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CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

RAILROAD ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2009

4:00 PM -5:30 PM

1300 FRANKLIN STREET – PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER

6TH FLOOR – TRAINING ROOM #679

ROLL CALL:

Members Present:	John Allen, Dick Carroll, Dick Clairmont, Bill Ganley, Rodger Lance, Lloyd Lycan, Jerry Petrick, Florence Wager, Dan Weaver
Excused Members:	Fred Abraham, Scott Dalesandro, Dave Hurt, Thomas Smith
Absent Members:	Jack Melton, Melinda McLucas
Ex-Officio:	Will Pickering, Eric Temple
Public:	Sarah/Train Master Film Production, Steve Durrant/Alta Planning, Ted Roberts, John Schaeffer, Doug Auburg
Staff:	Linnea LaRocque, Troy Pierce

Agenda Item	Facilitator
Meeting called to order @ 4:00 pm	Dan Weaver
Roll Call/Introductions	Dan Weaver
Introductions were made around the room.	
Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	Dan Weaver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved and seconded minutes approved as circulated. 	
Communications/Announcements/PVJR Activities	Dan Weaver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Announcements 	
PVJR Activities	Eric Temple
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial Land – Eric had to tell another potential shipper that he didn't have any land to offer them. It has been 4 years since the industrial land map he has was created and wants to try to get this land developed. Wants the RRAB's help to get the BOCC excited about zoning land as industrial. The RRAB will request a land inventory through Fred Abraham, to get this done as quickly as possible. 	
BYCX Activities	Will Pickering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donation of Tractor Wheel– A donation of an older tractor wheel was received. Ridership – It was down a little bit due to the hot weather. The next train event will be August 22-23, which will be a train robbery. Tunnel Inspection – The bridge inspection crew from HDR Engineering was up to inspect the tunnel. They inspected a good section of the tunnel. Track Work – They have been doing a lot of brush clearing and pushing the brush back. Bridge #23 Inspection – BYCX received notice that there were crushed caps and due to this, the bridge has been closed to loads. The train runs has been shortened by a couple of miles. Filming – A children's movie will be starting to film the 3rd week of August. The company will be getting permits and insurance coverage information to the County. 	
Status of County Activities	Fred Abraham
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSDOT Rail Grants (2) 2009-11 - The second draft of the Charter has been completed and forwarded on to the WSDOT rail division project manger for her review. I addressed their concerns and made the necessary changes and I anticipate that we will move from this 	

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<p>phase into the contract phase soon. The main change to the Charter has to do with the inability to use grant funds for the 78th - 88th Street Rye Yard extension. The budgeted money for that will be used for additional infrastructure upgrades to heavier rail. I am currently looking for other sources to fund the rail yard extension.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Appropriation FY2011 - Senator Murray's local staff has indicated as of July 21st that the request is still moving forward, no timetable of when a vote would take place. Senator Murray is chair of the transportation committee in congress and is championing the cause on Clark County's behalf. Senator Murray also has listed the request on her web site and that is a good sign. • Federal Re-Authorization Request FY2010 - Congressman Baird's local staff has indicated as of July 20th that the re-authorization request is still pending action but there is movement in congress to change from a 6 year plan to an 18 month plan for potential funding which would eliminate many projects from being funded. There is no timetable on any vote, but most likely this will be a long fight. Congressman Baird has listed the project on his web site and that is a good sign. • Federal HSIPR Grant 6.0M - As of July 16th the WSDOT e-newsletter indicated that our request for 6M in stimulus money for a new rail interchange yard had qualified for full application to the FRA. Details of the application process and administration are still a bit sketchy. We fall in a special project category where only 5 applicants were chosen in the state. All categories will have the potential to have one or more be funded. This program is based on passenger rail. The reason we are being considered, is that if we can provide a new interchange it would free up the BNSF mainline track for AMTRAK passenger movement and ease transcontinental freight movement as well. In addition, we have the potential to provide commuter service to the potential light rail proposed for Clark County. This money will be allocated in the form of a grant titled, "High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail" (HSIPR). • Safety Issues - All safety related issues for signs at particular crossing locations, crossing markings, Bike warning signs, no trespassing signs at Fruit Valley and road worker training for railroad right of way access are all still moving forward, but no major items to report. • Legislative Session Budget - On July 29th I dialogued with the County Lobbyist Mike Burgess to formulate some legislative strategy for this next session which is only 60 days long. The thought is that there will be no budget dollars available for any major push on projects, such as rail improvements and that we should not look for that this session. It also would not be good to consider any legislative visit to the line for the same reasons. Lastly it is felt to not have a big rail day this session, rather focus on an update to key legislators from the County railroad Coordinator and Eric temple as the operator as a means of keeping a face on the program for the next year when it is expected the legislature will have a substantially better budget. At that time we would consider a legislative tour and a larger rail day concept. Mike will be conveying this to the commissioners and the operator's Lobbyist, Pat Boss. • Bridge Assessment - The field work for the bridge assessment with HDR was completed as of August 7th and now we await the report which will be distributed to the committee when received. • 88th Street Crossing - The 88th Street crossing project is completed and awaits final approval on the signal installation form WUTC. 	
<p>Subcommittee Reports</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ROW Encroachments – Lloyd Lycan stated that the majority of the pictures of the crossings have been turned over to Fred Abraham to work on the crossings. • Community Outreach – No issues • Web Page – Rodger Lance was pleased with the video on the Chelatchie Prairie webpage done by CVTV. He states that the current news area needs updated. 	

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Unfinished Business	Dan Weaver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 99th Street – Fred is currently working with Gordy Euler and Oliver Orijiako in Community Planning to prepare an overlay concept to be included in Clark County codes that has codes of ML or MH for existing properties. With the concept, they are trying to keep a buffer between the general public and the industries. Once the concept is adopted by the BOCC, they will go out for public input. If approved by the Planning Commissioner and BOCC Commissioner's, it would be added to the code. Fred is also working on an arterial atlas that will trigger any areas for future rail development from MP 0.1 to Brush Prairie, and from 119th Street to Main Street in Battle Ground. The idea is to give long term goals as an atlas concept. • Rails with Trails – Troy Pierce mentioned that there will be an open house on August 11th from 6:30-8:30 at the Battle Ground Community Center. The RRAB discussed their concerns with equestrian traffic being so close to the railroad right of way. They will bring this information up to the BOCC. • RRAB Replacement – A copy of the position posting was distributed among the members. 	
New Business	Dan Weaver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing 	
Good of the Order	ALL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance Sheet – An updated copy was distributed to the members. 	
Round Table	ALL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing 	
ADJOURNMENT @ 5:30	