

# COLUMBIA COUNTY

## Transportation and Road Advisory Committee

### May 18, 2023

### Meeting Minutes

**Order:**

Rosemary Lohrke called the Columbia County Transportation and Road Advisory Committee (CCTRAC) meeting to order at 10:10 am. on Thursday, May 18, 2023, in Healy Hall.

**Present:**

TRAC Members: Pat LaPointe, Sabrina Moore, Rosemary Lohrke, and Nita Greene  
Columbia County Staff: Michael Russell, Public Works Director, Grant DeJongh, Public Works Assistant Director; Julie Wheeler, Admin Assistant II

**Introductions:**

Sara Smith was presented by Grant DeJongh as the new Columbia County Engineer Technician I. The rest of the attendees then made their introductions to the group.

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the February 16, 2023, meeting were approved. Pat LaPointe made the motion with Sabrina Moore seconded.

**Open Forum for Guest Comments:**

- No comments were given

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

- Emergency Relief Projects (2015 Storm Event)
  - Meissner Road Slide
    - The location of this repair is between Clark Road and Anliker Road. Tapani did a wonderful job. They installed three culverts, benched the hillside, and paved. Hopefully the repairs will stop the slide motion.
  - Fernhill Road Slide
    - The location of this repair is between Townsend and Ferncrest Road. This project is similar to the Meissner Road project. Tapani replaced the culvert, repaired the slide damage, and paved. Looks great.
- Culvert Bundle – Apiary Road MP 12.2 & 17.4; Bennett Road
  - Apiary Road MP 12.2 & 17.4
    - Preconstruction meeting will occur May 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss road closure necessary to make the repairs at Apiary’s two locations. It’s very possible that the road will be closed to through traffic for four weeks. Public notice will be sent out via email, Facebook, the Columbia County web page, press release, and variable message boards.

### **Old Business / Updates (continued):**

- Bennett Road Culvert Replacement and Bridge Repairs
  - There was a discussion concerning these repairs. Rosemary Lohrke suggested that we contact ODOT's Trip Check so that the temporary road closure may be noted on their web page.
- Replacement of Bridge B-20 on Scappoose Vernonia Road
  - The Scappoose Vernonia Road closure will happen in 2024. Currently this project has 60% of its preconstruction engineering completed.

### **New Business: Michael Russell & Grant DeJongh**

- Scappoose Vernonia MP 19.98 Bridge B-10
  - The crew will begin work on the repairs of the deteriorating pilings of this bridge on July 15<sup>th</sup>. ODOT is in partnership with us so that we may use some of their equipment and also be tutored on their technic for piling restoration. A full road closure will not be necessary.
- CZ Trail Bridge at Scappoose Vernonia MP 8.7
  - The repairs needed to this bridge doesn't involve water work, so it can be completed at any time. Piling deteriorating is occurring on this bridge also.
- Fishhawk Lake Bridge
  - These repairs will be done by our crew. Repairs needed aren't as involved as those made to this bridge last summer.
- Bonnie Falls Repair
  - Two years ago, we did a 1 lane dig out. Next week we will begin the next phase of repairs by digging out the other lane and replacing with a thick layer of asphalt. The bump will be shaved off in September.
  - Rosemary's concerned about the hillside coming down onto the roadway. Per Mike, a perforated pipe has been installed to move water. It's a very large slide. Hopefully the pipe will help stabilize it.
- Apiary Road Bump
  - Not sure what's going on. The Road Department will dig it out and smooth it. We will see where the water table is at that location.
- These projects will take up most of the summer to complete, therefore we will only be doing a few minor patch paving jobs in September.
- The goal is to have Request for Bid this fall/winter for the bigger paving jobs to be completed the summer of 2024:
  - Swedetown
  - McDonald
  - Alston Mayger
  - Millard
  - Bennett
- FY2024 Budget Information
  - Budget information was handed out to the group and explained by Mike. He reviewed how he created the budget and went step by step through the process.
  - Personnel shortage is a real concern. The department would like to have four people in each of the four districts. This would help the department to be less proactive and get on top of our routine road maintenance.
  - Sabrina Moore asked why we require Hazmat/tanker endorsements on our CDLs. This might be hindering applicants from applying. She also suggested that the county will assist in applicants to obtain their CDL.

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### **New Business (Continued)**

- The department would like to update the Road Standards. The last time they were updated was in 1996. Per Grant, it would be beneficial to include all the ordinances adopted since then be included. Have policy consistency. Once the comprehensive document is created, he would like to engage the TRAC members to review and help with this process and provide feedback.
- Sabrina stated concern over the condition of the Millard Road dip. She feels like that section of road won't last through another winter without falling completely apart.
- Sabrina also requested that a target date for the Fleet Management Plan. Grant will get this date nailed down.

### **Round Table Discussion:**

- Rosemary inquired what the typical ROW is. It's 40-50 feet.
- Sabrina reminded the group to utilize the County Web Maps to find out what the Right of Ways are on the roads. She uses them all the time.
- Pat explained that the utilities must remain in the ROW or else they're in direct violation.
- Per Pat, turning right at Hwy 30 and Bennett Road is extremely dangerous. The white concrete needs to be painted. People don't know where to drive. Per Mike, ODOT is aware of the problem and will address it.
- Mike stated that ODOT is replacing a bridge on Hwy 30 this summer west of Clatskanie. Colvin Road will be used as the detour, therefore ODOT will be making upgrades on it. Also, a temporary speed limit for Colvin Road will be set at 35 mph instead of 45.

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 17, 2023.

A motion to adjourn was made by Pat LaPointe, seconded by Nita Greene. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Wheeler