County Commissioners
Colm Willis, Chair
Kevin Cameron
Danielle Bethell

Chief Administrative Officer
Jan Fritz

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION

Roads and Bridges

Thursday, October 29, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Commissioners' Boardroom
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Suite 5231
Salem, Oregon 97301

Attendance

Commissioners: Kevin Cameron, Danielle Bethell, Colm Willis (by phone)
Board of Commissioners Office: Alvin Klausen
Public Works: Brian Nicholas, Lani Radtke, Scott Wilson, Max Hepburn, Ryan Crowther, Carl Lund
County Council: Steve Elzinga
Other attendees: Matt Lawyer, Toni Whitler, Trevor Lane

1. Welcome and Introductions — Commissioner Willis

Summary of Discussion
Kevin Cameron opened the work session at 9:30 am.

2. Initial Board Review Items

Gervais IGA — Lani Radtke
Summary of Discussion
Lani Radtke presented a proposed IGA for the City of Gervais to install and maintain supplemental flashing beacons at Third and Douglas. Public Works did not consider the beacons necessary for county funding but did not object to the city installing and maintaining them; the IGA would also assign the city responsibility for existing driver-feedback signs and plantings in a county-installed planter box at Fourth and Douglas. Public Works opposed the city's request for a marked and signed crosswalk on Third Street, citing its safety analysis and concern that markings alone could create a false sense of security. The city had also asked about a possible jurisdictional transfer of Third Street.

Direction and Follow-up:

The commissioners directed staff to move forward with exploring a jurisdictional transfer of Third Street, potentially proposing a broader portion of the road and negotiating the limits with the city. The extent of any transfer remained unresolved; commissioners emphasized that limits and maintenance responsibilities must be clear in writing. Radtke and Carl Lund said they were scheduled to attend the city council meeting the following Thursday, and commissioners requested visuals explaining the implications.

Initial Board Review – PROCEED
Board Session Placement – Not specified
Return to Management Update Before Board Session – YES
Expedited Review – Not discussed

Task: Prepare the IGA and return it to Management Update before Board Session.
Assigned to: Lani Radtke
Deadline/Timeline: Before Board Session

Task: Clarify the proposed limits and maintenance responsibilities of a possible Third Street jurisdictional transfer, prepare visuals, and present the implications to the city.
Assigned to: Lani Radtke and Carl Lund
Deadline/Timeline: City council meeting the following Thursday

Arts Grant Applications — Carl Lund

Summary of Discussion
Carl Lund reported on potential ARTS grant applications being coordinated with ODOT for Golf Club Road and the Highway 22 interchange; Highway 213 in Cascade; Highway 213 at the Scotts Mills/Mount Angel Highway intersection; Highway 219 and McKay Road; and Highway 219 at North French Prairie Road. County-level projects under evaluation included shoulder improvements on Meridian Road, safety concerns on Airport Road, and potential improvements on the Court/Silverton corridor and at the Mount Angel/Scotts Mills intersection. Staff noted that funding is limited and applications are evaluated using data and benefit-cost criteria. Lund had not reviewed the Airport Road crash reports and could not confirm whether the crashes related to airport traffic.

Direction and Follow-up:
Commissioners requested review of the Airport Road crash reports. Lund said staff would return with a specific list of county-level projects and recommended applications.

Initial Board Review – PROCEED
Expedited Review – Not discussed

Task: Review Airport Road crash reports to determine whether crashes relate to airport entrance and exit traffic.
Assigned to: Carl Lund
Deadline/Timeline: Not specified

Task: Return with a specific list of county-level safety projects and recommended ARTS applications.
Assigned to: Carl Lund
Deadline/Timeline: Not specified

Engineering Standards Update Contract Extension — Max Hepburn

Summary of Discussion
Max Hepburn requested an extension of the Engineering Standards Update Contract from July 1, 2027, to August 31, 2028, because the project was not expected to be completed by the current deadline. He stated that the amendment would extend the schedule without increasing the contract cost.

Direction and Follow-up:
Initial Board Review – PROCEED – Complete Administratively.
Expedited Review – Not discussed

3. Chipseal 2026 Debrief — Scott Wilson

Summary of Discussion
Kevin Cameron presented the 2026 chipseal debrief, with Public Works staff contributing. The county completed more than 47 miles of chipseal work before school started; staff described scheduling and supplier challenges, work on tight cul-de-sacs, and delays related to sweeping, curing, fog sealing, and striping. Commissioners and staff discussed constituent concerns about loose gravel, road appearance, and temporary conditions during curing. Staff described chipseal as a pavement-preservation treatment and said educational videos and improved web information were in development.

4. Access Standards — Max Hepburn

Summary of Discussion
Max Hepburn presented proposed interim updates to rural-access guidance for new and modified driveways. The revisions would clarify dimensions and measurement, radii, spacing, drainage, surface requirements, and sight-distance standards, while allowing more flexibility for residential, agricultural, commercial, and industrial accesses.

Direction and Follow-up:
The commissioners supported completing a board order with legal counsel to finalize the revised guidance.

Task: Work with legal counsel to complete the board order formalizing the revised rural-access guidance.
Assigned to: Max Hepburn
Deadline/Timeline: Not specified

5. Gate Policy — Max Hepburn

Summary of Discussion
Max Hepburn presented draft material for a consistent process for requests to place gates on county roads and local-access roads. Commissioners supported an internal staff process but did not want it published as a public gate program. They emphasized considering public safety, fire access, utilities, and access for affected properties, while maintaining Board approval authority. Commissioners also discussed whether gate and related fees reflected current costs; Lani Radtke said Public Works fees would be brought forward in December.

Direction and Follow-up:
Staff were asked to develop an internal process without publishing it as a public gate program. Commissioners requested cost information for the fee discussion.

Task: Develop an internal, consistent gate-request process, including public-safety, fire, utility, and access reviews, while preserving Board approval authority.

Assigned to: Max Hepburn
Deadline/Timeline: Not specified
Task: Compile cost and cost-recovery information for gate and related Public Works fees for the fee discussion.
Assigned to: Lani Radtke / Public Works
Deadline/Timeline: December

6. County Road Acceptance Julia Rd— Max Hepburn

Summary of Discussion
Max Hepburn reviewed the proposed 2027 road-acceptance list, which included Julia Road. He explained that Julia Road was built by ODOT as part of the Highway 551 improvements and that formal county acceptance would complete the jurisdictional process. Staff said the road was built to standards and was in good condition. Commissioners cautioned against making road acceptance routine; staff said Julia Road had been anticipated as a county road.

Direction and Follow-up:
The notes specify that the board order for Julia Road is to be placed on the Consent agenda.

Task: Prepare a board order for formal county acceptance of Julia Road.
Assigned to: Max Hepburn
Deadline/Timeline: Consent agenda; date not specified

7. Port of Willamette — Max Hepburn

Summary of Discussion
Max Hepburn reported that the Port of Willamette project team had identified funding and was discussing possible construction in early 2027, with opening later in 2027. The county's role includes permitting the proposed road, bridge, and rail-crossing work. Lani Radtke said staff needed to meet with the project team to review outstanding requirements; commissioners emphasized documenting the meeting and its follow-up.

Direction and Follow-up:

Task: Meet with the project team to review outstanding county requirements.
Assigned to: Public Works
Deadline/Timeline: Not specified

Task: Send a written summary of the meeting and next steps.
Assigned to: Lani Radtke
Deadline/Timeline: After the meeting; date not specified

8. Safety Corridor — Carl Lund

Summary of Discussion
Carl Lund reported that draft safety-corridor board orders were with legal counsel for review. He said the orders must specify program elements, including education campaigns, enforcement metrics, and infrastructure-related work such as safety audits and improvements.

Direction and Follow-up:
The notes confirm that the safety-corridor board orders were drafted and with legal counsel.

Task: Complete legal review of the safety-corridor orders, confirm the required program elements and metrics, and bring the orders to the Board.
Assigned to: Carl Lund
Deadline/Timeline: Not specified

9. Micro Trenching — Lani Radtke

Summary of Discussion
Lani Radtke reported that Hunter Communications had proposed installing fiber using micro trenching and that other telecommunications companies might also approach the county. Staff described the proposal as a pavement cut approximately six inches deep, filled with grout and sealed with mastic. Staff raised concerns about shallow utility depth, effects on future road repairs and reconstruction, patch durability, and the vulnerability and repair of shallow fiber. Commissioners expressed concern about departing from the county's existing utility-depth standards.

10. Other — All

Summary of Discussion
Danielle Bethell raised concerns about the condition of the gravel portion of Kashmir Road amid increased heavy-equipment traffic. Brian Nicholas said the road had recently been regraded in wet conditions and staff needed to inspect it. The discussion also addressed gravel-road grading, crowns, drainage, and the use and availability of lignin and Earth Bind products.
Bethell described a significant bump on West Dayton Road north of Snotty Road and said she planned to bring Scott Wilson to the location for a field review. Commissioners and staff also discussed fog-line criteria, including the 6,000-vehicles-per-day threshold for required striping in applicable circumstances, and the county's consideration of other road conditions.
Lani Radtke reported that the City of Salem had approved the Reese Hill Road IGA, providing for city jurisdiction until annexation. Commissioners discussed a SCATS agreement amendment adding one voting member and a forthcoming SCATS priority-project list. They also discussed local-access-road costs for Commissioner Phil Chang and Oregon Transportation Commission discussions about local-access roads; a possible transportation-priority survey was raised, but no decision was made.
Bethell raised concerns about traffic and crashes near Gaffin Road and the signal in connection with commercial development near McLeay and Cordon Road. Staff clarified that the signal was not under county jurisdiction; no specific follow-up was identified.

Direction and Follow-up:
Task: Inspect the gravel portion of Kashmir Road following recent grading and increased heavy-equipment traffic.
Assigned to: Brian Nicholas / Public Works
Deadline/Timeline: Not specified

Bethell stated that she planned to take Scott Wilson to review the reported bump on West Dayton Road north of Snotty Road.

Task: Conduct a field review of the reported bump on West Dayton Road north of Snotty Road.
Assigned to: Danielle Bethell and Scott Wilson
Deadline/Timeline: Not specified
The notes specify that the SCATS agreement amendment adding one voting member is to be placed on the November 4 Board Session Consent agenda.

Task: Place the SCATS agreement amendment on the Consent agenda for commissioner signatures.
Assigned to: Brian Nicholas
Deadline/Timeline: Wednesday, November 4, 2026
Lani Radtke said the SCATS priority-project list would be brought to the commissioners.

Task: Bring the SCATS priority-project list to the commissioners.
Assigned to: Lani Radtke
Deadline/Timeline: Not specified
Bethell asked that information on costs associated with previously accepted local-access roads be provided to Commissioner Phil Chang. Max Hepburn agreed to follow up.

Task: Provide Commissioner Phil Chang with information on costs associated with previously accepted local-access roads and coordinate with Lani Radtke as needed.
Assigned to: Max Hepburn
Deadline/Timeline: Not specified
Bethell asked staff to monitor Oregon Transportation Commission agendas and discussions concerning local-access roads; Max Hepburn agreed.

Task: Monitor Oregon Transportation Commission agendas and discussions concerning local-access roads.
Assigned to: Max Hepburn
Deadline/Timeline: Not specified

11. Next Steps
Summary of Discussion
No separate next-steps discussion was recorded.

12. Adjourn
Summary of Discussion
The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.