

COLUMBIA COUNTY

TRANSPORTATION AND ROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 16, 2025, 10 am

MINUTES

❖ **Call to Order-10:06 am**

Chair- Rosemary Lohrke

❖ **Sign In / Introductions –**

Chair – Rosemary Lohrke

- Present: Pat LaPointe (utility community), Ken Parris (CRPUD), Karl Webster (CRPUD), Nita Greene (citizen-at-large), Paul Langner (City of Rainier), Rosemary Lorkhe (citizen-at-large), Mike Russell (CCPW), Grant DeJongh (CCPW)

❖ **Approve Minutes**

Members

- Mr. Langner moved to approve minutes from July meeting.
- Ms. Greene seconded.
- Motion passed unanimously.

❖ **Open Forum for Comments –**

Members and Guests

- None
- No guests

❖ **Updates/Discussion -**

Mike Russell, PW Director

- Projects Updates
 - 2025 chip seal
 - 12 miles (Quincy-Mayger – 4 miles, Scappoose-Vernonia – 8 miles)
 - Used Clatsop County crew, Columbia County crew, purchased rock
 - General satisfaction with state of chip seal
 - Want to expand to 25 miles in 2026 if Clatsop is willing
 - Not a universal treatment – need good pavement condition
 - Much cheaper than paving
 - Questions about the cost of using Clatsop vs. purchasing a chip spreader
 - Clatsop was about \$35,000, machine is mid-six figures
 - Questions about which roads for 2026
 - Working on list
 - Questions about further applicability on Scappoose-Vernonia Road (e.g., near Grandma's Lane)
 - Will look into it
 - Patch paving
 - Pittsburg, Cater, others
 - Questions about which crew did this work
 - Columbia County did all of the paving this year
 - General satisfaction with County traffic control
 - Hazard mitigation grant
 - FEMA-funded (OEM pass-through) for wooden culvert inspection,

- evaluation, and design
 - Applied for this after the Apiary Road MP 11.8 washout
 - Will result in some preliminary design (30% plans) that can be used to leverage additional money
 - RFP being drafted
 - Questions about how many wooden culverts there are on Apiary Road and Scappoose-Vernonia Road
 - Handful on Apiary Road
 - Many suspected on Scappoose-Vernonia Road, but many of those have likely been replaced with metal culverts
- Scappoose-Vernonia Road MP 2 – East Fork Nehalem Bridge Replacement
 - Goal to go to bid this winter
 - Construction during summer 2026
 - Questions about detour routes and emergency services
 - Detour would be inverse of Apiary Road MP 17.9 project (S-V traffic pushed up to Apiary Road – Meissner Road – Canaan Road)
 - No good alternatives – cost associated with purchasing land or rights, construction prohibitive
 - Emergency services will be notified before closure – coverage will be up to emergency service districts
 - Owners of the property adjacent will be able to access their property throughout construction
 - Could go the route of a single-lane closure, but that pushes construction into two seasons (dramatic increase in cost)
 - Concerns about approach at existing bridge – should be repaired for winter
- Road Maintenance Plan
 - Looking at 2026 road maintenance plan
 - Postponed for Tim Hancock, Road and Bridge Superintendent, to be present
 - Members noticed crews already out doing work – first ditching they have seen in many years
- Budget Update
 - Special session transportation package
 - Passed, but referring to voters if signed
 - Political games going on in Salem
 - ODOT is moving forward assuming that this will go through
 - Will know in January 2026 if signatures were collected – this bill is not popular with voters, neither is the process that was followed
 - Package would mean \$900K for Columbia County in first year, \$1.2M-\$1.4M subsequent years
 - Currently, get about \$5M
 - Requested input from staff, committees – focus on roads, personnel
 - Recently reached an agreement with the union
 - Projected personnel cost increases - >\$1M in next 5 years
 - 2.5%/year COLA based on CPI-West
 - Longevity play

- Premium pay (veg. licenses, *etc.*)
 - If we get any money, would propose using it to stabilize budget
 - Currently, road fund is deficit spending – good for 3 years, 4th year will have to make hard decisions
 - Mr. Langner brought up that PERS financing coming to an end and will hit in 2027-2028 – 28% increase
 - Issues noted with the difference between CPI and construction price index (8%) – inflation, tariffs, *etc.*, all impact
 - Budget committees, local reps are trying to educate governments on this
 - May need to look at additional bonding
- Committee Vacancies
 - Ms. Greene, Ms. Lorkhe terms end 12/31/2025 – need reappointment if want to remain on TRAC
 - Open to nominations for chair
 - Currently, three openings on TRAC
 - Recommendations:
 - Fire districts
 - West Oregon Electric Co-op
 - Schools and bus drivers
 - City reps

❖ Round Table Discussion

Chair & Members

- Rosemary Lorkhe
 - Road marking – crew hanging out of trucks to collect cones – dangerous
 - ODOT – County crews do not do this
- Pat LaPointe
 - Safety concerns
 - Signs should be moved through work corridor as work progresses
 - Otherwise, doing great job
- Ken Parris
 - Sinkholes on S-V Road
 - Near the stockpile for chips seal (about 100’ apart)
- Nita Greene
 - Mountain View Road (Scappoose)
 - Dip in roadway – could be failed culvert
 - Just before Holaday Road
- Paul Langner
 - ODOT flooding issue
 - Heath Road flooding – comes off of Highway 30 – destroying road base
 - Mill Street in Rainier – same issue
 - Monument damage – County crews filled in corner monuments, County Surveyor now fixing
 - Mr. Russell to look into this

❖ Next Meeting – (tent.) January 15, 2026

Chair

❖ Adjourn – 11:00 AM

Chair