

## **TILLAMOOK COUNTY ROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

DATE: September 15, 2008

PLACE: Commissioners' Meeting Room A, 201 Laurel Avenue, Tillamook, Oregon 97141

*MEMBERS PRESENT:* Chairman Curt Schonbrod; Vice-Chair Gary Hanenkrat; Steve Macartney; Darcy R. Jones; Jerry A. Dove; Gus Meyer, Robert Garrigues; John V. Gettman.

*STAFF PRESENT:* Liane Welch (Director, Public Works); Aaron Palter (Recorder)

*COUNTY EMPLOYEES:* Commissioner Charles Hurliman

*GUESTS PRESENT:* Dora Norwood; Dale E. Stockton

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Curt Schonbrod called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Review and Approve July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Minutes:** Chair Schonbrod asked if everyone had the chance to review the Minutes of the last meeting. There was no response. A motion was made by John Gettman to approve the Minutes of the last meeting, as written. The motion was seconded by Darcy Jones. The motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Citizen Group Status: Liane Welch stated there was a small group in attendance at the recent meeting; but there was a good turnout. Ms. Welch passed around a collection of road surveys to the committee members. Responses received to the recent Roads Survey received have been all over the board. We are currently tallying all results. The numbers should be out soon. John Gettman indicated that the PAC has donated \$2,000 to the group to pay for part of the survey work, based upon advice from legal counsel. Darcy Jones said that he has read a few of the surveys. He sees comments on trucks that they don't pay anything. He feels this is a misperception from folks and asked how we could change this. There was a discussion held about where the money goes for roads. Commissioner Hurliman inquired of the committee about trucks which use Trask Road but never hit the state highway. Ms. Welch indicated that many people were surprised to head about how much money trucks were paying for the use of the roads. She stated that one of the functions of the citizens group is to figure out where we need to educate the public. Gus Meyer indicated that he was disturbed by the poor citizen participation in this process and he is concerned about the education and knowledge of the public. Many people do not know the difference between state, county and local roads.

Chair Schonbrod asked for the status of the survey results. Ms. Welch responded that we are still in the discovery portion of the process. There is a strong education component which should come out of this. She indicated that at the morning Commissioners' staff meeting, there was a discussion about the Federal Safety Net funding legislation and the glimmer of hope that it may be renewed. Commissioner Hurliman said there is a good chance a continuation bill may be passed, and that it depends on large stuffs not being added to the legislation, where these are not seen as favorable for adoption these days. He is concerned about the new leadership and concerns over pork barrel spending, where this is seen as pork barrel spending.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Construction Project Update:** Ms. Welch provided the following updates on Construction Projects ongoing within Tillamook County.

Long Prairie Intersection with Hwy 101: This contract expires September 30, 2008. The contractor is going through the punch list at this time. The recent grinding has made things better. This occurred after tough negotiations with the contractor. The grinding was performed in accordance with ODOT standards. Jerry Dove

G:\MEGAN\CRAC\Minutes 2008\2008-9-15 minutes.doc

inquired if the contractor would be cleaning up the area near the Port as a part of this process. This is part of their punch list.

ODOT was planning on paving 12 miles at the beginning of Highway 101 from South of Tillamook to c. Yellow Fir Road. This has been scaled back significantly in scope where ODOT is taking out projects due to its loss of \$56 million in funding. Darcy Jones asked if the committee has any ability for input to ODOT as to how they perform their batch paving and whether they could be asked to begin this project from the other direction. Green Timber to Tillamook is worse than in the other direction. A motion was made by John Gettman the committee make a recommendation to ODOT in this regard. The motion was seconded by Gus Meyer. The motion carried.

**Johnson Bridge:** This project is on schedule for opening in May of '09. It could be opened in January of '09 if the County takes over maintenance of the road. Gus Meyer indicated some reservations with the project including the need for key markings or a light at the junction in this area. Ms. Welch indicated there would be slower speed limits posted.

There was a discussion held regarding rumors the contractor is involved in a lawsuit. Ms. Welch indicated she has not seen anything regarding lawsuits.

There was a discussion held regarding debris near the site. Ms. Welch said it was decided it would be best to remove this debris rather than having it potentially affect the new bridge, and a change order was executed for this function.

The contractor has finished all of their work for this season, where the in-water work period closed today, September 15.

**Latimer Road Intersection with Highway 101:** ODOT is managing this project. It is making huge progress; it should be done by the end of the month. The contractor is now seen working during the day at the site. John Gettman indicated a \$852,000 reimbursement where 10% was held back until the job is finished. The County is supposed to match up paving and do railroad intersection improvements when the project is finished. This agreement was made when the County had money. There is now the worry that we will not be able to comply with the terms of this agreement given the current financial status of the County. Ms. Welch will be doing the engineering of this project as there was only \$8,000 funded for this purpose and the first proposal received for this work was \$25,000. This is only a \$20,000 project.

**Blaine Road:** This is a Federal Highways project for paving of approximately four (4) miles. This project is proceeding well with no complaints. The road has been redesigned to have less impact on habitat. Gus Meyer indicated his concern with the need of rural Oregon not being met by implementation of projects such as this at a cost of \$5 million where the money should be spent elsewhere. Ms. Welch indicated this road is a connection road outside of the County.

**Yellow Fir Culvert Replacement:** This project was completed two weeks ago. Prior to the repairs being performed, this culvert was being held open by four by fours.

**Burton Fraser Road Culvert Replacement:** This project is being completed through the partnering of ODFW and TCCA to get a tidegate installed at this site on Fraser Road. An extension to the work timing window has been granted through September 30, 2008, where the project should be completed by that time.

**Anderson Creek Culvert:** This project is being worked on today in North County.

**Paving Projects:** A completed projects handout was reviewed by the committee. Tillamook County saved money on asphalt by purchasing it from a vendor in Astoria. There was a discussion held about asphalt costs

and the quality of material from local vendors. We should be purchasing product from local vendors if the quality is comparable to others. In this case, it was deemed more economical to purchase the asphalt from out of town. We have been forced to shop around on price. Quality of product is a big concern. As we move forward with future projects, sample testing of materials might be a good way to go. It was suggested that County might enter into a yearly supply contract with certain specifications. Someone should have a sit down meeting with S-C Paving to discuss product quality and how we can go about getting better durability from the use of their product. There was a brief discussion about the recent Whiskey Creek paving project. The results have been very good.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: FEMA/FHWA Projects:** Ms. Welch indicated that Tillamook County is still working on damages relating to the December 2007 storm event. She gave an update on the following projects:

**Salmonberry Bridge:** ODOT provided a \$400,000 temporary stabilization proposal. The decision has been made to proceed straight into the design of a permanent bridge repair. Tillamook County is currently working with ODOT on an IGA. A draft proposal has been prepared and will be presented by ODOT. Additionally, a document is being prepared between County and the Port of Tillamook Bay outlining a collaborative and cooperative effort for work at the site. A lot of effort is going into this repair and recovery project. The Port is using FEMA monies; and the County is using FHWA monies. There is a matching funds requirement, where these separate funds cannot be leveraged against each other. Ms. Welch is exploring the use of SB994 funds as County's match portion for this project. She is looking for guidance from the committee.

**Fawcett Creek Culvert:** This was damaged in the 2006 storm and again in 2007. OTAK has been hired to design replacement of the 12' culvert at the site with a bridge. We intend to get bids in August 2009.

**Trask River Road Culvert Replacement:** This road was lost in 1999. The culvert was cleaned out in 2007 following the storm. It is being replaced with an eight (8') foot culvert.

**Neilsen/Tone/Geinger Embankment Failures:** This project involves an environmental review process. SLOPES IV has now been released by NMFS to the Corps where it is expected to shorten this process a bit towards permitting.

**McDonald Dike Road Embankment Failure:** This project also involves an environmental review process and SLOPES IV. Additionally, DSL requires an easement for the placement of armoring at the site. This process is currently underway; however, this does not affect the permitting process.

**Kilchis River Embankment Failure:** This project is proceeding under an extension to the work timing window. The scope of work involved here makes this project exempt from permitting. The previously filed Joint Permit Application, therefore, has been withdrawn from consideration.

**Miami River Road Embankment Failure:** This project awaits completion of the City of Garibaldi's relocation of its main water line, exposed at this area during the December 2007 storm. This scope of this project also makes it exempt from permitting. A work timing window extension has been granted until September 30, 2008. Any exemptions beyond this date will require coordination with ODFW.

**Cochran Road Embankment Failures:** This project involves three (3) failure sites along the 2-mile portion of this road under jurisdiction of Tillamook County. There was a discussion about getting rid of this road to ODF. This process was never completed.

**Other: Clarence Creek:** Ms. Welch discussed this site with the committee. The County had blocked off a portion of this road and ODF had blocked off the other side. At some point, ODF reopened their side of the road, without notifying the County. There was an incident subsequent to this event where a person driving a

truck apparently drove through some flagging tape and ended up driving down into the ditch at this site. The truck has since been removed from the area by Burden's Trucking. There were no serious injuries.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: a) Review Draft "Core" Infrastructure Risk Management Plan:** Ms. Welch said this document is the summary and result of the recent meeting held involving the scope of the public works department. It is so much easier when you have money. You need to know what to do when you don't have money. It's all about risk. We need to decide what we are going to spend our money on and how to defend this list of priorities. A brief discussion was held about spending money on guardrails. Tillamook County has not had a guardrail program in the last eight or nine years. Should we remove failing guardrails or leave them in position for delineation of the edge of the road.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: b) Review Draft Road Asset Management Plan – Executive Summary:** Ms. Welch discussed the document with the committee. She is looking for input on how to approach the Board of Commissioners with the information. Where do we go with this information; what do we do with it? Currently, it is in draft form. The document is seen to answer many of the questions from the public. The feeling of the committee was that citizens are too stuck in the past regarding roads and need education to look forward to the future. Ms. Welch said that she would like to be able to provide yearly performance reports to the public. Accordingly, public works needs to revamp its own business practices in order to meet this effort. Currently, Tillamook County Public Works does not have an accurate culvert inventory, what's owned/managed, and what are we doing to protect it. This is something we are currently trying to create.

Ms. Welch stated that we cannot complete all of the budgeted projects included in this Plan based on the current funding of the department. The three-year improvement Plan would be based on funding. The committee felt that any information presented to the Board of Commissioners should include the caveat that it is based on funding.

A discussion was held about the sensitivity of the administrative costs which accompany the Plan. The feeling of the committee was that if the public wants this information, it should pay for it.

Ms. Welch stated that, as funding and services are cut, expectations of the department should also be lowered accordingly. Less people are doing more work. There is a limit to how much the department can put out. This cannot be sustained.

Steve Macartney indicated his concerns over the adoption of this Plan. Ms. Welch responded the need is to prioritize the list, develop a three-year plan to implement these projects, and move forward. We cannot afford another storm this year. She then asked the committee if they would support the continuation of this work. There was a consensus of the committee that we need a plan to go forward for funding. Ms. Welch was directed by the committee to produce the document in a final form and put it out to the public. She will bring it before the Board of Commissioners at an upcoming meeting. There are a lot of issues we need to be addressing, based on funding.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: County Services for Roads: LIDs:** In response to a request from a group in Pacific City, public works staff recently met with the City of Portland's LID Administrator to discuss this process. Tillamook County does not have the resources to provide this type of service.

Chair Schonbrod indicated the potential need to address the County's policy on this. Ms. Welch responded that County is still holding out hope that funding will be there in the future; but at this time, we cannot afford to provide these types of services to the public. Many other Oregon counties are already not providing these services, for the same funding reasons.

Chair Schonbrod asked about layoff status of the public works department. Ms. Welch responded that she issued four (4) layoff notices this morning and that six (6) people have previously left for other jobs.

A discussion was held regarding the upcoming disposition of the County shops. Both the North and South County shops will be used to house equipment. Some fuel will be kept on site.

Chair Schonbrod invited comments from the other committee members. Gus Meyer indicated he had received a question about the County Roads Inventory. Ms. Welch responded the Local Access Road list has been verified and is now posted on County's website.

Darcy Jones voiced his concerns over the potential for vandalism of an empty building and suggested that County explore the possibility of renting out the empty shop building in North County. Ms. Welch responded that County does not have the funding to make tenant repairs to the site.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Public Comment: There was no public comment.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Next Meeting: A discussion was held about adding an agenda item to discuss Senate Bill 994 money and how best to appropriate it. It was also suggested to add an agenda item to discuss how to approach the Board of Commissioners to discuss other sources of money for use on Tillamook County Roads.

The next meeting will be November 17, 2008, at 3:00 p.m., at this location.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at the house of 4:55 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Aaron Palter.