



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION

Roads and Bridges
Minutes

Thursday, March 12, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.
Commissioners' Boardroom
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Suite 5231
Salem, Oregon 97301

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner's: Danielle Bethell, and Kevin Cameron, Colm Willis.

Board Office: Trevor Lane, Toni Whitler, Matt Lawyer, and Chris Eppley.

Legal Counsel: Andrew Mittendorf.

Public Works: Carl Lund, Ryan Crowther, Scott Wilson, and Lani Radtke.

Commissioner Kevin Cameron called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

1. Welcome & Introductions

-Commissioner Kevin Cameron

2. Work Zone Awareness Week

-Lani Radtke

- Staff requested a proclamation for National Work Zone Awareness Week in April.
- The national theme is "Safe Actions Save Lives."
- Plan to present proclamation and presentation at board session the week prior.
- Commissioners and staff will be asked to:
 - Wear orange at board session:
 - "Go Orange" Day is the following Wednesday.
 - Use orange vests and ribbons to promote awareness.
- The purpose is to highlight safety in work zones for both workers and motorists.

3. Construction Completed in 2025

-Ryan Crowther & Scott Wilson

- Resurfacing / Preservation:
 - 2025 resurfacing focused near Mt. Angel:
 - Multiple roads resurfaced.
 - Work included:
 - 1.5–3" asphalt overlays.
 - Localized grinding.
 - Pavement repairs based on pavement cores and condition.
 - Bids reportedly came in 20–40% lower than recent years.
- Curve Warning & Safety Signing:
 - Advisory curve warning sign project on roads with >1,000 vehicles a day.
 - Incremental rollout of curve signs, speed plaques, and chevrons.

- Goal of about a 16% crash reduction countywide once fully implemented.
- School Zone / Pedestrian Safety:
 - Flashing beacons and crossing enhancements at Cascade Alternative School.
 - Previously completed Hazel Elementary/Brown Road improvements.
- ARPA / Utility / Sewer Projects:
 - Fargo ARPA improvements:
 - Televised (TV) lines.
 - Identified infiltration/inflow.
 - Capped open ends.
 - Targeted sewer repairs in the Donald/Fargo area.
 - McKay Road ARPA safety improvements:
 - Widening.
 - Center median.
 - New guardrail.
 - Safety features on McKay Road:
 - Focused on high crash segments.
- Bridge & Structure Work:
 - Hazel Green Road Bridge replacement:
 - Major federally funded replacement, structurally complete.
 - Awaiting final vegetation establishment before closing out.
 - Rambler Bridge rehabilitation:
 - Major rehabilitation of long timber bridge, substantially complete.
 - Some final contractor tasks remain.
 - North Fork slide repair:
 - Emergency slide stabilization using rock buttress.
 - Operations and contractor work to reopen Taylor Park access.
 - North Marion Transfer Station concrete work:
 - Replace concrete pads subject to heavy wear from rolling containers.
- Guardrail & Roadside Safety:
 - Skyline and Viewcrest Roads focus on filling gaps and deficient guardrail.
 - Specific local concerns with onsite visits and more chevron signing.
- Park & Recreation Improvements:
 - Parkdale Park:
 - Installed play structure, updated paths and surfacing.
 - Adjustments to swing heights and safety surfacing completed.
 - Salmon Falls Park wetland:
 - Constructed wetland and associated improvements.
 - Inspection and limited engineering given by capital projects staff.
- Signing / Striping:
 - Raised pavement marker (RPM) contract.
 - Installed RPMs following chip seal and resurfacing projects:
 - To enhance nighttime and wet weather visibility.
- American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvements:
 - Shaff Road ADA ramp program.
 - Ongoing multiyear ADA curb ramp upgrades on a heavily used corridor.
 - Advanced ramps toward full corridor compliance especially around schools.
- Other Notable Items:
 - Durable striping restoration on Vitae Springs and Skyline after chip seal.
 - Reinstalled profiled thermoplastic/Methyl Methacrylate (MMA) centerlines:
 - Where rumble strips were not feasible.

4. Construction Planned for 2026

-Ryan Crowther & Carl Lund

- Resurfacing - Paving Program:
 - Howell Prairie Road.
 - 93rd Avenue.
 - Edmonson.
 - Waldo Hills.
 - Portion of State Street.
 - Others.
 - Typically do 1.5–3" overlays, targeted grinding and base repairs.
 - Schedule:
 - Bids open in early spring.
 - State Street segment to be completed by June 30.
 - Remaining roads start after July 1st.
 - Paving completion is targeted by August 31st.
- Curve Warning Signs & Safety:
 - Bishop Road.
 - Crooked Finger Road.
 - Lakeside Road.
 - Meridian Road.
 - State Street.
 - Sunnyview Road.
 - Windsor Island Road.
 - Simon Street.
 - 9th Avenue.
 - Salmon Street.
 - Raven Drive.
 - Countywide consistency for curve speeds and chevrons:
 - Roads with 1,000 vehicles a day.
- Buena Vista & Wheatland Ferry Operational Improvements:
 - Buena Vista Ferry:
 - Install catwalk on Polk County tower for safer access and maintenance.
 - Wheatland Ferry:
 - Purchase parts, supplies, and communications equipment.
 - Later we will consider gates, lighting, cameras, and after-hours safety.
- Emergency Notification Sirens:
 - Design build contract underway:
 - Poles and equipment installation started in Mill City.
 - Permits and coordination with Linn County, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and Mill City.
 - Permit fee waivers with partner jurisdictions for wildfire recovery projects.
- Center Street - Urban Upgrade:
 - Near Auburn Elementary and the bowling alley:
 - Widen, turn lane, sidewalk, ADA upgrade, and Safe Routes to School.
 - Right-of-Way (ROW) agreement reached with the bowling alley.
 - Negotiations underway with Lumen regarding facilities and easement.
 - Schedule:
 - Submit to ODOT for authorization.
 - Bid early summer 2026.
 - Notice to proceed in fall 2026.
 - Work completed in 2027.
 - Safe Routes to School component - Auburn Elementary:
 - Previously funded segment tied to Center Street.
 - Require re-application under Safe Routes to School due to changes.

- Risk funding gap forcing scope changes unless it is backfilled locally.
- Connecticut Avenue Sidewalks:
 - Sidewalk and ADA project, ROW acquisition complete.
 - Moving to ODOT authorization and bidding in 2026.
 - Construction expected to span into 2027.
- French Prairie Road Bridge Replacement:
 - Federal funds swapped for state funds to simplify delivery.
 - Environmental permitting nearing completion.
 - Requires road closure for about 3 months and detour adds about 3 miles.
 - Water work window is July–October 2026 and goal is constructing then.
- Guardrail Improvements 2026:
 - 2026 focus is Timber Trail Road near Silverton.
 - Address hazardous crest curve combination with steep drop off.
- Bridge / Approach Repairs Finishing in 2026:
 - Meridian Road – Abiqua Creek Bridge:
 - All work done except final paving, awaiting suitable weather.
 - Mill Creek Road Bridge - between Aumsville and Turner:
 - Base lift paving complete, bridge reopened.
 - Short closure anticipated in 2027 for final top lift paving and finishing.
- North Fork Road Gateway Project:
 - New concrete layout, kiosks, and infrastructure to support staffed kiosks.
 - Contractor selected and preconstruction coordination underway.
- Salmon Falls Park – Phase 2 Improvements:
 - New bathroom, pavement, and concrete improvements.
 - Contractor to start as soon as weather allows.
 - Preconstruction meeting held.
- Shaff Road ADA – 2026 Segment:
 - Complete ramps from golf club area to First Street.
 - Bring nearly entire corridor into ADA compliance.
 - Separate Safe Routes to School project will follow.
- Safe Routes to School – Scott Elementary - Brown Road:
 - Rapid response Safe Routes project already awarded.
 - Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) and ADA upgrades.
 - Utilities have been relocated.
 - Bidding is planned for the coming months.
- Timber Bridge Fumigation:
 - 2026 focus is Rambler Bridge.
 - Capsules are installed in drilled holes to treat against fungus and dry rot.
 - Done roughly every 10 years per bridge.
- Waldo Hills / Salem Area Chip Seal:
 - About 45 miles of roads, primarily South Salem and along River Road South.
 - Anticipated challenges:
 - Work in uncurbed residential neighborhoods.
 - Managing traffic and access along River Road South.
 - Coordinating with major events, including the Ironman competition.
 - Public outreach plan:
 - Social media, flyers, and variable message boards in advance.
 - Follow up requested on prior chip seal locations:
 - Excess gravel issues on Bean Alley identified.
 - Operations to review cleanup practices and equipment choices.

5. Construction Tentative Two-Year Plan

-Ryan Crowther & Carl Lund

- North County Projects & Open House - St. Paul:
 - Ehlen Road / Butteville Roundabout.
 - McKay Road safety corridor updates.
 - French Prairie Road bridge replacement.
 - Rumble strips and signing on Ehlen Road.
 - Station-based discussions with engineers.
- Safety Corridor & All Roads Transportation Safety (ARTS) Grants:
 - Howell Prairie ARTS project:
 - Safety signing and chevrons on Howell Prairie.
 - Focusing on signing due to width constraints.
 - McKay Corridor ARTS project - Phase 2:
 - Shoulder rumble strips, delineators, speed feedback and curve signs.
 - River Road / French Prairie Road ARTS project:
 - Centerline rumble strips and curve signs.
 - Considering "mumble strips" in noise sensitive areas.
- Boone & Broadacres Culvert Replacement:
 - About 160 feet of replacement running through a triangular intersection area.
 - Environmental permits and ROW from adjacent landowners.
- City of Independence / Polk County Projects:
 - Chestnut Street Bridge - Independence:
 - Marion County will deliver due to lack of certification.
 - Awaiting ODOT agreement before beginning substantive design work.
 - Lukken Road Bridge over North Fork - Polk County:
 - Bridge project delivered by Marion County under similar arrangements.
- Delaney Road / Battle Creek Road / Parrish Gap Realignment & Bridge:
 - Realign Battle Creek and Parrish Gap Roads into standard T-intersections.
 - Will improve steep, awkward curves and intersection safety.
 - Environmental review identified a publicly known archeological site:
 - Archeology work underway and may affect design.
 - Tentative delivery window is 2027-2028.
- Ferry Gateway Projects:
 - Gates for after-hours closure, lighting, signage, and cameras.
- North Fork – Additional Slide Repairs:
 - Several slides occurred.
 - Design consultants will be engaged for more permanent repairs.
 - Multiple sites will be moving through design and construction in 2027-2028.
- Resurfacing:
 - Specific roads for 2027-2028 not yet finalized.
 - Rotate districts, work with chip seal, vegetation management, and safety projects.
- Independence Bridge Major Rehabilitation:
 - Remove current load restrictions and address structural issues.
 - Includes painting, rail repairs, and other structural work.
 - Requires significant traffic control but not full closure.
- Santiam Rail Trail:
 - Request for Proposals (RFP) out to select a design team.
 - Survey, planning, and community engagement to occur when firm is selected.
- Scotts Mills Bridge Replacement:
 - Federal historic mitigation issues are now resolved.
 - ROW phase just authorized.
 - Design is well advanced.
 - Targeting 2027 construction but depends on ROW negotiations.

- Safe Routes to School – Stayton Elementary:
 - Improve First Street from Shaff Road toward Washington in Stayton.
 - Sidewalks and RRFB crossing at school.
 - Improves connectivity to the high school route.
 - Funded through Safe Routes to School.
 - Schedule beyond 2026.
- State Street Urban Upgrade:
 - Widening, center turn lane, sidewalk, and enhanced lighting.
 - South side of State Street is dark, with more residences and pedestrians.
- Traffic Safety Action Plan Implementation:
 - 50 high crash intersections and 22 segments for low cost and higher cost countermeasures.
 - Annual field reviews to refine project candidates.
 - Supports future grant applications.
- Pedestrian & Signal Enhancements:
 - Ongoing budgets for:
 - Pedestrian enhancements.
 - Traffic signal improvements.
 - Street lighting.

6. Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Projects in Marion County

-Lani Radtke

- Aurora–Donald I 5 Interchange:
 - Major construction underway.
 - Still targeted to complete by end of 2027.
 - Generally progressing well with fewer conflicts than expected.
- Center Street Bridge Retrofit:
 - Construction starts anticipated around 2026.
 - Significant traffic impacts and lane closures primarily in 2027 and beyond.
 - Limited full weekend closures expected.
 - Lane reductions could divert additional traffic to alternative crossings:
 - Marion County is preparing for it.
- I5 Widening - DeLaney area, south of Salem:
 - Widen and construct roundabout at Battle Creek Road.
 - Impacting local connectivity and design coordination with county projects.
- ADA Improvements – Mt. Angel and Other Locations:
 - ADA program upgrading curb ramps and crossings on state highways.
- Newberg–Dundee Bypass:
 - Phase 2A funded and under construction.
 - Target completion around 2027.
 - Phase 2B is not yet funded.
 - Bypass is influencing traffic volumes on 219/221 and cross river connections.
- Future Regional Priority – I5 / Brooks Interchange:
 - No design or construction funding yet.
 - Recognized as critical safety and congestion bottleneck.
 - Ongoing advocacy from Marion County.

7. Past 10-Year Construction Accomplishments

-Ryan Crowther

- Scope & Funding:
 - Total capital outlay over the past 10 years:

- Approximately \$123 million in engineering capital.
 - Roughly \$111 million in project breakout totals:
 - Discrepancy to be reconciled.
 - Significant leverage of state and federal grants.
 - Many projects funded 80–90% by external grants:
 - County match making up the remainder.
- Broad Categories of Work:
 - Bridges & Major Structures.
 - Safety / ARTS / Safe Streets.
 - Urban Arterial Upgrades.
 - Santiam Canyon / Wildfire Recovery.
 - Chip Seal & Preservation.
 - Parks & Ferry Infrastructure.
- Staff noted:
 - Earlier decade prioritizations predate current leadership:
 - Some rationale may be inferred rather than documented.
 - Projects may cross multiple categories.

8. Other

-All

- Pedestrian Safety – Golf Club Road / Shaff Road / Apartments Area:
 - Concern about uncontrolled pedestrian crossings between areas.
 - Whether a marked crosswalk would meaningfully concentrate crossings.
 - Possible lower speeds, physical barriers/fencing, and desire lines.
 - Video based analysis to understand pedestrian behavior before solution.
- Urban–Rural Interface – State Street & Shaff Road Lighting:
 - Inadequate south side lighting on State Street.
 - Evaluate lighting, especially near existing and planned RRFB crossings.
- Low Clearance Rail Bridges - South River Road:
 - Chronic truck strikes at low clearance rail bridges.
 - Over height detection systems.
 - Overhead bars/gantries.
 - Potential water curtain concept and other visual cues.
 - Engagement with Senator Merkley’s office on:
 - ROW acquisition for a truck turnaround.
 - Potential federal funding and railroad coordination.
- Inter Jurisdictional Relations:
 - City of Salem:
 - Chip seal, winter operations, signals, and striping.
 - Polk County and City of Independence:
 - Bridge projects.
 - Lane County, Mill City, and others:
 - Wildfire and siren projects.
 - Recognize that Marion County is being viewed as regional delivery partner for complex transportation projects.

9. Next Steps

-All

- Grants & Federal Coordination
 - Monitor and respond to Bridge Investment Program (BIP) NOFO:
 - Expected in March.

- Coordinate internally (AJ, Kirby, Tara, Toni) to:
 - Refine the list of candidate bridges.
 - Incorporate feedback from prior unsuccessful applications.
 - Explore creative bridge approaches for frequently flooded farm roads.
 - Follow-up meeting with federal contacts to refine strategy.
- Safe Streets for All / Crash Data:
 - Updated crash trend data for McKay Road and other priority corridors:
 - To support new Safe Streets for All/safety grant applications.
 - Bring the latest 1–2 years of serious injury/fatal crash data back to the board.
- North County Open House:
 - Invites and materials for St. Paul City Hall open house to board and scheduler.
 - Prepare station materials for:
 - Ehlen/Bethel roundabout.
 - McKay safety corridor.
 - French Prairie bridge replacement.
 - Rumble strips and signing projects.
- 10-Year Capital Program Analysis:
 - Map all capital projects delivered by engineering groups in the last 10 years.
 - Categorize projects into meaningful groups.
 - Investigate \$123M vs. \$111M totals discrepancy and report back.
 - Map and categorized summary to board:
 - Determine if follow-up work session is needed.
- City of Turner Request:
 - Meet with the City of Turner to review:
 - Scope and budget of federally funded Third & Delaney project.
 - Timing as noted as starting around 2028.
 - Marion County staff capacity.
 - Recommendation if Marion County should deliver project and under what cost recovery framework.
- French Prairie Bridge & Independence Bridge Stakeholder Outreach:
 - Detour plans and traffic information for the French Prairie Bridge closure.
 - Engage Blue Heron Farms and stakeholders for project and traffic impacts.
- Chip Seal Program Follow-Up:
 - Review Bean Alley and similar chip seal locations for excess loose rock.
 - Coordinate with operations on cleanup standards.
 - Possibly increased use of pickup brooms at intersections and curves.
- Marine Board & Ferry Access:
 - Oregon State Marine Board funding opportunities for:
 - Kayak launch improvements at Wheatland and Buena Vista ferries.
 - Safe nighttime access for recreation while ferry gates manage vehicle traffic.
- Low Clearance Bridge Program:
 - Advance design options for low clearance warning systems at South River Road locations.
 - Meet with Senator Merkley's office and railroad about ROW and cost.

Adjourned – time: 11:56 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White