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CLARK COUNTY  
WASHINGTON

## RAILROAD ADVISORY BOARD

# MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2010

4:00 PM -5:30 PM

1300 FRANKLIN STREET – PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER

6TH FLOOR – TRAINING ROOM #679

### ROLL CALL:

<b>Members Present:</b>	John Allen, Dick Clairmont, Lloyd Lycan, Jack Melton, Jerry Petrick, John Shaffer, Thomas Smith, Florence Wager, Dan Weaver
<b>Excused Members:</b>	Dick Carroll, Todd Coleman, Scott Dalesandro, Bill Ganley, Rodger Lance, Melinda McLucas
<b>Absent Members:</b>	
<b>Ex-Officio:</b>	Will Pickering, Eric Temple
<b>Public:</b>	Doug Auburg-BYCX, Scott Sawyer-City of Battle Ground
<b>Staff:</b>	Fred Abraham, Lisa Goorjian, Troy Pierce, Mark McCauley, April Flinn

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
<b>Meeting called to order @ 4:03 PM</b>	<b>Lloyd Lycan</b>
<b>Roll Call/Introductions</b>	<b>Lloyd Lycan</b>
Scott Sawyer, the Public Works Director for the City of Battle Ground introduced himself. He is sitting in on behalf on Bill Ganley.	
<b>Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>Lloyd Lycan</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moved and seconded minutes approved as circulated.</li> </ul>	
<b>Communications/Announcement</b>	<b>Lloyd Lycan</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	
<b>PVJR Activities</b>	<b>Eric Temple</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Rails with Trails Meeting</b> – The trail user group was a significant development this month, and Eric Temple indicated that there was good discussion and efforts to move the process forward.</li> <li><b>Freight</b> – There was not a lot of movement of freight through the holiday season. The new shipper is on the line, and will bring around 100 new cars a year.</li> <li><b>Brush Prairie Rezone</b> – The rezone issue is still being worked on through Clark County staff.</li> <li><b>Legislative Agenda</b> – Eric Temple has been speaking to Mike Burgess, the County's lobbyist. It is going to be a tough budget cycle since they State does not have much money. Eric Temple and Fred Abraham, with the lobbyist, will be thanking legislators.</li> <li><b>Renton to Woodinville BNSF Line</b> – The focus is now on getting this rail and moving it down here to Clark County. The rails have been in the ground, unused, for approximately three years. BNSF considers it scrap rail, but for us it is good rail. It consists of mostly 115# rail, with possibly some 112# rail. There is possibly 10-12 miles of track. BNSF recognizes our efforts and the assistance and we have given them in the past. Mike Burgess and Eric Temple are trying to work on a legislative way to transfer the rail to Clark County.</li> </ul>	
<b>BYCX Activities</b>	<b>Will Pickering</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Flyers</b> - Doug Auburg distributed the new BYCX pamphlets for 2010.</li> <li><b>Runs</b> – There were no problems with the Christmas tree runs. Ridership was down the week before Christmas. Train runs will be starting up again in May.</li> </ul>	

Agenda Item	Facilitator
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Downtime</b> – There is some down time right now. They are completing projects around the shop. They are marking bad ties and changing out ties.</li> <li>• <b>Rain</b> – There has been no major problems with all the rain that we have received. There have been some trees down. The culverts are holding up, no problems with them.</li> </ul>	
<b>Status of County Activities</b>	<b>Fred Abraham</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>\$1,366.8M Grant</b> – The Charter has been drafted, signed, and accepted by WSDOT Rail Division. We are working on the first initial draft of the contract. More ties will be able to be laid down than originally thought; instead of 1500 we should be able to relay +/- . The grant will also go to replace some 66# rail, upgrade a crossing, and fix a drainage issue.</li> <li>• <b>WUTC Grant</b> – A copy of the no trespassing sign was distributed that displays the RCW associated with it. The grant is about 85% complete and will be sent to WUTC for the review process, in February with a decision in March/April timeframe.</li> <li>• <b>Goals 2009</b> – All of the goals set for 2009 were either met or exceeded, some of which were in the first six months. Due to the support he received he was able to achieve these goals.</li> <li>• <b>Goals 2010</b> – Revenue is at the top of the list for 2010. WUTC grants are on the goals list; 1<sup>st</sup> no trespassing signs, 2<sup>nd</sup> public crossing signs, 3<sup>rd</sup> private crossing signs. This current legislative session is a short session; 60 days. The County did get some good money from the previous session to be implemented this year. For rail day in Olympia, we will be going up there to thank them for what they have done, and not be asking for more money as a County strategy. Continued outreach through NACC will be continued through 2010. Reaching out to businesses for economic development possibilities will be expanded this year. Thirty to forty percent of Fred Abraham’s time will be devoted to talking to businesses, real estate and development companies about economic development in general as per the BOCC. Todd Coleman with the Port of Vancouver is working together with Fred Abraham to speak to other public agencies to help continue to form partnerships. The elected officials from the Port and from Clark County will get together to discuss this in the April 2010 timeframe. They are working on the roadway worker protection program and will come up with a document that will be sent to Eric Temple, the union, and the FRA.</li> <li>• <b>BOCC</b> – In regards to the Lagler property, the BOCC will most likely look into the Industrial Land Bank as the other options are off the table. Fred Abraham will await their direction on this.</li> <li>• <b>Reauthorization Bill</b> – Fred Abraham will keep a watch to see what is happening at a Federal level with this bill, which was FY2009 at \$1.8 Million for rail.</li> <li>• <b>Rail Day</b> – January 26, 2010 will be rail day up in Olympia. This year only a few people should go up to Olympia instead of many people from the RRAB.</li> <li>• <b>Larch Mountain</b> – DNR met with Commissioner Stuart and Fred Abraham today. The initial thought to close the facility came from Governor Gregiore. Larch Corrections has been giving more facts about the facility to the governor. Commissioner Stuart will be meeting with the governor’s office to attempt to convince the Governor not to close the facility. If closed, it will impact many. In fact the railroad brush clearing and bridge maintenance programs will be impacted.</li> </ul>	
<b>Subcommittee Reports</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ROW Issues/Reversionary Rights</b> – This subcommittee has been terminated until the fall.</li> <li>• <b>Community Outreach</b> – On January 21<sup>st</sup>, there will be a VIP tour of the Port of Vancouver. A time needs to be determined for Fred Abraham to present to the NACC, in the near future.</li> <li>• <b>Rail and Trail subcommittee</b> – Florence Wager is now in charge of this subcommittee. The user group meeting held today was good and there was good communication all around.</li> <li>• <b>Web Page</b> – Scott and Rodger have agreed to stay in charge of the web page subcommittee.</li> <li>• <b>Safety</b> – Dick Clairmont has been a part of the roadway worker safety program being developed. Lloyd Lycan had previously written a safety plan for a short line railroad, so his document will be incorporated into the County’s needs. There will be a meeting on January 22, 2010 to look at the draft. It will hopefully be finalized by the end of the month.</li> </ul>	

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
<b>Unfinished Business</b>	<b>Lloyd Lycan</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rails with Trails</b> – The group is working through alignment and environmental concerns, such as traffic, intersections, storm water/drainage, County ordinances, and property owners/agencies. A user group meeting was held today. Representatives from several groups were present along with Eric Temple. The meeting with the user groups was positive and many of the concerns were addressed. After the high rail tour on December 7, 2009, the group is now looking at the setbacks to determine if anything can be done. Will Cahill would prefer a 16 foot setback instead of the original 11 foot setback. If a 16 foot setback is not possible, they will look at other options. The need for 16 feet is for proper distance to do tie maintenance without removing a rail. At 174<sup>th</sup> Court, they will switch the trail to the north side of the track. Troy Pierce is still working with the property owner on this issue. They are still working on surveying the property at 174<sup>th</sup> Court. Will Cahill will accommodate survey crews the best he can. The group is looking at alternate alignment to avoid the intersection at Battle Ground State Park.</li> <li>• <b>CREDC</b> – The demand in economic activity is increasing. They are paying attention to the short legislative session. CREDC is working with most of the jurisdictional partners to encourage them to have more awareness and to seize opportunities for growth.</li> </ul>	
<b>New Business</b>	<b>Lloyd Lycan</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Parliamentarian</b> – Dick Carroll has agreed to be the parliamentarian for the RRAB in order to keep the group legal and simple.</li> <li>• <b>High Rail Trip</b> – Lloyd Lycan would like to pursue a high rail trip for the new members of the RRAB in the spring or summer.</li> <li>• <b>REET Support Letter</b> – Letters of support are needed from the RRAB so that the BOCC can give them to the budge office so that some of those monies can be given to support the railroad. Fred Abraham is looking for \$75,000-\$80,000 to be able to get the permitting and plans completed for the yard. It was moved and seconded for a letter to be drafted to the BOCC. The motion was approved for a letter to be drafted.</li> </ul>	
<b>Good of the Order</b>	<b>ALL</b>
•	
<b>Round Table</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bio's</b> – Dick Clairmont would like to get a one paragraph bio from each member of the board to give insight into the background and a better understanding of RRAB member.</li> </ul>	
<b>ADJOURNMENT @ 5:25 PM</b>	