



proud past, promising future

CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

RAILROAD ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2010

4:00 PM -5:30 PM

1300 FRANKLIN STREET – PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER

6TH FLOOR – TRAINING ROOM #679

Members Present:	Dick Carroll, Dick Clairmont, Todd Coleman, Bill Ganley, Lloyd Lycan, Jack Melton, Bart Phillips, John Shaffer, Tom Smith, Bryan Snodgrass, Florence Wager, Dan Weaver
Excused Members:	Scott Dalesandro, Melinda McLucas
Absent Members:	Rodger Lance
Ex-Officio:	Will Pickering, Eric Temple
Public:	Doug Auburg
Staff:	Fred Abraham, April Flinn, Lisa Goorjian, Troy Pierce
Agenda Item	Facilitator
Meeting called to order @ 4:00 pm	Lloyd Lycan
Roll Call/Introductions	Lloyd Lycan
Bryan Snodgrass from the City of Vancouver introduced himself. He is in long range planning and land use planning at the City. Introductions were made around the room.	
Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	Lloyd Lycan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved and seconded minutes approved as circulated. 	
Communications/Announcements/PVJR Activities	Lloyd Lycan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dick Carroll was welcomed back, as he was absent for a few months. 	
PVJR Activities	Eric Temple
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers – It has been a good month for customers. Omega has been a consistent shipper of inbound cars. Linde Gas is shipping again. GTS Drywall shipped a couple of cars. They are moving off the rail. Canfield has been busy and doing well, trans-loading sand and soybeans. Eric is awaiting word on the shipping of granules for Melarky Roofing. Property – Eric has been exchanging emails with David Burton. He purchased 10 acres near the Barberton siding. They want to start shipping steel pilings. They may buy 10 more acres next to the current property. They could possibly bring 400 cars per year. They want to be up and running in the spring time. Legislature – Eric took July Clibborn, head of the Transportation Committee, to a Seahawks game. He also invited Brian Hatfield, the chairman of the rural economic development committee. 78th Street Property – Eric plans to make an offer on the 78th Street road fund property if it comes up for auction again. Dave Gray – He is excited about the number of ties that are marked to be replaced. It makes him feel safer on the rail. 	
BYCX Activities	Will Pickering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Event Trains – The weather has been good for the special event trains. Both train robbery events were nearly sold out. Maintenance – They are starting to work on equipment maintenance. They have been allowed to tap into a water spicket at the old Yacolt jail. Herbicide – This next Wednesday will be the test results for the new herbicide being tested in spots along the rail line. Ties – There are approximately 450 ties laid out and waiting to be installed. 	
Status of County Activities	Fred Abraham

- **Andersen Plastics –**
- **Grace Avenue –** Fred was invited to a meeting at the last moment by Public Works. Representatives from WSDOT and historical representatives from the state. They realize the railroad has historical significance, but how much? The outcome was that no one is going to pursue historical preservation of the rail line. The state does not want to encumber the railroad operation, and they took several pictures of the Battle Ground yard for file reference. They are working on the railroad's behalf. Battle Ground needs to help the railroad for the railroad to be able to help Battle Ground as was stated by WSDOT officials.
- **WSDOT Grant Application –** The application has been completed and was submitted on August 20, 2010. WSDOT received 21 applications. They are able to distribute \$2.75 million from the \$9 million for the grant application requests in the freight assistance fund. There are several high volume companies that have applied for the grant including CBRR, Tacoma Rail, Cascade and Columbia River, Puget Sound Pacific Railroad, and the Ports of Longview and Vancouver. We should hear back in the October or November 2010 timeframe.
- **WSDOT \$2.366 Million Grant –** The prices are the lowest in 15 years. The price of rail came in at half the price of rail from one year ago. Only a little over \$1 million of the grant money has been spent. We should be able to install about an additional 7000 ties, 35 net tons of extra rail should be able to be installed, and about 1200-1600 net tons total of ballast will be laid down. Railworks is the contractor for the track rehabilitation. There was less than \$5000 difference between the low bidders. They will begin working late next week or early the following week. They are a large international company. Their local office is in Chehalis, WA. Approximately 4100 ties have been marked in the first five miles of track. Some ditching will be done near Battle Ground as well as wing walls and back walls fixed on bridges six and twelve.
- **Ride the Rails –** The legislative representatives will not be riding the rails this year. We are prohibited from using passenger train cars on excepted class track. A letter was submitted to the FRA for a waiver, but was not received in time for the ride. We will try sending in a request for next year.
- **Federal Staff Meeting –** Fred went to a meeting with Senator Murray staff from Washington, DC and gave an update of the status of the railroad. He gave and received very good information. He was told to keep moving forward with the infrastructure improvements, and to keep and build strong relationships with the local jurisdictional partners staff indicated that Senator Murray is well aware of our project.
- **78th Street Re-Auction Update –** The 78th Street property will probably go up for re-auction in the November timeframe at the earliest, but nothing is set.
- **Omega –** Fred met with Eric Fuller and the commissioners, separately. They are close to a deal. There is an offer in place to buy a portion of the Burbuck property. There is verbal approval from one conversation with two commissioners to go forward by purchasing additional property for rail expansion as a public benefit. This would bring more jobs and more rail traffic to Clark County.
- **Potential Customers –** A steel casing company wants to move to the rail line and could bring 10-20 new jobs. There is also a plastic recycler, Interstate Plastics Recyclers, which regularly works with Andersen Plastics, who may wish to use rail. He is looking for about 5-7 acres. GTS Drywall is moving. There may be an opportunity to get a better rail customer in that location. Fred is working with Coldwell Banker on this. Another developer may be buying property on 88th Street for Gullick Trucking. They move commodities by rail.
- **199th Street/Eaton Blvd –** The new crossing was completed last Friday. It is a very nice crossing. It is smooth and is ready for widening when Battle Ground chooses to widen Eaton Blvd by way of installing enough 10 foot ties beyond the current crossing modules. They also widened a culvert to improve drainage.
- **Storm Water –** The City of Battle Ground is working on a grant for storm water improvements. Fred has written a letter of recommendation and offered to help them in other ways for this grant. The money would help improve ditches and form a new retention pond near Salmon Creek. It would allow the removal of one or more ponds on the north side

of the tracks. This would allow Clark County to get a siding into the Pavlina industrial property for rail industrial use.

- **WUTC Signs** – Fred placed the order for 130 no trespassing signs today. They are waiting for the formal documents to go ahead.
- **CVTV** – Fred was interviewed by 1 ½ weeks ago about the grant. It will run on CVTV from September 26 – October 26. They also interviewed Jack Dunn and Canfield.
- **Speeder Run** – A follow up letter for clarification was sent to the FRA. We are now waiting to hear back from the FRA.
- **St Johns/68th Street** – Omega is producing a new type of crossing. They are hoping to test the crossing in the local area. We may need collaboration between Clark County and the City of Vancouver to get this done at the St. Johns crossing.

Subcommittee Reports

- **Community Outreach** – Dan attended the last two meetings for the NACCC. There is nothing significant to report. Dan updated the board on Andersen Plastics progress.
- **Web Page** – Lloyd added that he would like to see some updated news on Andersen Plastics and the grant.
- **Legislative & Economic Development** – Fred and John have met with almost all of the local Washington State representatives and senators. Most of them support the railroad improvement efforts. They think it is a good idea to be moving forward. They also found some misconceptions and lack of knowledge about the railroad. Fred and John were able to get the railroad’s name out there, even though the next legislative session will be tough. They are looking to our lobbyist for a date for another visit to the legislature.

Unfinished Business

Lloyd Lycan

- **Rails with Trails** – Troy Pierce updated that they are still on schedule for the project. They are underfunded for the project and had to cut the scope of the project. They are looking at reducing the length of the trail by approximately half. It would run from Battle Ground Lake State Park to the west to the DNR parcel. There is a meeting later this month with the funding agency. A public notice for a meeting with the Battle Ground city council will come out along with a news release. They are still tied to the schedule. They have been working with Debbie at the City of Battle Ground regarding the DNR property.
- **MOU Review** – If there are any comments on the memorandum of understanding for the trail users, they should be emailed to Fred. The purpose of the memorandum is to insure PVJR that the trail will not inhibit the expansion efforts of the railroad. It is support for the railroad and states that the rail is superior to the trail.

New Business

Lloyd Lycan

- **Track Closure for Rails with Trails** – There may be a meeting about the rails with trails project regarding closing a portion of the track during the trail construction. It could be closed for 6-7 months. Fred doesn't want it to hurt or affect the railroad infrastructure. A letter will be drafted to the FRA. They will ask for the closure of track for a specific time frame. They will take pictures of the track before and after the closure, and will have regular ongoing inspections of the railroad right of way throughout the project. Provisions will be in the contract that damage to the railroad would need to be corrected by a certified rail contractor at the contractor’s expense and to the railroad coordinators acceptance. It would need to be put back to pre-closure conditions or better.
- **Full Time Assistant Position** – Fred needs more support. He would like to have the RRAB members consider drafting a letter of support recommending Fred have a full time or two part time assistants. This could be done sometime after the first of the year for consideration by the BOCC sometime during the next biennium 2011-12.

Good of the Order

ALL

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Round Table

ALL

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ADJOURNMENT @ 5:31 pm