



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION

Rural Transportation System Plan (RTSP) Revisions Minutes

Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Commissioners' Boardroom
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Suite 5231
Salem, Oregon 97301

Attendance:

Commissioner's: Colm Willis, Danielle Bethell, and Kevin Cameron.

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

Legal Counsel: Andrew Mittendorf and Steve Elzinga.

Public Works: Carl Lund, and Lani Radtke.

Citizen: Kathy Rogers.

Commissioner Kevin Cameron called the meeting to order at 1:34 a.m.

1. Welcome & Introductions

-Commissioner Colm Willis

2. Discussion

-All

- Proposed roundabout at Hazelgreen Road and Cordon Road:
 - Applicable plan allows either roundabout or traffic signal at intersection.
- Confusion in community coming from idea that roundabout was a final decision:
 - Concerns from local landowners about property and operational impacts.
- No construction funding is currently secured for the project;
 - Existing actions relate mainly to planning applications and prioritization within Salem-Keizer Area Transportation Study (SKATS).
- Acknowledged community feedback, including petitions and concerns:
 - Impacts on multiple large farming operations.
 - Operational issues associated with roundabouts:
 - Continuous flow and difficulty finding gaps.
 - Prefer that funding choices are not driven solely by ease of obtaining grants.
- Reaffirmed keeping both design options open, aligning with past policy language:
 - Agree to adjust specific project entry that currently lists only a roundabout.
- Considered how changing from "roundabout only" to "traffic signal or roundabout" could affect SKATS scoring and funding:
 - Safety arguments can be made for either option based on local conditions.
- Reviewed Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) comments on RTSP:
 - Mostly technical/analytic additions and did not alter policy direction.
 - Confirmed several wording changes in the RTSP:
 - Balance freight mobility with other transportation modes in planning and design guidance.
 - Replace term "failing" with "not met" in performance tables.

- Revise electric vehicle (EV) coordination language:
 - Flexibility with regional partners and private sector.
 - Avoid over-commitment.
- Transit planning and operations should be led by transit agencies:
 - County reference efforts instead of directing specific transit service details.
- How to include autonomous/driverless vehicles in the 20-year RTSP horizon:
 - Variation in local policies in other states.
 - Generic, flexible statement about exploring use.
 - Safety and potential funding opportunities rather than detailed prescriptions.

3. Other

-All

- Governance issues related to SKATS representation:
 - Aumsville is now part of SKATS.
 - Past efforts to adjust voting structure.
- Proposal to change representation, including an extra vote for Salem, failed 4-3:
 - Renewed interest from SKATS chair in revisiting the topic.
- County remains opposed to giving Salem additional vote:
 - Open to discussing alternative governance options:
 - Rotating representation between certain jurisdictions.
- Need city councils and new SKATS members to be briefed on discussed options:
 - Work toward a consensus approach going forward.
- Several new SKATS participants and need to revisit prior options and history.

4. Next Steps

-All

- Revise RTSP intersection policy language for Hazelgreen Road & Cordon Road:
 - Explicitly allow "install traffic signal or roundabout", in line with other similar policies.
- Review SKATS submittals and scoring for Hazelgreen Road & Cordon Road project:
 - Understand impacts of changing description from "roundabout" to "traffic signal or roundabout".
 - Identify any required adjustments.
- Confirm prior board and SKATS direction by reviewing historical records:
 - Determine how project was characterized.
 - Roundabout vs. flexible option.
- Finalize language changes in the RTSP, including:
 - Use of "not met" instead of "failing" in performance tables.
 - Update EV language that uses "may continue":
 - Or equivalent flexible wording.
 - Coordination and funding opportunities without over-commitment.
 - Statement on autonomous vehicles, addressing willingness to explore use, safety considerations, and opportunities to leverage external funding.
- Prepare code amendment concepts to integrate the adopted RTSP into Marion County Code.
- Present RTSP at management update.
- Engage with affected city councils through SKATS to revisit vote on representation:
 - Present previously discussed governance options.
 - Gather updated positions to bring back to the board.

Adjourned – time: 1:57 p.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White