



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# Work Session Summary Minutes

OREGON

## Engineering Standards Update – Chapters 1, 2, 3, 8 & 9

August 14, 2025. 9:30 AM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem  
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

### ATTENDANCE:

**Commissioners:** Kevin Cameron, Colm Willis, and Danielle Bethell.

**Board's Office:** Chris Eppley, Heather Inyama, Matt Lawyer, and Toni Whitler.

**Legal Counsel:** Steve Elzinga.

**Public Works:** Brandon Reich, Ryan Crowther, Roxane Toepfer, Max Hepburn, Lani Radtke

**Kittelson and Associates:** Julie Knudsen

**AKS Engineering:** Richard Walker

Commissioner Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 9:33 p.m.

### **Project Overview:**

- The project is being approached in chapter bundles to streamline review and gather comprehensive feedback.
- Standard details and drawings will be updated and added to help clarify requirements for those working in the county.
- The process includes input from Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) representing:
  - Utility companies.
  - Home builders.
  - Planning commissions.
  - Engineering firms.
- Understanding and mitigating cost and time impacts for developers:
  - Goal to make requirements clear and efficient.

### **Follow-Up Discussion of Chapters 1, 2, 3, & 8:**

- Feedback from previous work session was integrated:
  - Clearer metrics and criteria for when traffic studies are required.
- The standards were revised to be more user-friendly and consistent:
  - Especially regarding thresholds for traffic studies and vehicle types.
- The traffic impact analysis was made more lenient compared to other Oregon entities:
  - Aiming to reduce unnecessary requirements.
- Cost impacts of pavement design with analysis provided for 20-year versus 30-year design life showing potential increases in project costs.
- Exceptions to standards are possible:
  - Consistency is important to avoid legal challenges.

## **Review & Discussion of Chapter 9:**

- Chapter 9 integrates updated stormwater quality treatment standards and methodologies:
  - Provides design flexibility and use of computer modeling.
- A pre-design meeting process was introduced for certain developments:
  - Address downstream analysis and avoid compounding existing deficiencies.
- The standards align with recent agreements:
  - Address known stormwater trouble areas in the county.
- The hydrograph method replaces the Rational Method for stormwater modeling:
  - Reflects the industry's best practices.
- Design storm requirements for local residential areas were increased from a 5-year to a 10-year event:
  - Minimal impact due to existing pipe size standards.
- Changes to proprietary device requirements were made to reduce costs by allowing more flexibility in placement.
- The impact of new standards on development costs:
  - Estimates that on-site stormwater detention volume requirements could double.
  - Overall cost increases would remain a small percentage of total costs.
- The relationship between these standards and external regulations (e.g., Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) BiOp):
  - Future changes may be needed if external requirements become more stringent.

## **Discussion:**

- Clear definitions for impervious surfaces, especially regarding gravel:
  - Need for legal review to ensure enforceable and reasonable standards.
- Stakeholders shared examples of challenges with current definitions and permitting processes.
- Clear communication and educational materials for developers and industry groups:
  - Reduces confusion and complaints.
- The balance between protecting downstream property owners and not overburdening developers was a recurring theme.
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## **Next Steps:**

- Chapters 4, 5, 6 & 7 (TBD):
  - Review and development of content for chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7 is underway.
  - Undergo detailed review by TAC and work sessions with the board.
  - Feedback and input will be gathered to ensure the standards are practical and effective for all stakeholders.

## **Other:**

- A roundabout rodeo event is being planned at the St. Paul rodeo grounds:
  - Invitations to targeted stakeholders:
    - Trucking companies, large farmers, small city mayors, and fire districts.
- Coordination with neighboring counties and contractors involved in local construction projects for event outreach.

**Adjourned** – time: 10:28 a.m.  
**Minutes by:** Mary Vityukova  
**Reviewed by:** Gary L. White