

# MINUTES & NOTICE OF BOARD ACTION

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APPROVED March 9, 1994



## LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*This document, upon approval in a public meeting by the Board of County Commissioners, serves as official minutes of such meetings as required under the Open Meetings Law, ORS 192.650.*

Pursuant to notice made by mailing agendas to news media, a selected list of jurisdictions and individuals in Lane County, a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held.

Questions should be directed to The Board Office Specialist 3, ext. 4203.

February 24, 1994  
6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Twin Oaks Elem. School  
85916 Bailey Hill Rd.

Chair Jerry Rust presided with Ellie Dumdi, Marie Frazier, and Jack Roberts present. Steve Cornacchia excused. Vonnie Rainwater, Recording Secretary.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ORDER 94-2-24-1/In the Matter of Approving a Project Design for Improvement of Lorane Highway from Chambers Street to Bailey Hill Road.

Rust indicated that the record will be left open for two weeks for additional written comments to be submitted. He introduced County staff and Roads Advisory Committee members present.

Ollie Snowden, County Engineer, gave an overview of the project. Project first appeared in the 1990 Capital Improvement Program and was scheduled for construction in 1995, but is now proposed for construction in 1996. The Roads Advisory Committee approved findings for the project; however, more than 50% of the abutting property owners objected to the project and thus the Board scheduled tonight's public hearing. The Board's decision will be based on findings from testimony provided at this hearing. Lorane Highway is classified as a major collector and is the last major collector that doesn't have shoulders. TransPlan has identified Lorane Highway as a bicycle route. Staff has received complaints that road is very narrow. The pavement condition is deteriorating and will need to be overlaid or reconstructed. Discussed briefly what is proposed and indicated that there have been some modifications to the design from what was proposed several months ago. Project is designed for a 40 mph design speed.

[Dumdi present.]

Snowden added that intersection improvements are proposed at McBeth and Blanton Roads, and propose to modify alignment at Chezem Road.

Rust opened public hearing.

William Peterman, 85270 Chezem Road, stated he is a bicycle enthusiast who uses the road a lot. Feels the width of the road will affect safety or mode of travel, need to add bike lanes, and widen only one side of the road; don't need a super highway.

Ben Jackson, 85090 Lorane Highway, stated that in the last six years he met a truck on a sharp curve and went for the shoulder. Would like to see the road widened to make it safer, especially on the curves. Need to make room for bicyclists. One problem is the bicyclists ride in packs and cars have to go at their speed because the cars can't get around them. Feels that with the higher price for speeding tickets, it might make drivers drive at the posted speed.

Maureen Hudson, 86031 Lorane Highway, lives at McBeth. Expressed concern for impact road building may have on the creek and indicated she has been witnessing the degradation of the creek. Asked how the improvements will affect the creek and if the creek is going to be moved. Snowden replied that the survey has not been completed yet regarding the feasibility of moving the creek. Hudson questioned whether the improvements are needed vs. destroying the quality of the rural community. Need to preserve the beauty of the road. Road currently functions as a freeway; many drive too fast. She felt that increasing access will increase economic and social pressures for sub-urban development.

Doris Pierson, 2060 Lorane Highway, stated she has lived on the road for 50 years. Wants road left alone, but put shoulders on it.

Jim Gillette, 86340 Needham Road, stated he'd like to see shoulders, need to encourage bicycles, and need to consider accommodating bicyclists. Likes driving the road the way it is. Doesn't think a wider road will make people drive faster.

Jerry Strand, 86501 Lorane Highway, said he's lived on the road all of his life. Feels if improved it will lose the value of the road, and will look like Bailey Hill Road. Improvement will take out a lot of trees and will impact the front of his house. Feels accidents are due to speeding and alcohol. Not against widening the road to some extent. Agrees with adding 2' on each side for shoulders.

Don Walker, 85900 Lorane Highway, indicated he's lived on the road for 8 years at the intersections of Chezem and Lisa Lane. Has mountains on all sides of him and can't hear any traffic now. Feels he'll lose the tranquillity if the overpass is put in and will see faster speeds. Doesn't want to see the neighborhood destroyed; leave the road the way it is.

Leslie Hildrith, 86460 Lorane Highway, is a newcomer to the area. Stated she can attest to how fast people will drive when the road is straightened out. Expressed concern for speeding, quality of life. Disagrees with design speed vs. actual actual; feels they're both very different. Need bicycle lanes. Speed issue is of critical importance.

Bob Suess, 260 E. 38th, lives near Crest and Lorane Highway. Commended the Board for their attention to the transportation needs of this area. Feels Lorane Highway is a beautiful scenic highway and wants to see it left this way.

Steve Sinclair, 3973 Josh St., indicated he's not a property owner but is a bicyclist. Enjoys Lorane Highway the way it is. Feels bike lanes are needed. Serious bicyclists don't try to block the road and stay out of the way. Doesn't have a problem with the road.

Vic Rudek, 84823 McBeth, stated he remembers River Road the way it was. Feels there is no need to widen the road; it will just increase traffic, create more noise, crime and pollution. Feels guardrails are needed at the curve where fatality occurred. Would like the road to stay the way it is.

Patricia Anderson, 85793 Lorane Highway, stated that most of the focus has been on safety, and feels the expense could be augmented by putting in center reflectors, guardrail, and adding some signing. Would like to see the speed limit lowered to 35 mph and enforced. If you allow for more growth and more travel it will encourage more development in the area. Asked if an environmental impact statement has been done for the creek. Snowden replied that it can't be done until a design has been established. Feels the money budgeted for this project could be better spent upgrading bridges.

Hal Willard, 85288 Forest Hill Lane, lives off Chézem Road. Suggested declassifying the road. Feels it will look like Bailey Hill Road. Doesn't want to see road changed. Feels 35 mph should be the maximum speed for the road. Wants to see speed lowered, bicyclists accommodated, and slick spots taken care of. Doesn't want a major corridor.

Charles Janz, 85898 Lorane Highway, indicated he's a bicyclist and doesn't have a problem riding on the road. Doesn't want feeling of setting changed. Overpass would create a major impact to his property. Currently can't hear noises. Improvements will change the aesthetics and value. Wants road left alone; widen shoulders a little and put up more signs and guardrail.

Kay Talia, 86000 Lorane Highway, expressed concern with the widening and feels speeds will be terrible. Small car drivers are the worst offenders on the road; has no problem with trucks. Has a problem with cars going through her fence at least three times a year. Doesn't feel widening road will help. Concurs with widening the shoulders and putting in a bike lane but leave the road alone.

Ray Bloesinger, 27161 Briggs Hill Road, stated he bikes on the road, but feels widening won't do any good. Would like to see guardrails.

Maggie Zane, 86035 Lorane Highway, indicated she's been scared by the bicyclists. Would like to see the side of the road improved, but keep the beauty of the road.

Steve Scarich, Paramount Cycling Club, indicated he uses the road a lot bicycling and is aware of the interface between cars and bicyclists. Stated that Lorane Highway is the safest way to get out of town and it's a beautiful way. If road is widened, would give bicyclists an escape route. If bike lanes were added, bicyclists wouldn't use them because they are full of gravel and glass. If bike lanes are not maintained, it's a waste of money to put them in.

Robert Gunter, 86281 Lorane Highway, has lived on the road since 1972. Opposed to the change to Lorane Highway; leave it the same. If there's any change would prefer smaller shoulders on each side. Feels bike lane not feasible if

bicyclists won't use them. Opposed to removing the trees. Feels accidents are due to speeding.

Laurence Christopher, 86289 Lorane Highway, asked if the Board can override the State requirements for shoulder width. Snowden indicated that the Board can approve the design for less than 5'. Christopher expressed concern for wildlife. Need to make road shoulders usable and maintain them; perhaps sweeping at least four times a year. Feels that 5' shoulders are not possible without major impact or realignment. He questioned the statistics of abutting property owners; County report indicates 111 owners and feels it should 107 - 27 are non-residents and 14 are out-of-state. 70 abutting owners originally objected to the proposal, not 59. He has contacted most of the owners; they have contacted 10 more for a total of 80 objecting. His figures indicate that 74.8% of the abutting property owners object, 3.7% favor the County plan, and 21.5% did not respond. He read a letter from a property owner who could not attend. Would like to mitigate the improvements, pave shoulders where possible from 2' to 5', and provide guardrail at M.P. 2.8. Wants to maintain current rural appeal.

Brian Kupla, 86212 Lorane Highway, feels it's a scenic highway and not appropriate to move the stream, cut the trees, or widen the road; wants the road left as it is. Expressed concern that the final decision will be made in 2 weeks when all the appropriate decisions haven't been made yet. Rust stated that the alignment needs to be decided in order to prepare the design.

Joan Perry, 28520 Spencer Creek Road, stated that she's a bicyclist and likes to ride horses. Discussed what the improvements to Spencer Creek Road has done; feels it's impossible to walk on Spencer Creek because motorists drive too fast. Feels the way Lorane Highway is being designed is counterproductive; will encourage drivers to drive too fast. Bicyclists don't use bike lanes due to lack of maintenance. Need to look at the amount being spent on this project in these times. Expressed concern about the intersection at Bailey Hill and Spencer Creek.

John Rude, 1207 Courtney Pl., stated he's opposed to the project; feels you'll notice an increase in traffic and speed. Drivers don't adhere to stop signs. He conducted his own traffic study and observed drivers running stop signs and speeding. Expressed concern with widening the road that it will be like Beltline. Would like to preserve the beauty of the road and area.

Jimmi Harris, 1775 Lorane Highway, stated he's opposed to taking out the curves; feels they slow the traffic down. People drive really fast. He's not opposed to 2' shoulders. Won't ride his bike in the bike lane because it's not feasible due to glass and gravel. Has to back out of his driveway onto Lorane Highway; feels improvement will impair his vision and ability to get out. Need speed signs posted. Doesn't want to lose his front yard.

Rust informally polled the audience on their choices for the project.

Doug Capps stated he's lived on Lorane Highway for 22 years. Feels the road serves a purpose as a destination center to get out of town in the summer, then it slows down. Any change will impact the road; don't change it.

Roger Kauble, 2175 Lorane Highway, stated he concurred with comments already said. Don't take away the 20 mph turn because it enables him to get out of his driveway. Not opposed to widening the side of the road.

Katie Swenson, 1775 Lorane Highway, discussed the 2' versus 4' shoulder. Feels 5' is really big for a shoulder. Prefers 2' shoulders and it would still look like a rural road.

William Jenkins, 84773 McBeth, doesn't feel the road is too narrow or unsafe. People drive too fast and down the center line. If it's wider, it will create more problems by people driving faster. Feels project is financially irresponsible; don't spend money on something that doesn't need to be done. Suggested improving safety by adding reflectors, which have been taken out when they come through and mow the sides of the road.

Sarah Perry, 28520 Spencer Creek Road, stated she'll be 16 years old next month and will be driving soon. Feels that straightening the road will make people go faster. Wants road left the way it is.

Rust closed the public hearing.

Dumdi indicated that she and Frazier met at the grange about a month ago to talk with some of the residents about the project. She suggested changing the name of Lorane Highway to Lorane Lane. She favors 2' shoulders to accommodate walkers and make it safer without impacting too much, and prefers minimal impacts. Will ask the Traffic Team to patrol the area.

Frazier asked about the base condition of the road and if it can just be resurfaced. Snowden replied that the Lab has not looked at it yet, but there may be sufficient base; feels most of it can be overlaid. Frazier asked if the designation can be changed to minor collector and what the specific design specs are. Snowden indicated that staff will be developing a rural transportation plan around the Metro Plan in about 2-3 years and that would be a good time to look at the classifications of roads, and if we have not adopted our own design standards we are required to use the State design specs. Frazier asked if traffic counts are done on a seasonal basis. Ed Chastain, Traffic Engineer, explained how the traffic counts are taken. Frazier indicated she'll be looking to address bicycle conflicts, road maintenance on shoulders, and a resolution that retains community ownership.

Roberts expressed appreciation for the constructive comments regarding the desires and needs of the community, and what will work. Commented on the request for guardrail and the need to weigh the issues, and the fact that we do not have the resources to enforce the laws for motorists and bicyclists. Asked if we can design roads that will be safer and safer to drive at excessive speeds. Expressed concern that we may encourage those to drive faster if the road is straighter. Indicated that the condition of the bike lanes concerns him. Thinks bike lanes make sense and need to insure that shoulders are well maintained.

Rust indicated he shares the other Commissioners' comments. Two issues of concern are 1) safety and liability, and 2) livability. Wants to deal with the safety issue regarding speeding and follow-up by the Sheriff's Office, adding reflectors and striping, and 2' shoulders would be a minimal approach; want to

minimize impact.

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Rust added that additional comments will be accepted for the next two weeks and need to be sent to the County Courthouse, 125 E. 8th Avenue, to be included in the record.

Dumdi expressed concern with regard to the bicyclists who ride in packs and conflict with motorists. Want to look into the issue and talk to bicycle clubs; feels it's a severe safety issue.

There being no further business, this meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

*Vonnie Rainwater*  
Vonnie Rainwater  
Recording Secretary