

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 27, 2022**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Mordhorst declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session and led the Board and attending audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Pope and Commissioner Gordon were present.

**2. MINUTES:**      **COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE  
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF September 20, 2022**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3: OR 99W: ORRS CORNER ROAD – CLOW CORNER ROAD – CONSTRUCTION DETOUR:**

Kumar Rethnasmay and Andrew Wilkes, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), shared a power point presentation with the Board that went over a proposed detour/closure on county roads to construct the connection of the roundabout to Clow Corner Road. The presentation went over the project agenda, the project's purpose, and the details of the detour. ODOT is seeking approval from the Board of Commissioners to close Clow Corner Road, east of OR 99 for 12-14 months and to detour/closure traffic from OR 99 southbound onto county roads for a period of 4 weeks. After the presentation, Mr. Rethnasmay asked the Commissioners if they had any questions. Commissioner Pope stated he was confused about the timeline listed in the presentation and how are they are going to help people plan for this project. Mr. Rethnasmay stated that they are planning public outreach this November. Commissioner Gordon asked when they plan to have that information ready to give to the public. Mr. Rethnasmay stated that he does not have that information yet. Commissioner Mordhorst stated that we should know at least a month in advance. Commissioner Pope stated that there are going to be a lot of challenges and that the time to communicate this to people is critical. Mr. Rethnasmay went over their public engagement strategy and what is available for the general public. Commissioner Pope asked what would be the solution for a detour if they didn't have Riddell Road. Mr. Wilkes said that it is not to say that they don't have alternate routes, they are just not the best options. He stated that they would probably looking at detouring all traffic to OR 51 and potentially using I5. Mr. Wilkes looked into the options of night closures, but as he was looking into this, he learned that would not be a good option because of the work that needs to be completed. Commissioner Pope asked if Emergency Services will be able to access Clow Corner Road at all for emergencies. Mr. Wilkes stated that no because that road will be closed down on the east side. Commissioner Pope stated that they need to make sure they are communicating with EMS to plan for this closure and even allow them to have full access to Riddell Road if needed. Commissioner Pope stated that he can see a serious flow challenge at Hoffman Road due to the left turn traffic and due to all the tractor trailers that use that road. Commissioner Mordhorst wanted to say publically that Mr. Rethnasmay and Andrew have been wonderful to work with and they take the feedback Polk County has given them. Commissioner Gordon stated that he shares the same concerns with Commissioner Pope and would like to work on this more with them going forward. Commissioner Pope stated for the record that he does appreciate the collaboration on this project but he has some issues with the verbiage being used in this presentation. He is very concerned about the potential for our crash rate increasing during this project and the fact that stop signs are being added and then removed at a later date. Commissioner Mordhorst wanted to stress how important it will be to try and get this completed before harvest season. Commissioner Pope stated that harvest starts June 20<sup>th</sup> and goes through September. Mr. Rethnasmay stated that they are willing to work with Polk County to find a more opportune time to start this project. The Board did not make a decision today and stated that they want to work with them on this further before approving the request.

**4. REVISED PROGRESS REPORT ON 2017 POLK COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN:**

Austin McGuigan, Community Development Director, stated that he just completed the annual review of the 2017 Polk County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazards Mitigation Plan and wanted to provide an update to the Board. Mr. McGuigan stated there is some alternative route planning that needs to be completed in the case of earthquakes or any other natural disasters. Mr. McGuigan stated he has been working with Dean Bender, Polk County Emergency Management Manager, and that Mr. Bender has identified some funding for this project to start in spring 2023. Each of the Commissioners thanked Austin for all of his hard work.

**5. HEARING BODY DETERMINATION & APPEAL OF LUD 22-42:**

Sidney Mulder, Community Development Planning Manager, provided some background information on planning file LUD 22-42 and stated that it is being moved to an appeal. Ms. Mulder and staff are recommending that the appeal goes to the Hearings Officer.

**COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON  
SECONDED FOR THE APPEAL TO GO TO THE HEARINGS OFFICER.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. NON-LISTED ITEMS** - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)

None.

Commissioner Mordhorst adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda  
Approved: October 4, 2022