



Clark County Railroad Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 13, 2023, 4:05pm to 4:50pm
Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St., 6th Floor BOCC
Training Room and virtual via WebEx

Advisory Board-Present: Dan Weaver, Eric Fuller, Gregg Smith, Jim Malinowski, Jim Pearson, John Shaffer, Kent Cash, Lloyd Lycan, Mark Daniels, Mark Herceg, Neil Chambers, Zack Keith, Chad Eiken (Interim, City of Vancouver),

Advisory Board-Not Present: John Hansen

Clark County Staff and Leadership: Kevin Tyler, Denielle Cowley, Glen Yung, Sue Marshall

BYCX: Randy Williams, Doug Auburg, Nathaniel Boyd

PVJR: Nathan Bruce

Guests: Charles Hancock, Dave Rowe, Jackie Lane, Jeff Stewart, Jon Cotton, John Jagelski, Kimberley O'Hara, Les Cotton, Linda Cotton, Marvin Mathison, Michael O'Connell, Nancy Halvorson, Steve Jagelski, William Seekamp (Columbian)

4:05pm Quorum present and meeting called to Order – Dan Weaver

Comments from the Chair – Introduction of new members; Gregg Smith and Zach Keith, Reappointments; Dan Weaver, Jim Pearson, and John Hansen

4:06pm February 13, 2023, minutes adopted (Motion by Lloyd Lycan, Second by Kent Cash)

PVJR – Nathan Bruce

- February was a good month and March starting out good
- Eric working on 1.75 million grant
- Tax bill credit due for final vote Thursday

BYCX Activities – Randy Williams

- Focusing on shop work
- Scheduled runs start Mother's Day weekend
- Maintenance work on diesel and steam engines
- Working on track and clearing trees
- Squatter in one of the stations

County Activities – Kevin Tyler:

- RRB 1230 – \$1.5 million grant for track/roadbed rehab work on lower section up to Battle Ground
 - Construction is complete, and HDR will perform final walk-through
- GCB 3592 - \$2.7 million grant status (Bridge repair and then more roadbed rehab mostly in northern sections)

- Hopefully will have a bridge consultant under contract after council meets on 21st and then the consultant will help put together a bid package for repairs
- Request for proposals will go out shortly for rehab work from Battle Ground northward
- GCB 1249 - \$500k grant from State of Washington
 - Should go before council April 4th
- \$1.75 million potential grant being requested by PVJR at State Legislature
 - Would like to see this money put toward the north and the money will go further if the relay tie donation works out
- Signal Repairs
 - 119th St is back in service
 - Summit Signal will be back for St. John's as they were having issues
 - 72nd Ave – waiting on materials
- Bridge Inspections and Bridge Management Program
 - Hiring a firm to complete annual bridge inspections and update management program
 - Program was audited and there is a list of items to address
 - Firm will prioritize bridges after their examination
 - Bid package will repair all priority defects back to service level of what they were constructed to provide
 - Need to also address loading restrictions
 - When repairs are complete PVJR will take over responsibility of the south line and if they request to use the north line for freight rail service they would take over the maintenance responsibilities
 - Weed Abatement – Will be on Kevin's priority list soon

Unfinished Business – Dan Weaver

- RRAB bylaws – Need to work through
- RRAB County Code Change
 - **4:19pm** - Motion to recommend Council adopt changes to county code (Motion by Lloyd Lycan, Second by Neil Chambers)

New Business – Dan Weaver

- Debrief March 1st work session on Freight Rail Dependent Use (FRDU) and Senate Bill SB 5517
 - Council requested:
 - Copies of what planning group had
 - Recommendation from the committee
 - Legal opinion from Chris Cook
 - PVJR's firm put together an opinion with a positive conclusion that sewer could be available, the land is delineated as a resource rather than rural

Public Comment – Dan Weaver:

- Dave Rowe read letter he received from WSDOT regarding expanding the 503 corridor – the letter noted that because the railroad is privately owned they are unable to conduct a study – they would need approval from Clark County and the Railroad Advisory Board – Dave asked if the board is ok with him asking for a study of traffic – board said direction would need to come from Council but right now there are too many other issues
- Nathaniel Boyd asked how to get involved and encourage younger generation to support rail – Board recommended coming to the RRAB meetings, get involved in nonprofit organizations and local politics to influence what is happening in the community

- Charles Hancock – What is the status of the track based on the latest project and then potential 2.5 million dollar project and will any of that track exceed excepted track after those two projects? – Kevin explained that as of now the track is excepted class from BN line up to Battle Ground, beyond that it's not classified/designated – Nathan said that after the work there is no reason to change it
- Charles Hancock – Are track inspection reports available? Nathan Bruce suggested following up with the FRA local track inspector. PVJR submits reports to them - Kevin will check if the county has copies of the reports for citizens to view – Nathan asked if there is a specific concern and Charles said he did research on track guidelines and has met with the FRA rep and discussed what it would take to upgrade track - quite a bit of work and there is a restriction for excepted track that has no passengers, no hazardous materials other than one car, and no speeds exceeding 10mph – Nathan said if they had business that needed a hazmat presence they could reclassify the track – track is probably good for class 2 – some sections toward Battle Ground have smaller steel that they would like to get changed out

Good of the Order – Dan Weaver: None

4:50pm Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Chris Walker

Upcoming Meeting:

Date: April 10, 2023

Time: 4:00pm to 5:30pm

Location: Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St., 6th Floor BOCC Training Room and virtual via WebEx