

**YAMHILL COUNTY  
ROAD IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
2014 ANNUAL REPORT**

This report summarizes the activities of the Yamhill County Road Improvement Advisory Committee (RIAC) for 2014.

**RIAC Purpose**

RIAC was created in 1976 for the purpose of holding meetings as necessary to:

- develop a master plan for the construction, maintenance and improvement of County roads, considering traffic patterns and anticipated resources;
- to review crash rates on each of the County roads;
- to hear complaints about County roads and identify road deficiencies throughout the County;
- to consider petitions affecting any County road; and
- to study the existing location, condition, and use of the County roads.

The Committee is to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners:

- a priority for correcting road deficiencies identified by the Committee;
- criteria to be used in prioritizing road improvement projects;
- division of effort between paving new roads and maintaining the existing roads; and
- other such advice as the Board may request.

**Membership**

Membership on the RIAC is intended to provide representation from all parts of Yamhill County. Sgt. Shane Rice serves as the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office RIAC liaison, and Mary Starrett is the Board of Commissioners (BOC) liaison. Following is the membership for 2014:

- Gordon Cook, Chair            NE Yamhill County - Newberg area
- Tony Roos, Vice-chair        NE Yamhill County - Newberg area
- Philip Cleys                    NE Yamhill County – Newberg area (replaced D. Rogers)
- Wade Davis                 SE Yamhill County – Sheridan area
- Matt Dunckel                 SE Yamhill County – McMinnville area
- Rocky Losli                    NW Yamhill County - Yamhill area
- Donald Martsof                SE Yamhill County – McMinnville area
- Dennis Rogers                SW Yamhill County - Sheridan area (term expired 9/2014)
- Michal Wert                    NE Yamhill County - Newberg area

**2014 Accomplishments**

- Chair Dennis Rogers and Vice-Chair Gordon Cook presented the RIAC 2013 Annual Report at a regular meeting of the County Board of Commissioners (BOC).

- RIAC provided comments and recommendations on the Public Works Department (PWD) annual budget and priority Maintenance Improvement Projects (MIP) list.
- A Kiosk Subcommittee, composed of Tony Roos and Michal Wert, worked with Director Phelan, Sign Manager Bill Anderson, and consultant SeaReach to finalize maps and kiosk designs for sign-congested intersections. Kiosks were installed at the intersections of North Valley Road/Ribbon Ridge Road, and Highway 240/Kuehne Road. The opportunity to include QR codes at vendor expense is being explored. RIAC recommended proceeding with ‘kiosk ahead’ signs as suggested by staff.
- At the request of Commissioner George, RIAC developed administrative changes to the 2013 Blue Sign Policy. The revised policy was approved by the BOC.
- RIAC members evaluated design options prepared by consultant Cardno for the Abbey/Kuehne/Hendricks intersection. The BOC approved the design option recommended by RIAC, and design for the project is moving forward.
- PWD established a Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to update the County’s vegetation management program and policies. The TAC will report its recommendations to RIAC, who will then make a recommendation to the BOC. The TAC recommended spraying on paved road shoulders in the spring, but will evaluate best practices for spraying on backslopes and gravel roads. RIAC member Michal Wert chairs the TAC and gives regular updates to RIAC.
- The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Kincaid’s lupine and Fender’s blue butterfly was completed and published. RIAC members Matt Dunckel and Michal Wert were appointed to the TAC created to provide implementation oversight.
- HCP TAC members accompanied PWD staff, and technical and species experts on two full-day tours of the special maintenance sites included in the HCP.
- RIAC worked with PWD staff to develop a gravel road improvement and paving prioritization policy to provide guidance on selection of future gravel road upgrade projects. The BOC adopted the policy recommended by RIAC.
- An Equipment Subcommittee, consisting of DJ Martsolf and Gordon Cook, met with Equipment Manager Russ Heath and Director Phelan to discuss and recommend long-term equipment needs.
- RIAC reviewed data and materials developed by DKS Associates for updating the County Transportation Systems Plan (TSP), and recommended changes to the road classification system.
- RIAC members Matt Dunckel and Dennis Rogers participated in consultant selection for the DeJong bridge project.
- RIAC recommended placing ‘No Thru Trucks’ signs on the newly paved Worden Hill Road to discourage trucks from using the road as a cut across from Hwy 99W to Hwy 240. The BOC adopted the recommendation.
- RIAC provided background and a recommendation for the BOC to not pursue a Local Improvement District (LID) Policy at this time. The BOC held a public hearing on LIDs and agreed with the RIAC recommendation.

## **Informational Items**

- Director Phelan and PWD staff provided information and regular updates to RIAC on the following topics:
  - New equipment purchases, including a new dump truck, surplus military truck, blades, and infrared cameras to monitor flagrant dumping sites.
  - Bids and status of significant projects, including the Sheridan Green Bridge, the Old Sheridan Road bike path bridge, the Newberg-Dundee Bypass, DeJong bridge, and load limiting of Deer Creek bridge.
  - Worden Hill/Highway 240 intersection improvement. This intersection has been a priority safety improvement project for many years.
  - Paving of gravel roads: Worden Hill, Starr Quarry and Mountain Home Roads.
  - Status of the HCP and issuance of an incidental take permit. Director Phelan and consultant Melissa Klungle gave a presentation to the Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO) on the HCP process and results; NPSO may be interested in assisting the County for survey or other implementation tasks.
  - Replacement of the PWD shop building, including working with George Fox University students for initial staff surveys and design concepts, and reconfiguration of the on-site water lines.
  - Personnel, management, and general PWD operations, including staffing, training, and the wash rack reconstruction.
  - MIP project status, including paving projects, budgets, schedules, striping, spraying, and signing.
  - Information on the Corps of Engineer-required fish counts at several County bridges.
  - Property owners interested in paving roads under the County Cooperative Road Improvement Program (CRIP), including Archery Summit and Fairview Roads.
  - Updated evaluations of bridge conditions and deficiencies.
- Sgt. Rice provided reports on road and traffic issues identified by the Sheriff's Department, and provided information on crash sites within the County.
- A weekly crew schedule and citizen request summary is emailed to RIAC members and the Board of Commissioners.

## **Citizen Appearances/Letters**

- RIAC heard concerns from David Hart, Willamina, concerning a fence that he contended was built in the right-of-way on Pumpkinseed Road.

## **Presentations/Discussions**

- RIAC hosted a TSP open house for public review of priority project design options as proposed by DKS Associates.