



Work Session Summary Minutes

OREGON

Roads and Bridges Update

January 23, 2024. 1:30 PM
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Danielle Bethell, Kevin Cameron, and Colm Willis.

Board's Office: Chris Eppley, Alvin Klausen, Matt Lawyer, and Toni Whitler.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga.

Public Works: Dennis Mansfield, Scott Wilson, Max Hepburn, Ryan Crowther, and Lani Radtke.

Commissioner Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

Summary

Discussed prioritizing road and bridge projects for funding. The board emphasized the importance of Cordon Road and Hazelgreen Road intersection improvements, suggesting a larger project scope to secure funding. Considered the River Road and Brooklake Road intersection planning study. Concerns raised about the impact of urban expansion on rural areas and the need for strategic planning to balance regional priorities. The board agreed to finalize the list of projects for full applications, ensuring alignment with their strategic goals. Focused on prioritizing road and bridge projects, with a four-tiered approach proposed to reduce regulatory burden on property development. The tiered system would exempt low-volume roads with no crash history from review, potentially eliminating 70% of driveway reviews. Concerns were raised about existing driveways being grandfathered in versus new developments. The board also discussed the adoption of local access roads, starting with Kenwood Avenue, and the need for clear communication with property owners. Additionally, the Capital Football Club's traffic study and the potential decommissioning of safety corridors were reviewed, emphasizing the need for data-driven decisions and legislative support.

Salem-Keizer Area Transportation Study (SKATS) Applications

- Overview of pre-applications submitted for SKATS funding:
 - Delaney Bridge.
 - State Street from 46th Avenue to city limits.
 - Lancaster Drive from Monroe Avenue to State Street.
 - Cordon Road/Hazelgreen Road intersections.
 - River Road over height truck warning and turnaround areas.
 - MacLeay Road sidewalks.
 - Main Street in Aumsville.
 - Left turn lanes on Cordon Road at Ward Drive and Herrin.
 - Lancaster Drive/Cooley Drive signal rebuild.

- Prioritizing projects:
 - Delaney Bridge as the top priority.
 - Followed by the Cordon/Hazel Green project for full construction.
 - Aumsville Main Street project for community reasons.
 - Planning studies for River Road and Brooklake Road.
- Need to balance urban vs. rural project priorities:
 - Political support and relationships are important to ensure projects are funded.
- Finalize a project list with the board's recommendations and submit applications.

County Road Access Practices

- Proposal to implement a tiered approach for reviewing driveway access:
 - Exempt from the process low volume roads (under 2,000 vehicles a day) with no crash history.
- Refine "substantial increase" definition (potentially 50 additional trips):
 - Avoids unnecessary reviews and considers grandfathering existing driveways.
- Consider fairness of grandfathering in existing owners:
 - Driveway use for years versus new developments.
 - Ensure equitable treatment.
- Legal input so the proposed changes do not create liability issues for the county.

Local Access Roads

- Plan for notifying property owners on six roads requiring right-of-way dedication:
 - Kenwood Avenue.
 - Larussa Court.
 - Ash Avenue.
 - Schafer Road.
 - Shipman Lane.
 - Sandringham Drive.
- Recommend sending letters from the board with clear explanation on the impacts:
 - Potential loss of front yard space.
- Handle private oil sections of gravel county roads:
 - Property owners paved portions at their own expense.
 - The county plans to return these sections to gravel maintenance.

Other

- Capital Football Club development agreement update and traffic study review:
 - Concern about club's claim of reduced traffic volumes and the need for them to contribute to road improvements.
- Marion County One Access project:
 - Club's need for a driveway and ongoing negotiations.
- Plan a work session for a safety corridor update:
 - Discuss potential decommissioning and legislative efforts to remove sunset date on the pilot program.

Next Steps

- Finalize the project prioritization for SKATS funding and submit the full applications.
- Proceed with the outreach plan to property owners on the local access roads, starting with Kenwood Avenue.
- Continue monitoring and negotiating with the Capital Football Club about development and traffic impacts.
- Prepare for the upcoming safety corridor update work session.

Adjourned – time: 3:42 p.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White