

TILLAMOOK COUNTY ROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CRAC)

DATE: July 22, 2002

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Bob Reed, Vice-Chair Curt Schonbrod, Bill Howard, Marlin Clark, Ray Robinson, Ray Streeter, Gloria Gass and Jack Brooks.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Kiser

STAFF: Aaron Suko/PW Director, Pat Oakes/Engineering Project Supervisor, Bob Willhite/Operations, Mike Richards/Crew Representative, Commissioner Tim Josi and Jeanette Steinbach/Recorder

GUESTS: Janet Trueblood/AFSCME 2734 President

PUBLIC: Gus Meyer, Robert Miles, Mary Brophy, Walt Stickel, Owen Nicholson and Debbie Clark

1. **Call meeting to order, review agenda:** Bob Reed called the meeting to order at 3:02pm. Bob Reed recognized the guest, staff and public present.
2. **Review minutes of 06-17-02:** Bob Reed suggested a correction on Page 2, 4th line should be changed from initiation to initiative, Jack Brooks motioned to accept minutes as corrected, Bill Howard seconded, unanimously accepted.
3. **Road Department Status:** Bob confirmed that the primary overlay-paving program is completed utilizing 4,451 tons. Other smaller paving repair jobs would include Netarts Bay Drive, Savage Road, Tillamook River Road and Trask River Road at MP13.5 and Foss Road. Mohler Sand and Gravel provided and paid for 6 tons to repair part of Foss Road. Cape Meares Slide area was widened from 14' to 20'. Shoulder work and ditching are the next priority for all county roads.

Stephen Avenue: Chip seal to be done mid-August. Aaron confirmed that this is similar to a community paving agreement.

4. **Project Discussion:**

Cascade Trace Bridge: Pat Oakes stated that a pre construction meeting was held during the last part of June with the contractor. Replacement is planned for early August. Residents are being kept informed of all details.

Sandlake-Galloway Road: Bid protest resolved, pre construction meeting held July 15th. The plan is to replace Galloway Bridge this fall with no closures planned. Advance coordination is being done through the local radio, website, and local businesses. The right-of-way loan is half used; discussions are being had on how to rework the payment schedule

Blaser Bridge: Pre-construction meeting held for mid-July, work slated for 2003.

Blaine II: This project has been on hold for 18 months. This is at MP 7/8. This project to be constructed in the summer of 2003.

- 5. Road Department Funding Workshop with the BOC:** Bob Reed suggested that members direct any questions to Aaron or himself. Aaron asked those present to refer to the handout. Aaron explained that a 3-hour discussion was had with Mike Richards and three other union staff to aid in formatting this funding workshop. Aaron suggested that the workshop format order be followed, and he hoped that this meeting would produce priorities for further study.

Aaron noted that all the funding comes from outside the county. He added that this is a tight budget that cannot accept anymore decreases in revenue. Revenue reduction would cause reduction in staffing and impact the quality of the roads. The Road Department does not receive property tax or state timber sales. Most of the road revenue comes from federal forest revenues distributed by population and state motor vehicles distributed by registered vehicles in Tillamook County. Residents who have registered vehicles in Tillamook County, are carrying the current burden of revenue for road maintenance. Revenues have not grown to match inflation growth. Discussion ensued on the Scenarios to Generate Additional Revenue. Aaron stated that with a property tax, ORS states that general fund dollars could only be used for roadwork when there is a road levy that has been passed. A 5-year property tax would obtain funding from all owners' real property in the county. The property tax fee would be based upon a fixed fee applied to improved property. A local gas tax has limited growth and would not be substantial especially with the increase in fuel-efficient vehicles. This tax tends to tax the local residents more than the tourists. The load or road mile tax suggested by Commissioner Hanneman would be costly to implement. Another potential is a systems development charge, which would be a fee that would go to the Road Department for every building permit issued. An independent citizen group is pursuing the recreation and entertainment tax; this tax would focus on the tourism industry. Money would have to be spent to promote tourism to support this tax, but this tax could also provide additional revenue to emergency management and the sheriff's departments. Aaron added that the expenditure chart is based on calendar year figures while the revenue figures are based on fiscal years. Tim asked if a graph could be made out for the 10 years prior to 1993 showing the reduction of personnel. He also asked for a combined graph showing the increase cost of personnel with the number of personnel. Aaron said that could be done. Aaron referring to the expenditure reduction scenarios page said that in order not to affect the morale of the staff it would have to be applied uniformly throughout the county with the Union's agreement. The percentage decrease would effect the base pay which would not be a tremendous cost saving. Aaron went through scenarios 2 through 5. He felt that in all these cases the negative impacts would be significant. The fifth scenario contains three organizational draft proposals that would reduce supervisory and crew personnel. This, as in the other scenarios would reduce responsiveness, storm response, overlay pavement

program, program reduction, produce inefficiencies and the usage of private contractors would entail more administrative support.

Tim Josi thanked Aaron and the staff for the comprehensive information. This could be used as a basis for future indepth discussion on what is viable. Tim said that his initial thoughts are that staff reduction would not be a viable alternative, but if no funding options were available then this could be the last viable option. Jack Brooks concurred that this would be false economy, and not the way to go.

Aaron welcomed comments that would address the expenditure and additional revenue issues. Aaron asked Commissioner Josi if he would rather wait until this was discussed with the other commissioners, or would he rather have this committee have some initial discussions to narrow down some options. Ray Robinson asked if the RV Parks pay any taxes for overnight stays. Tim responded that this gets back to the recreation and entertainment tax/transient room tax, and the last time it was brought up, it was turned down because it proved volatile. An independent citizen group is carefully looking into this revenue source. Tim said that he would be participating in the meetings as his schedule allows. Marlin expressed his concern that the gas tax is only to be used for actual road materials. Tim believed that the ORS constitution allows any costs associated with road maintenance to be used from funds from a gas tax. Tim asked that the committee come up with a recommendation that could then be brought to the commissioners. Bill Howard questioned whether property tax payments could be deferred for 6 months if additional revenue is obtained from property tax. Tim to check with Tim Lutz on that possibility. Tim said that in his opinion the two alternatives that he thinks would obtain voter approval is #2 and #5. Bob Reed said that timing is very important and whether a 50% turnout is required should be a consideration. Aaron said that before the public would support additional local revenues they would need to understand the present funding sources. The public would also have to become completely dissatisfied with the road conditions to approve additional revenue. Marlin does not think taxing the local residents would work, other resources should be sought. Tim would like more information on scenario 5 in additional revenue. Aaron felt that three segments that utilize but do not financially support the road system are:

- | Tourists
- | Logging industry that use the roads heavily and do not have their vehicles registered in the county. He has also been told that some local trucking companies register their vehicles outside the county.
- | Second Home Owners do not contribute to the use of the roads, but the dedicated road property tax fee would address them.

Bob Reed said that committee members could pass on any additional suggestions to Aaron.

- 6. Road Department Fair Booth - August 7-10th, 2002:** Schedule passed around. Aaron said that we needed a theme for the booth, Tim suggested "are we falling off a cliff" referring to the Clackamas County official article mailed with the agenda. Tim thought that the message should indicate the predicament of the Road Department. Bob Reed suggested educating the public on jurisdictions, and also would appreciate if some of the employees would man the booth. Bob Reed said that indicating and polling the public on revenue alternatives could be the focus at the Fair. Owen Nicholson suggested that instead of using the term "property tax fee", it should state "5-year property tax road fee" because it would make it more palatable. Ray Streeter suggested that the questions should be brief.
- 7. Community Paving Agreement (CPA) and Local Improvement District (LID) Policy discussion and decision.** Postponed till the next meeting.
- 8. Public Comment:** Bob Miles addressed the committee. He lives on Fawcett Creek Road that has a dust problem. He appreciated the emulsion application, but with no gravel on the road the dust is still present. Residents are having problems with dust and would like a 10' wide strip by 100' hot patched. Bob Miles commended the work Aaron did on the funding workshop. Aaron said a quote of \$23,000 for 2100' was received for chip seal by Mr. Miles's residence. Aaron added that in the near future there would be environmental issues related to the emulsion and other alternatives would have to be considered. Discussion ensued on traffic utilizing the road - gravel pit operations. Members concurred that it would be a waste of funds to chip seal a road that would incur heavy traffic.
- 9. Next meeting, date and agenda:** Aaron suggested a meeting in early September so that data collected from the fair could be assimilated, and to look at further research into the recreation and entertainment tax.
- 10. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 5:22pm.