



Updates

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



For the latest County news, click on: www.co.washington.or.us.
For the latest on county roadwork, click on: www.wc-roads.com

Updates

A Community Newsletter
Winter 2006
of Washington County's Department of Land Use and Transportation

Winter Weather Response

Snow, ice, wind, rain, flooding. Pacific Northwest winters can make getting from here to there treacherous. Your safety is our paramount concern. Our goal is to maintain county roadways in a reasonably safe condition, and to provide such service efficiently and in an environmentally responsible manner.



To get the biggest bang for your buck when we get hit by a winter storm or an emergency event, we focus our efforts on a system of priority routes that provide access to critical facilities, emergency services and trunk highways. It's not your weekday 9 to 5 kind of work. We track weather forecasts and make sure equipment and personnel are ready to be called out and put to work on short notice.

When a cold snap is anticipated, we apply anti-icing materials where most needed to help prevent ice accumulation. When icy or snowy roads get slippery, we spread anti-skid material, concentrating on intersections, hills, curves and other problem areas. And when high water floods roads making them too dangerous to travel, as it did recently, we close them.

When stormy weather makes driving difficult, roadway users must exercise even more caution and drive with care. We do our best to provide safe roadways. Check on conditions at www.wc-roads.com

Governor Urges Residents to Buy Flood Insurance, if Needed

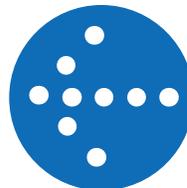
Recent heavy rains in Oregon have saturated the ground in many locations, meaning that now is the time to take action to protect your home and your possessions with flood insurance. To prepare for this wet winter, the Governor and Oregon Emergency Management encourage residents to buy low-cost flood insurance. Regular homeowner's insurance does not cover flood damage, but flood insurance protects a person's home and belongings. Flood insurance is available from any insurance agent. Interested homeowners and renters may visit www.floodsmart.gov for more information.

You have been asking...What's up with these flashing yellow lights?

Washington County and neighboring cities are introducing a new traffic signal – a flashing YELLOW arrow. It notifies left-turning motorists that they must yield to oncoming traffic before turning. Flashing yellow arrows will be installed where circular green signal lights have been used before. Both direct motorists to turn left after yielding to oncoming traffic.

The old green arrow provides a protected left turn from oncoming traffic. The flashing yellow arrow is not protected; left-turning traffic must first yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians before turning. It should improve traffic flow through intersections.

- Steady red arrow = Stop. No left turns allowed.
- Steady yellow arrow = Prepare to stop.
- Flashing yellow arrow = Left turns allowed, but must yield to oncoming traffic.
- Steady green arrow = Left turns allowed.



If you're interested in getting this newsletter in Spanish, call Angie Aguilar at: 503 846-7819, or email her at: angie_aguilar@co.washington.or.us

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.

Tom Tushner new Traffic Engineer



LUT has re-hired Tom Tushner as the county's new Traffic Engineer, to work under County Engineer Greg Miller. Tushner is a registered Civil and Traffic Engineer.

For 17 years he worked for Washington County as a Traffic Analyst and Principal Engineer, helping develop the county's Uniform Road Improvement Design Standards, the Traffic Impact Fee program, and the Safety Priority Inspection System. For the last five years Tushner has been Principal Engineer/Assistant City Engineer for the City of Lake Oswego, focusing on traffic issues. We welcome him back to help us tackle the traffic challenges our growth produces.

Land Use 101 TV series

Last spring we ran an informative six part series on TVC-TV on transportation issues. This winter and spring we are producing 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 studio audience is full, but you can catch the show often on cable channel 28. Call 503-846-4963 with questions.

Planning priorities?

The Board of Commissioners has released the 2006 Land Use Ordinance Work Program for public comment. Major projects include the Transportation Funding Plan, planning for the North Bethany and Bull Mountain expansion areas, and the Agricultural Economy/Urban Reserve Area study. The Work Program was sent to community groups, cities and service providers throughout the county. Groups and individuals have until March 3rd to submit their comments to the Planning Division and have them forwarded to the Board for its hearing on March 21st. Interested parties may also provide public testimony at the Board's hearing on March 21st at 10:00 am in the auditorium of the Public Services Building. For more information, please contact the Planning Division at 503-846-3519.

Speaking of Transportation Funding...

Ever wondered how we're going to pay for the transportation improvements we need? Our 2020 Transportation Plan identifies significantly more needs than we can meet with anticipated revenues. Local government officials have directed staff to discuss this question with county residents and other system users. Discussions will examine local programs such as the Major Streets Transportation Improvement Program (MSTIP), Traffic Impact Fee (TIF) and the Urban Road Maintenance District Program (URMD), as well as any new tools that might bridge the gap. We'll also consider how transportation needs might be prioritized to ensure the most important ones are addressed first. If you'd like to join these discussions or be kept up to date on funding plan progress, please call the Planning Division at 503-846-3519 or e-mail lutplan@co.washington.or.us

Pedestrian safety is a two way street

Washington County is improving safety for both pedestrians and motorists. Federal aid money along with MSTIP bike and pedestrian funds will pay \$1.8 million for the following sidewalk improvements this summer:



- **SW Butner Road** - sidewalk with street lighting and additional pavement for bikeway along 900 feet of the south side of Butner. The Butner/Marlow intersection will be studied to provide the safest and most convenient crossings to access the Sunset Transit Center's sky bridge.
- **SW Parkway** - 2,000 feet of sidewalks and lighting along both sides. Marlow and Parkwood will be examined to determine how to best provide intersection crossings for pedestrians, including school children.
- **SW 198th** - 1,900 feet of sidewalk with street lighting and a bike lane along the east side between TV Highway and Johnson Street.
- **Murray Boulevard** - 675 feet of sidewalk with street lighting north of Farmington on east side.

Together with reconstructing 52 corner ramps, county Operations and Maintenance crews will construct:

- **Walker Road** - 420 feet of shoulder on the south between Cambay and 180th; illumination at 180th and the nearby TriMet stop.
- **Kinnaman** - pathway improvements and infill from Aloha High School to 198th.
- **North Avenue (North Plains)** - 900 feet of shoulder along the south side between Glencoe and Main.
- **Woods Street** - repair and overlay a 575-foot existing path east to Ridgewood Elementary School.

While Washington County is striving to make safety improvements for all pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists, it is important for pedestrians to consider personal safety aspects. *Walkers are especially at risk during winter. Decreased daylight, shadows and early nightfall make it difficult to see walkers wearing dark or non-reflective clothing. And please do not use earphones when walking near traffic - you need to hear what is happening!*

On the Road Again - under construction NOW

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

19th Avenue/Susbauer Road/20th Avenue Realignment in Cornelius

South 20th Avenue between Alpine and the RR (south of Baseline) will remain closed until April 2006; please use Dogwood between 10th and 26th as a detour. The contractor is installing underground utilities. For more information please visit www.co.washington.or.us/deptmts/lut/cap_proj/19th20th.htm

SW Baseline Road - SW 201st to NW 231st

All five lanes east of Cornelius Pass are open. The contractor is currently completing the landscaping and paving driveways on the west side. The signal at 231st will be activated after final paving occurs. The estimated completion date has been moved to spring 2006 due to wet weather. For more information please visit www.deainc.com/baseline.

Cornell/Barnes Project

The contractor is completing walls, sidewalks, landscaping and irrigation work. Median islands will be constructed soon. The new traffic signals and streetlighting are installed and activated on Cornell and will be activated soon on Barnes. Final paving and striping will happen in mid-March or soon thereafter, depending on the weather. The construction contract provides for a May 1, 2006 completion. For more information please visit www.co.washington.or.us/deptmts/lut/cap_proj/cornell.htm.

Cornelius Pass Road - SW Johnson to SW Frances

Traffic is traveling on the west side of Cornelius Pass while the contractor works on the east side installing street lights, curbs, sidewalks, base asphalt and temporary striping. The estimated completion date is March 31, 2006. For more information please visit www.co.washington.or.us/deptmts/lut/cap_proj/crnls_psl.

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

Walnut Street between 122nd and 128th is open to traffic on the south half. The contractor is grading and pouring sidewalks and driveways on the north and south sides. The curbs and paving on the north side are expected to be completed late February, weather permitting. The estimated completion date is early summer 2006. For more information please 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

Tom Brian, Chair
Dick Schouten, District 1
John Leeper, 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 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

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

Planning 846-3519

Updates

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