

ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 2, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kent Fleming, Sean Barrett, John Anderson, Jeff Paschall, Jim Wilcox
MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Callahan, D.W. Northey
STAFF & OTHER PRESENT: Arno Nelson, Dave Brown, Christy Mosier, Melissa Zimmer, Commissioner Leiken, Commissioner Bozievich, Commissioner Stewart

Fleming called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

- I. PUBLIC COMMENT – none.
- II. APPROVAL OF June 22 2011 Minutes-
Motion: Barrett moved to approve the minutes as is; Wilcox seconded; all present voted in favor.
- III. OPEN AGENDA/ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING
No items were brought up within the group.

Mosier stated because of the roads tour today, we will not have a regular August meeting and the next meeting will be September 28, 2011. We will have a public hearing on Seward Avenue and will also have a guest presentation at the September meeting.

IV. BRIEFING ON ROAD TOUR – Arno Nelson & Dave Brown

Nelson explained that this tour will be different than those in the past due to the lack of capital improvement projects. Nelson said most of what we do now is preservation related in order to save money and to avoid having to do costly road rebuilds. Nelson explained the tour will provide a glimpse into what's going on at a larger scale across the County. Nelson summarized the following highlights of things we would see and talk about on the tour:

- Safety Strip and Grass Mowing (6-7 tractors run daily April – November)
- Chip Seal Operation (cost savings = \$2sq. yd. compared to \$10-12sq. yd. for Asphalt)
- Planter Strip Maintenance
- Paving (9,000-12,000 miles per year)
- Guard Rail and Bio Swale Maintenance (80 miles of guardrail)
- Top Trimming Work (100+ miles per year)
- Brush Mowing (6 brush machines November-April)
- Bridge Project Crews (maintain 414 bridges, install 4-8 fish culverts per year, and slide embankment repair work)

Nelson provided packets with pictures and examples of projects. Nelson also explained that during the winter months when we are not responding to storms and leaf pick up programs, crews are prepping the roads for the summer Chip Seal Operations. Nelson explained we have a newer crew called the "Urban Crew" that takes care of the maintenance of planter strips. Nelson said this is new and made up of temporary employees due to Public Works losing the Sheriff Work Crew that used to maintain these planter strips throughout the County.

Wilcox asked if staff had ever considered changing the areas around guardrails to be natural grassy vegetation with a fire line so cigarettes can't ignite it, as he's seen the City do in some cases. Nelson responded we are seeing more and more bio swales such as along Bob Straub. Nelson said, however, it's difficult to maintain because the mowers can't get in there and it means higher costs.

Commissioner Stewart added that there might be a conflict with County codes with regard to grass height. Brown added that water quality has become a strong focus for projects and now all storm water is treated.

Brown stated that Road Maintenance and Engineering Construction Services, (who usually bid the work out to contractors) work together in order to save money. Brown mentioned Game Farm Road as an example of how ECS originally had a contract for this project to be done, but after looking at it further realized we could save a lot of money if Road Maintenance applied a Chip Seal to the road instead. General discussion ensued.

Commissioner Bozievich commented that he receives lots of complaints about the Preservation Program and residents wondering why it appears we are prematurely paving a good road. Bozievich asked for more information on the pavement preservation program and how we go about selecting the roads etc. Nelson agreed, if people are seeing defects in a road, then Chip Seal is the wrong thing to do – we've missed the opportunity to maintain and preserve the road at that point. Therefore, when residents don't see exterior damage to a road, they wonder why we are working on it. Nelson explained Chip Seal is about \$2 per square yard compared to Overlays that run \$10-12 per square yard, plus we get 8-9 years out of our Chip Seal. Nelson explained if we can catch it at the right time, we can save a lot of money by preserving the road before it's too far gone. Nelson said Engineering Construction Services has a key program that helps us identify our roads, plus we have a priority schedule for arterial roads every 2 years, with local roads & minor collectors are every 3 years. Every winter the program produces which roads we should evaluate. We then dispatch inspectors to evaluate the roads for cracking and defects and report back through this computer program that then ranks the roads in order of priority according to the inspections. This program specifies which roads are candidates for chip seals, overlays, and slurry seals. Nelson said this program helps us pick out approximately 200 of the 1400 miles to work on per year. Nelson said Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) is behind this programming and its part of our membership and a significant value to the County, as we could not afford a program like this on our own. General discussion ensued regarding the lack of public education on why certain services are performed and how services are cut in one area but other operations get to continue, such as jail beds are closing but many road maintenance services are still in-tact due to separate restricted funding sources.

Meeting session closed at 12:30pm.

V. ROAD TOUR – (ALL) 12:35pm-3:10p.m.

VI. TOUR DEBRIEF

- General consensus is that the tour was insightful and educational and we should do it again. Having everyone in one vehicle was valuable too, and next year we should try to have a PA system so everyone can hear better what is being explained.
- Commissioner Stewart asked the committee about the Vegetation Management Committee and stated since we no longer use spray to control vegetation, is there value in bringing these two functions together perhaps to help with solutions. Anderson responded he thinks it should happen and we've been assessing our own mission already and this would naturally fit under our role and mission of road maintenance. Wilcox said yes, especially since we've been working on broadening our vision to integrate transportation as a whole.

- Commissioner Stewart said participating in tours and getting out on the ground and hearing from staff have been the best ways for him to learn a lot about what we do.

Debrief ended @ 3:30p.m.

VII. NEXT MEETING – September 28, 2011

Christy Mosier, Transcribing Secretary