



Work Session Summary Minutes

OREGON

Engineering Standards Update

June 26, 2025. 9:30 AM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

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

Board's Office: Matt Lawyer, Jan Fritz, and Chris Eppley.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga.

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

Kittelson & Associates: Julia Knudsen.

Central Engineering: Kray Younger.

Commissioner Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Project Overview

- Comprehensive update of Marion County engineering standards.
- A three-bundle project covering multiple engineering and design chapters.
- Initiated to address inconsistencies in existing 1990 standards.
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) includes representatives from:
 - Public Works.
 - Planning Commission.
 - Home Builders Association.
 - City representatives.
 - Utility companies.
 - Paving companies.
- The goal is to create clear, consistent standards for county development projects.

Review & Discussion of Chapters 8, 10, 11 & 12

- Chapter 8 (Pavement Design):
 - Introduced new design life standards:
 - 30 years for rural roadways.
 - 40 years for urban curbed areas.
 - 50 years for roundabouts and permanent bus pull-outs.
 - Proposed increased asphalt thickness for longer-lasting roads.
 - Minimal additional expense:
 - Approximately 15% increase.
 - Two design pathways:
 - Default pavement sections.
 - Detailed geotechnical engineering report.
 - Addressed challenges of existing inconsistent road design standards.

- Chapter 10 (Utilities):
 - Expanded utility easement guidelines
 - Defined standards for:
 - Public and private utilities.
 - Storm water systems.
 - Fiber optic infrastructure.
 - Increased easement widths based on:
 - Pipe size.
 - Maintenance requirements.
 - Utility accessibility.
- Chapter 11 (Right of Way Development):
 - Introduced standards for:
 - Roadside landscape strips.
 - Vegetation selection.
 - Irrigation requirements.
 - Vision clearance.
 - Explored design options:
 - Vegetated strips.
 - Hardscape alternatives.
 - Median design considerations
 - Discussed maintenance challenges and potential "adopt-a-planter" program
- Chapter 12 (Structures):
 - Provided guidance for:
 - Retaining walls.
 - Underground structures.
 - Stairs.
 - Bollards.
 - Considered design challenges in:
 - Urban vs. rural environments.
 - Potential homeless encampment prevention.
 - Structural longevity and maintenance.

Discussion

- Examined cost-benefit analysis of standard changes.
- Explored private road improvement funding options.
- Discussed safety considerations in infrastructure design.
- Considered long-term maintenance implications.
- Emphasized need for clear documentation of design exceptions.

Next Steps

- **Chapter 9 (7/24/25):**
 - Scheduled for July review.
 - Noted as most complex chapter.
 - Requires dedicated, extensive discussion.
- **Chapters 1, 2 & 3 (7/24/25):**
 - Chapter 1: Reviewed in November, preparing for integration.
 - Chapter 2: Currently under TAC review.
 - Plan to integrate feedback and prepare for board review.
 - Aim for iterative improvement process.
- **Chapters 4, 5, 6 & 7 (To Be Determined):**

- Future work sessions planned
- Will cover:
 - Geometric design.
 - Multimodal design.
 - Traffic engineering.
 - Roadside design.
 - Additional transportation standards.

Other

- Transportation Safety Action Plan update:
 - Prepare board order to finalize Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) memo.
- Develop detailed cost estimates for:
 - Pavement design standards.
 - Design standard variations.
- Create comprehensive documentation process for:
 - Design standard exceptions.
 - Decision-making rationale.
- Follow-up on specific inquiries:
 - Private road improvement districts.
 - Utility easement requirements.
 - Specific development project considerations.

Adjourned – time: 11:06 p.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White