



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 2005
of Washington County's Department of Land Use and Transportation

You have been asking...How is Measure 37 affecting Washington County?

Measure 37, passed by voters last November, requires the county to respond to claims within 180 days. Although there is a compensation component in Measure 37, the more likely result will be a decision to modify or not apply regulations that have devalued property since the current owner obtained it. So far we have received 151 claims. The vast majority concern rural properties, with many requesting the ability to construct a dwelling on an existing lot or to create an additional lot; these requests will be processed by this Department (Land Use and Transportation). All other claims, such as subdivisions on farmland, will be decided by the county commissioners, starting May 3. A claim registry and map of properties is available on our Web site. Check http://www.co.washington.or.us/deptmts/lut/land_dev/37letter.htm for more information.

Bike and Ped Power -- New Pedestrian Bridge Improves Safety

Washington County crews recently built a pedestrian bridge over Fanno Creek in Raleigh Hills, on Oleson Road just south of Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway. A sidewalk from the bridge to the highway comes later this spring. The bridge and sidewalk project give pedestrians a safer route across Fanno Creek as they make their way to and from the bus stop and shopping centers.



The existing two-lane bridge did not include a walkway. Rather than replacing the bridge, which would have been very expensive, county engineering staff came up with a cantilevered design, hanging the ped bridge onto the existing structure.

This short stretch of Oleson from Fanno Creek north to B-H Highway is adjacent to, but not included in, the county's upcoming Oleson Road improvement project. With a joint county/ODOT project to improve the intersection of Oleson and Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway still a long way off, this safety improvement was a quick and cost-effective way to serve the immediate needs of the neighbors.

Verboort Roundabouts Winning Ways



Washington County received an Engineering Excellence Honor Award from the American Consulting Engineers Council of Oregon for the Martin/Cornelius/Schefflin Rural Roundabouts. The project also came in second place for the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) Project of the Year. And drivers seem to like them ☺.

In Roads for Fish – Feds approve our Best Management Practices

The National Marine Fisheries Service gave its approval in April for Washington County's Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Routine Road Maintenance. This approval under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) reflects our commitment to road maintenance practices that preserve, protect and restore the land and aquatic environments so vital for economic activity, native flora and fauna, rural lifestyles and recreational opportunities.



The Board of Commissioners had adopted basic BMP's for road maintenance in 2000. Since then the county has implemented improvements that led to adoption of our current program last September. We submitted our updated program to the federal agency for consideration in October 2004.

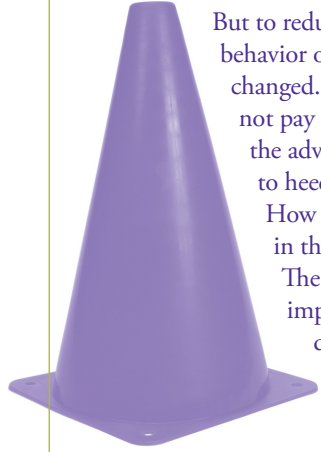
The National Marine Fisheries Service has accepted the county's practices as adequately protecting salmon and steelhead fish runs. Steelhead and Chinook salmon in the Tualatin Basin were listed as threatened under the ESA in September 2000. Receiving this approval and adhering to these best management practices sends a clear signal that we intend to do all we can to preserve these threatened species.

Washington County is one of only a few road maintenance jurisdictions in Oregon to have approved road maintenance BMP's under the ESA 4d rule. Documentation is viewable on the county's Web site at www.co.washington.or.us/limit10.

Orange is your clue!

Washington County road crews take work zone safety seriously. As part of their recent annual summer safety training, they heard safety expert Dave White talk about recent work zone crashes and how they might have been prevented. He discussed the newest equipment and techniques - signs, cones, barricades, barrels, and flaggers to safely guide traffic through road work.

But to reduce crashes the behavior of *drivers* must be changed. Motorists often do not pay enough attention to the advisory signs and fail to heed posted warnings. How can you stay safe in the road work zone? The number one, most important action a driver can take is to pay complete attention to the driving task, especially in the transition zone before the work area. And slow down – “Orange is your clue” – when you see orange signs, cones, barrels, and barricades.



Goal 5 Environmental Protection plan offered to Metro

On April 4 the Tualatin Basin Natural Resources Coordinating Committee (NRCC) voted to send on to Metro their recommendation for a Goal 5 Program designed to improve the environmental health of the Tualatin Basin. The program depends on existing Clean Water Services regulations to protect the health of stream-side corridors and on boosting voluntary “green” activities, including a key commitment that local governments will make regulatory changes to facilitate habitat-sensitive development.

This program recommendation includes the vital provision that the NRCC will not sunset as a governing body, but continue to function for the long term, overseeing natural resource protection throughout the Tualatin Basin. The NRCC will develop recommendations on natural resource improvements and coordinate the prioritization of capital projects needed to meet the overall goal of improving the environmental health of the Tualatin Basin.

Funding will come primarily from Surface Water Management (SWM) fees paid by all urban area residents and businesses. Future modest increases to these fees can provide up to \$95 million to improve Goal 5 resources in accord with CWS’ Healthy Streams Plan. SWM fees have proven themselves to be a fair and affordable method of improving environmental quality. See http://www.co.washington.or.us/deptmts/lut/planning/tualatin_basin.htm



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

SW Baseline Road – 201st to 231st Avenues
231st is closed while the contractor elevates 231st to connect to the new raised portion of Baseline. Detour routes are Brookwood to Cornell and Cornelius Pass to Cornell. 231st Avenue should re-open mid June, weather permitting; then traffic will be switched to the north side to construct the other half of the two bridges. Baseline east of Cornelius Pass should be completed June 30.

NW Cornell and Barnes Roads
The electrical contractor has begun placing signal and street light conduit on Cornell between Murray and Saltzman. The contractor will be completing storm sewers and starting to place curb and gutter as well as base paving. Estimated completion date: May 2006.

Phillip Harris Bridge – Farmington near River Road

In mid-March ODOT awarded the contract to Wildish Standard Paving of Eugene, Oregon. Construction will begin in May 2005. Wildish is now hiring specialty subcontractors and planning work schedules and strategies. They will be working within very strict environmental requirements such as an “in-water work window” from June 1 to September 30 only. The bridge is expected to be open to traffic by Thanksgiving 2005.

SW Walnut Street–121st to 135th Avenues

The contractor is performing “clearing and grubbing” operations, starting at 135th and working east. They will then temporarily widen the road between 135th and 132nd, to allow utility companies to relocate and upgrade their facilities. Once the utilities are finished, the contractor will begin the road improvements. Travel lane restrictions will be in place during work hours. Also the contractor has closed SE Fern Street to through traffic while sewer upgrades are installed and the road is widened. Local traffic is being detoured to 138th and Walnut Lane to access 135th and Walnut Street. This is the first of a three-phase staging plan to improve Fern, realign and improve 135th and close Walnut Lane. These improvements are scheduled to be complete by October 1, 2005.

In June, Walnut Street will be closed to through traffic between 128th and 121st so that the contractor can replace drainage culverts during the regulated in-water work window and re-grade the roadway. Through traffic will be detoured onto Gaarde and 121st. The road should re-open September 1, 2005. This entire project is scheduled for completion in June 2006.

Transportation 101

Check your cable TV schedule for upcoming showings of *Your Community-Your Roads: Transportation 101*, a six-part citizen education seminar on basic transportation issues on TVTV government channels 28 and 30. Topics range from the history of transportation in the county to funding, construction, maintenance, community impacts and citizen participation. See citizens get answers to questions you may have yourself!

Click Worthy

This summer about 128 miles of county roads and neighborhood streets will be paved and sealed; sixteen culvert and bridge projects and seven major county road improvement projects will be under construction. Get the latest information at: www.wc-roads.com

For the latest County news: www.co.washington.or.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: 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
John Leeper, District 2
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Charles Cameron

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Directory of LUT's Divisions and Services (all prefixes 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

Land Development

- Development Review 846-8761
- Building Services 846-3470

Operations and Maintenance 846-7623

- Service District for Lighting 846-7626
- Road Maintenance 846-ROAD
- Adopt-A-Road 846-7619

Planning 846-3519

Updates

Anne Madden, editor
Angie Aguilar, Bill Avery, Victoria Saager, writers
Bonita Oswald, Graphic Design

To receive a copy of Updates,
call 503-846-4963 TTY# 503-846-4598
fax 503-846-3588 www.co.washington.or.us