

# **COLUMBIA COUNTY**

## **Transportation and Road Advisory Committee**

### **November 16, 2023**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Order:**

Rosemary Lohrke called the Columbia County Transportation and Road Advisory Committee (CCTRAC) meeting to order at 10:02 am. on Thursday, November 16, 2023, in Healy Hall.

#### **Present:**

TRAC Members: Pat LaPointe, Sabrina Moore, Rosemary Lohrke, and Karl Webster.

Columbia County Staff: Michael Russell, Public Works Director, Grant DeJongh, Public Works Assistant Director; Julie Wheeler, Admin Assistant II

#### **Introductions:**

No introductions made since all in attendance knew each other.

#### **Minutes:**

The minutes from the August 17, 2023, meeting were approved. Pat LaPointe made the motion with Karl Webster seconded.

#### **Open Forum for Guest Comments:**

- Contact Paul Langner to let him know that his term is expiring.
- Karl mentioned that he'd appreciate a reminder of the meeting two hours in advance.

#### **Old Business / Updates: Michael Russell & Grant DeJongh**

- A slide show was presented showing the Meissner Road slide repair, Fernhill Road dig out, culvert replacements on Apiary Road MP 7.4 & 12.2 and Bachelor Flat, and the collaboration with the City of St. Helens' Safe Routes to School Grant project on Columbia Boulevard where bike lanes, sidewalks, and curbs were installed. While the Columbia Boulevard project was being done, we took the opportunity to place a new culvert.
- Fleet Replacement Plan Update (Grant):
  - Half of the project has been completed. Some of the equipment to be purchased is dump trucks, mower loader, 2 graders, broom, supervisor truck, and a chassis for the new herbicide truck.
  - We're working towards implementing a plan which replaces equipment once a set number of hours/miles has been reached.
  - Sabrina requested disposition of old equipment once they've been replaced with new and a matrix of cost of repairs on equipment.
- Budget Priorities (Mike):
  - A staffing plan is a priority. He would like a committee to help determine what positions the Road Department truly needs. Sabrina mentioned it would be nice to have an employee ditching whenever it's possible. Rosemary thought a mowing employee would benefit the road system.

### **Old Business/Updates, Continued:**

- Fleet Management (Grant):
  - The tablets are getting set up with the program. Each of the shops have wi-fi. The next step will be getting the crews trained on doing their pre-trip inspections. The roll out will be very soon.

### **Round Table Discussion:**

- Today Apiary Road was closed at the 11.8 MP, between Schaffer Road and Camp Wilkerson. This will be a 6 to 8 week closure. Notifications will be going out today.
- Pat mentioned that the Bennett Road guardrail past the S curves is missing. This is going to be replaced soon by the Road crew.
- Millard Road Project:
  - Sabrina asked if this project is still a go. This is a very important route.
  - The permits are in process and the ROW will have to be obtained.
  - Currently there are some signage issues near the Highway 30 intersection.
  - In her opinion, the Bennett Road intersection would have been a better option for a traffic signal.
- Bennett Road and Highway 30 Intersection:
  - Pat commented that the warning posts aren't all up on the islands. Visibility of them will be bad once it snows and could potentially be a real road hazard.
- ODOT is discussing having some roads in the Portland area become toll roads. This is currently just in the conversation stage.
- Bike path/pedestrian path between St. Helens and Scappoose was brought up by Sabrina. Per Mike, he's on the committee spearheading this project, there currently is no funding available. Therefore, no plans in the foreseeable future to break ground on the route.
- Wilcox and Flegel:
  - Sabrina mentioned that diesel had been sold by Wilcox & Flegel without any winterization additive put into the fuel. This caused major issues for many diesel-powered engines. Some of her dump trucks had to be pumped out of their fuel, since the diesel started to gel at 38 degrees.

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 15, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Wheeler