snow removal in place and we don't see one coming together any time soon. Member Pihl acknowledged the difficulty, even as an advocate, generally, of using contractors.

### **Highway Bridge Program Overview – Aaron Clodfelter**

Aaron Clodfelter, Principal Engineer, said that biennially, ODOT requests a list of bridges that would be good candidates for federal replacement. Mr. Clodfelter shared the ODOT Technical Ranking System for Small Bridges [Appendix A of Federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP)]. He emphasized that quantitative measurable data is key; however, the determination is as much an art as a science, with other measurements and factors contributing to the prioritization for bridge replacement. Some of these factors are: bridges nearby requiring repair that could be combined into a single project; type of repair and cost; coordination with partners who may have a project at the site, thus minimizing traffic disruption, and highest usage.

The list of the 50 highest prioritized bridges was reviewed.

Member Dave McCoy raised the question of whether fire protection could be added as a factor when the county considers a bridge for replacement. Mr. Watkins suggested that this would be an ideal topic for one of the two previously recommended subcommittees (Bridge Subcommittee and Gravel Road Subcommittee).

### **Seismic Resiliency Alternatives – Todd Watkins**

Mr. Watkins shared a video describing prediction of Cascadia subduction zone quake damage. The Pacific Northwest region west of the Cascades sits on the Juan de Fuca fault line and is due for a major earthquake at any time. The regions east of the Cascades are predicted to be relatively stable.

At the request of ODOT, Washington County and the local cities are beginning a project to assess state roads and bridges that have been identified as being vulnerable during an earthquake. The intent of the project is to identify alternate routes on county road and city streets if an earthquake damages a state facility. Since it will cost billions of dollars to retrofit the state system, the cost may be less expensive if the county roads and city streets can be reinforced/retrofitted to provide an alternate route throughout the county. Mr. Watkins shared a map of ODOT-identified vulnerable state bridges, of which there are many in Washington County. The goal is to have our report done by end of spring/early summer.

Member McCoy commented on the usefulness of having bridge components on hand. Mr. Watkins acknowledged that it is useful, but pointed out that we are not able to keep all of what we need on hand. The point of assessing these bridges is not repair; it is to determine best routes to transport resources needed post-quake.

Member Gayle Ostgard raised the topic of ODOT disaster planning. Oregon's planning is focused on the 24 western and central counties. ODOT will release their report in 2020. Washington County has an ever-evolving disaster plans. There are no refineries in Oregon, so all fuel is piped and trucked in from other states such as Washington. Hillsboro Airport will be a central hub for emergency services, as well as Redmond Airport.

Member Gary Virgin offered contact information for the Alaskan team who quickly repaired Alaska roads after the Alaska quake.

### **LUT Annual Report – Melissa De Lyser**

Melissa De Lyser, LUT Public Affairs and Communications Manager, shared LUT's "Annual Report FY 2017-18, Partnering for the Future." Committee members each received a copy.

### **Planning for RROMAC in 2019: Goals, Meeting Topics and Schedule – All**

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with URMDAC on February 14. The agenda is still being developed.

Member Virgin requested status on the Rural Roads –Urban Edge issue paper that was presented at the 2018 joint RROMAC/URMDAC meeting. Mr. Franks said the issue paper was being used to inform work that Long Range Planning is doing. He offered to get clarification on its status and suggested that this topic could be discussed in a future presentation from Long Range Planning staff.

Mr. Franks shared a one-page (double-sided) handout, "Outline - RROMAC Annual Meeting Topics." Consensus was that it provided an accurate general overview of RROMAC's yearly meeting topics.

Chair Daniel Morgan recommended that requests for future RROMAC agenda items be based on RROMAC's short- and long-range planning, rather than individual interest.

Member Jamieson stated he'd like to see a process where RROMAC has an opportunity to comment on Operations annual work program (the annual "Road Maintenance Program" prior to public comment. Mr. Watkins indicated that he believes that RROMAC has that opportunity. Member Jamieson is concerned that a 12 year time span for bridge replacements is too long to be effective and suggested realigning the RROMAC's priorities. Mr. Watkins acknowledged his concern and indicated that County resources are limited and greater County needs may not allow for fast tracking of specific projects. He referred to the prior discussion of developing subcommittees each for Bridges and Gravel Roads and suggested that, with budget season upon us, perhaps this is a good time to identify committee members who want to serve on those subcommittees.

Member Virgin moved to identify subcommittee members. Member Doug Riedweg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Bridge Subcommittee members identified were: Hruby, Jamieson, McCoy, Morgan, Pihl.

Gravel Roads Subcommittee members identified were: Morgan, Moyle, Ostgard, Virgin, Wahlstrom.

Members agreed that the first meeting of each subcommittee will be used to identify its purpose.

### **Confirm Meeting Follow-Up/Action Items: What and Who?**

The topic of RROMAC's representation to the Board of County Commissioners was discussed, and what type of relationship RROMAC will have with the new Commissioners. There are three new Board of County Commission members: Chair Kathryn Harrington, Pam Treece, and Jerry Willey.

It was noted that RROMAC is a Board-appointed committee, and the RROMAC Chair has the prerogative to reach out to the Board at any time. Board members are welcome to attend RROMAC meetings. Member Virgin observed there is no rural representation on the County Commission.

### **Miscellaneous**

Member Riedweg moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Ostgard seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

**Next meeting: February 14, 3 – 5p.m.**

**(Different meeting time is due to this being the  
annual joint RROMAC/URMDAC meeting).**