



Updates

Washington County
Department of Land Use and Transportation
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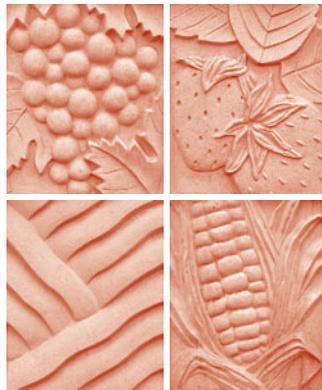
We are REACHing for excellence in customer service.

Updates

A Community Newsletter
Autumn 2005
of Washington County's Department of Land Use and Transportation

Farmington Road bridge re-opens November 23 with parade

It has been a year since traffic could flow freely along Farmington Road from Hillsboro to Beaverton. You don't know how much you will miss something until it is gone – it's been a tough year for many. And a very busy year for bridge builders! Their hard work will pay off with a colorful re-opening parade and party at 3:00 on November 23 on the west side of the Philip Harris bridge on Farmington Road just west of the River Road intersection. The road will open to general traffic at 5:00 pm. Want a copy of the program with the entire story? Call 503-846-4963 and we'll send you one – or come to the party yourself!



You have been asking...How ready is Washington County for an emergency?

We are fortunate to participate in a very unique, innovative and effective emergency management agency. The Office of Consolidated Emergency Management (OCEM) was formed in 1995 by Washington County, the cities of Beaverton, Hillsboro, Tigard and Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue (TVF&R) to enhance our readiness, performance and accountability. OCEM works closely with all public agencies. The county and most local governments maintain emergency operations centers. The centers are equipped with multiple forms of communication and operate with pre-identified and trained staff.

The county maintains an emergency operations plan to guide disaster response and short-term recovery. OCEM facilitates and/or delivers training for agency personnel on a broad spectrum of emergency management topics including FEMA's Public Assistance Program and Post-Earthquake Building Damage Inspection. OCEM organizes and coordinates multi-agency disaster exercises to practice our plans and coordinate response with each other. This practicing together will serve us well when a real disaster hits.

We encourage the public to make preparations now to take care of yourself and your family for at least 72 hours following a major disaster. It will take at least that long for emergency help to arrive. **Now is the time to prepare.** Complete your 72-hour kit, make a family disaster plan and write down important contact numbers. Information can be found at www.ocem.org or www.redcross-pdx.org. Or you may call Washington County Emergency Management at 503-642-0369.

Measure 37 latest

Like the rest of Oregon, Washington County is awaiting a final ruling from the state Supreme Court on the constitutional validity of Measure 37, the property rights initiative. The Supreme Court has decided not to "stay" the Circuit Court decision, so it will remain in effect until they reach their own decision, possibly next summer. This means that, under the Circuit Court order, Washington County and other defendants are not to accept any new Measure 37 applications or issue any new decisions. It also means that those who have received waivers cannot proceed with development plans until the Supreme Court has reached its decision.

In Roads for Fish... Why is that culvert so big?

Engineers must consider many things when designing a road project: how many travel lanes, do we need traffic signals, what about pedestrians and bicycles, can we build within existing right-of-way, how much will it cost, and not least - how do we protect a stream that crosses under the road? With today's environmental consciousness, we now use "box" culverts instead of the old small round ones.

Today's culverts must be:

- able to handle water generated by large storm events
- strong enough to support the weight of the vehicles
- built of material that doesn't negatively react with the acidic or alkaline soils around it
- durable for long-term use
- and still of reasonable cost.

Today's environmental requirements call for culverts that are:

- at least as wide as the stream was before the road was constructed
- "fish-friendly", encouraging fish to come and "check it out"
- "critter-friendly" to allow small animals to travel through without being required to swim or wade during small storm events or normal flows.

Square or rectangular concrete box culverts are very good solutions. They can be built strong enough to support today's heavy traffic loads, wide enough to match stream widths and flood capacities, and they score very well in cost/benefit analysis.

And their flat-bottoms are perfect places to simulate natural stream beds. Once the culvert is installed in the channel, large rocks and native material placed inside create resting places for fish and passageways for small animals. Some are even large enough for deer. We balance our environment while we build our roads.



"Land Use 101" TV series coming in January – want to be in the audience?

Last spring we ran an informative six part series on cable TV on transportation issues. This winter and spring we will produce a new series on land use and development, with guests explaining everything from state goals to new subdivisions, remodeling to code enforcement, annexation issues and the latest on Measure 37. The series will be taped at TVC-TV in Beaverton the third Wednesday evening of each month from January to June of 2006. To be in the studio audience please call Joann at 503-846-3823.

Bike and Pedestrian Power: Hooray for Tigard's new Walnut Street!

The county's Major Streets Transportation Improvement Program is improving SW Walnut Street between 121st and 135th. This ties in with recent improvements at each end. New sidewalks and bike lanes were added on both sides of the new roadway to improve safety for these users as well as to encourage additional pedestrian and bike usage.



As many of you may recall, Walnut Street was a rolling, two-lane facility with minimal shoulders, no bike facilities and sporadic sidewalks and street lighting. Because of the terrain, sight distance was limited when turning onto or off of the roadway. With the widening of the road and leveling of hills and valleys for better sight distance, safety has greatly improved for all users.



A thank you note...

I just want to share my appreciation that Washington County is keeping bicyclists in mind as they consider transportation improvements. Not only is this more environmentally friendly by avoiding our reliance on fossil fuels, but it makes our communities more livable and active. Scott, Planar Systems, Inc.

Transportation improvements in your near future

SW Oleson - Fanno Creek to Hall Boulevard (January) www.co.washington.or.us/deptmts/lut/cap_proj/oleson.htm

Sunset/Beal to University, Forest Grove (February) www.co.washington.or.us/deptmts/lut/cap_proj/sunset.htm

170th Sidewalk (January)

143rd & Burton signal (November)



For the latest on road construction and maintenance, go to:

www.wc-roads.com

For the latest County news:

www.co.washington.or.us

For winter driving preparedness, go to

www.co.washington.or.us/winterdrive

On the Road Again...coming this fall to a roadway near you

19th/Susbauer/20th, Cornelius

This project will realign the intersections of 19th/Susbauer and 20th Avenue into one new signalized intersection at 20th and TV Highway. The project is shifting 19th/Susbauer north of TV Highway to the east, realigning it to connect to the new intersection at 20th. A section of 19th between TV Highway and Davis Street is closed through November; Davis and Holliday Streets north of the closure are detour routes. Construction began in late September and should be completed spring 2006. For more information please visit www.co.washington.or.us/deptmts/lut/cap_proj/19th20th.htm

SW Baseline Road– SW 201st to NW 231st

This project is improving Baseline to five lanes with sidewalks. Wetland landscaping is in progress; final roadway work is underway from 231st to Borwick. The final bridgework is awaiting the settlement of the approach fill dirt before pouring the concrete impact panels. All five lanes east of Cornelius Pass are open. The estimated completion date is December 2005. For more information please visit www.deainc.com/baseline

NW Barnes Road –Saltzman to 119th and NW Cornell Road –Murray to Saltzman

This project is widening Cornell to three lanes and Barnes to five lanes. Traffic has been shifted to the east on Barnes. Irrigation, landscaping and light poles are being installed on Cornell. Curbs, sidewalks, paving, and striping will take place early November, weather permitting. The final completion date for this project is May 2006, although it will be substantially complete this fall. For more information please visit www.co.washington.or.us/deptmts/lut/cap_proj/cornell.htm

Cornelius Pass Road - Johnson to Frances

This project is widening Cornelius Pass and providing intersection improvements, sidewalks, bike facilities and streetlights. Two culverts have been installed, one major culvert across Cornelius Pass Road and one at the creek crossing between SE Villa and SW Frances. Curbs and sidewalks have been installed along with the base asphalt paving. The remaining construction work will be completed by December 31, 2005. For more information please visit www.co.washington.or.us/deptmts/lut/cap_proj/crnls_psl

Phillip Harris Bridge – Tualatin River Bridge on Farmington Rd

The bridge is on schedule to open to traffic November 23, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. There will be a ceremony and parade celebrating the opening at 3 p.m. that day. The new 400-foot-long bridge is raised five feet from the old level, above the 100-year flood elevation. The design life of the new bridge is 75+ years. Designed to withstand an earthquake of a 1,000-year intensity, it is made entirely of concrete, which lasts for centuries. We hope you enjoy the beautiful new bridge and the back-to-normal commute! For more information please visit www.co.washington.or.us/deptmts/lut/cap_proj/p_harris/default.htm

SW Walnut Street – 121st to 135th and Fern Street

This project is adding a new center lane, sidewalks, bike lanes and streetlights. Walnut Street between 122nd and 128th was open to through traffic September 30, with base paving completed by the end of October. All overhead lines have been relocated underground. With the completion of the new box culverts, utility undergrounding and road grade realignments, the contractor is focusing on completing curbs, sidewalks and retaining walls. All other work will be completed by spring 2006. For more information visit www.deainc.com/walnut/.

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: Angela Brown, 846-3968

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

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Dick Schouten, District 1
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Office of the Director 846-3823

• Public Affairs 846-4963

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Capital Project Management 846-7800

• Right-of-Way 846-7870

Engineering/Surveying

• Engineering 846-7900

• Surveying 846-8723

• Traffic Engineering 846-7950

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• Building Services 846-3470

Operations and Maintenance 846-7623

• Road Maintenance 846-ROAD

• Adopt-A-Road 846-7619

• Service District for Lighting 846-7626

Planning 846-3519

Updates

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