



Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

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RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

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2009 Miami-Foley Road Chip Seal Project

In partnership with Marion County, Tillamook County Public Works successfully completed a chip seal project on Miami-Foley Road from Highway 101 to milepost 4.0. The project commenced July 22, 2009 and concluded July 29, 2009.

We are creatively implementing industry best practices, and doing a “Mix of Fixes” due to the severe deterioration of our County roads and limited funding. We initiated preventative maintenance this summer; this is the most cost effective way to manage a road system, keeping roads that are in good condition in good condition. Our “Mix of Fixes” includes rebuilding broken roads, paving overlays on roads in medium condition and chip sealing roads in good condition.

It has been many years since Tillamook County has performed chip seals and owned and operated the unique, costly equipment to apply them. Tillamook County is a member of an Interagency Agreement with 15 counties, 7 cities and the Oregon Department of Transportation for transportation related work. Marion County, who also performs our paint striping program, was hired to chip seal Miami-Foley Road. Marion County’s experienced crews and equipment resources, combined with our staff, allowed the County to get an excellent service at a minimal price.

So what is chip sealing? Water in the wet Northwest is the enemy of roads. When water penetrates road bases, it moves the smaller rock and creates voids, causing potholes and road failures. One economic alternative to re-paving or rebuilding the road is to entirely seal the road surface with oil, therefore shedding the water away from the road base. Severely deteriorated portions of the road surface were overlaid with a preliminary lift of asphalt to provide an adequate base for applying the chip seal.

In the chip seal process, roads and pavement edges were swept to remove loose debris. A distributor tanker truck then sprayed hot oil, immediately followed by the rock chip spreader that was hooked up to a dump truck feeding the rock. A fleet of other dump trucks followed, staggering their wheel alignment across the road as they initially rolled the rock into the oil. Two pavement rollers followed, permanently sealing the rock. After the road surface set up, traffic access was returned. The next day, final booming of the loose rock took place. Later this summer the crews will return to stripe the road.

Chip sealing is one of the oldest and most successful methods of road surfacing. Not only is there a protective water-resistant surface installed, the rock adds a new wearing surface and increases traction for safety.

We hope you enjoy the new surface, and appreciate the cost effective surface treatment which aids in preserving the existing pavement and prolongs the lifespan. By working cooperatively with Marion County and utilizing both Counties’ staff and resources, we stretched our maintenance dollars.

We greatly thank you for your patience and consideration during this successful, cost effective project!

###We take pride in serving the public by providing, maintaining, and preserving a safe and efficient county road network, and quickly responding to weather events and hazards. We protect the public’s investment by working with our partners and targeting resources to minimize long term costs while providing the best possible service. Please visit www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/pw/default/htm for more information.