

County Road Administration Board

2404 Chandler Court SW, Ste 240
Olympia, WA 98504-0913

CRAB Report

*WSAC/WSACE Fall Conference
SeaTac, Washington
November 17-20, 2009*

Rural Arterial Program

The CRABoard, at its October 29, 2009 meeting, declined a funding period for the 2011 – 2013 biennium due to numerous hits on the RATA in the last half year. Revenues are declining, project sizes are increasing, and the RATA spending authority is reduced by over 20%, down to \$51,000,000 for the 2009 – 2011 biennium. The result: no new projects until perhaps the 2013 – 2015 biennium, and no further funding of partially funded projects until that time.

The CRABoard also directed staff to reduce the payout from the RATA account to meet project demand over the long haul and meet the constraints of reduced spending authority. All counties are being impacted by these reductions.

County Arterial Preservation Program

The funding for the County Arterial Preservation Program is in steady decline like everything else. Fortunately the annual transfer of \$1,500,000 from the Transportation Partnership Account have helped lessen the blow the last couple years. Counties have been increasing their use of CAPA funds to do seal coats and patching and decreasing CAPP funding for structural and thin overlay work.

Call for Projects for CRAB's 2009 Annual Report

CRAB publishes an annual report, which showcases a number of the **RAP and CAPP** funded projects completed each year. If you have such a project completed in 2008 or 2009 please forward via email to Randy Hart by November 30.

Your project submittal should include:

1. Before and after construction/paving pictures, preferably from the same perspective.
2. Project statistics such as: contractor, total funding, overall improvements etc.
3. A project narrative outlining the road's history and importance, the need for improvement, public input or support, special engineering features, and construction techniques. This should involve two or three paragraphs. Be creative and add any additional points of interest regarding the project. Please contact Randy at 360.664.3299 ext. 232 or randy@crab.wa.gov if you have questions, or check out the project website: <http://www.crab.wa.gov/funding/grants/rap/projects.cfm> if you need some good examples.

County Engineer Training

Three-day County Engineer training is provided by CRAB here in the Olympia office at least once, and sometimes twice, each year. The most recent training was held in the CRAB offices November 3 - 5, where ten attendees, representing eight different counties, participated in the 16-hour session. Based on comments from the participants over the past few years there seems to be a continuing need for the 3-day training to be provided. The value in continuing this training at the CRAB office is in large part due to agreement about having (1) the

opportunity to have discussions amongst multiple counties sharing different experiences and perspectives on the many issues covered, and (2) presentations and participation by a number of CRAB staff members.

Other comments received from participants suggest that it would be of value for CRAB to take portions of this training on-the-road to individual counties or to multi-county joint sessions. The interest appears to be motivated by a desire to involve more county staff members in this training while minimizing travel costs. We agree that this would be worthwhile for CRAB to pursue, but need your help in identifying what topics are of greatest interest.

In order to begin design of “customized” sessions, a survey will be sent to all County Engineers inquiring about your entity’s level of interest. The survey will ask about topics of interest as well as your willingness to host an event for multiple counties.

Accounting for Preservation Costs

An email was sent to all County Engineers on September 10, 2009, pertaining to use of BARS 541 (preservation expenditures). While there is no additional guidance on this topic yet, further discussions with the State Auditor’s Office are being scheduled in order to ultimately provide counties with greater clarity. An explanation of the history and issues surrounding use of BARS 541 will be presented by CRAB during the SeaTac WSACE agenda. For County Engineers not able to attend the SeaTac meeting, informational materials provided as a part of this session will be available upon request to jeff@crab.wa.gov.

Diversion and Levy Shifts

Due to the budgetary issues faced by all county current expense funds, it should be of no surprise that there is an increasing level of interest about both diversion and levy shifts. Information about Road Levy Diversion, Road Levy Shift, and direct expenditure of Road Funds will be presented by CRAB during the SeaTac WSACE agenda. For County Engineers not able to attend the SeaTac meeting, informational materials provided as a part of this session will be available upon request to jeff@crab.wa.gov.

Data Collection and Reporting Projects

Due in part to recent legislative changes to RCW 36.77.065 regarding county forces construction and the addition of Maintenance Management Certification in 2009, CRAB may be asked to provide data for county road construction, maintenance and operations that may not have been available before. Various reports to the Office of Financial Management, Transportation Commission, the State Legislature and Washington State Department of Transportation all may be impacted by these and other interests.

CRAB staff is completing a Data Collection and Reporting project to review all of the available data sets that are included in CRAB’s annual reporting requirements, as well as be prepared to respond to new data requests.

County Engineer & Public Works Director Changes

Benton County announced that an inter-local agreement was signed with Franklin County to utilize the services of Tim Fife, PE, Franklin County Engineer, as Interim County Engineer, effective May 11, 2009. The appointment was for three months while a search for a new County Engineer was under way. Interviews were conducted July 14 & 21, 2009. By letter on August 31, 2009, Benton County announced that Malcolm Bowie, PE, has been appointed County Engineer, effective September 1, 2009.

King County announced that Paulette Norman, PE, was appointed as the Acting Division Director for the Marine Division of King County Department of Transportation, effective April 13, 2009 through January 2010. The duties of the County Engineer were temporarily reassigned to Rick Brater, PE, effective April 13, 2009 through August 31, 2009, and transferred to Matt Nolan, PE, by letter, effective September 1, 2009 through January 2010.

Skagit County announced that Tom Ballard, P.E., TBA Consulting, was designated as Acting County Engineer, effective immediately. The appointment was for six months. The duties requiring a Professional Engineer's license were designated to Michael R. Mariano, PE as a subcontractor to the County Engineer for the interim period.

Mobility Mapping Tool

The Mobility design team expects to release a version of Mobility in the Spring that will include a mapping tool. With the addition of the mapping tool you will be able to navigate through Mobility data, display Mobility data on the map, show the results of SQL reports on the map, show PMS analysis on the map, and much more. Investigation of a number of prototypes in the past each required county users to purchase a viewer license of some type and CRAB has always been determined to provide Mobility at no cost to your county. CRAB recently found a programming tool capable of performing the desired the tasks that only costs CRAB a reasonable developer license fee. A quick phone survey of 23 counties showed that 18 could easily provide the spatial data necessary for the tool to work. CRAB will continue to work on methods by which all counties can respond. Questions should go to Steve or Eric.

Road Design Conference 2009

This year's conference marked the 20th anniversary for our annual conference which resonates in this year's theme, *Sustainable Design & Construction*. The conference showcased presentations on challenging site projects, such as Sound Transit's presentation on Challenges & Innovations in Civil Engineering and National APWA award-winning County projects from Snohomish County's South Slough Bridge and Kitsap County's Taylor Road Bridge/Chico Creek Restoration. A project involving many different entities was presented by the host, Thurston County: "Prairie Creek Bridge – The Challenge of Bridging 6 Agencies, Utilities and the Public". All presentations aimed to advance county's thinking and to promote sustainable use of resources.

On day two the agenda consisted of technical breakout presentations in two separate congregations. Typically we feature design system demos from all the major software companies that the counties use. This year we changed it up a bit. With many new design systems and features on the market today we decided to invite the software vendors to showcase their representative products in side-by-side comparisons, similar to but simpler than you'd see in a RFP competition. Participants in the "Challenge" were given a data set provided by CRAB consisting of points and linework and each vendor had one hour to design a project.

To wrap things up on the last day we held our first "Software Design System Migration Panel". The panel consisted of county folks along with a few vendors discussing their experiences in migrating to a different software system. This session was very valuable to those counties preparing to migrate to new design software and to learn from other counties that have already gone through that painful process.

In addition to the Conference Agenda we held our 4th Project Design Competition. This competition creates an opportunity for counties to display their projects featuring innovative engineering ideas in visual exhibits. This year's winner was the host, Thurston County, for their Prairie Creek Bridge Replacement.

Maintenance Management Update

There are changes to the reporting forms for maintenance management this year. The County Road Administration Board's Calendar of Due Dates has been revised to include two NEW FORMS: The Maintenance Management Work Plan and Budget due December 31st 2009 and the Maintenance Management Certification form due April 1st, 2010.

Note that the Maintenance Management Work Plan & Budget form is no longer part of the Budget Summary Sheet (also due December 31, 2009). Acceptable forms for submittal to CRAB include the Work Program & Budget report output from your county's Maintenance Management System (MMS), completion of the Interactive Work Plan & Budget worksheet (using your county-specific maintenance activities) or a county prepared spreadsheet in a similar format. Note that the work plan and budget should be based upon an inventory of road features maintained, the types and amounts of work planned and the costs for the labor, equipment and materials needed to complete the work.

The Maintenance Management Certification form, due April 1, 2010, certifies county compliance with the requirements (shown below) of the standard of good practice for maintenance management.

Yes	No	In accordance with WAC 136-11-040, maintenance management procedures have been used by this county to guide cost-effective maintenance and preservation activities on county roads in the previous calendar year.
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The County's maintenance management practices meet the following requirements:

- | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|--|
| Yes | No | (1) | An inventory of significant maintainable road features (physical assets) has been prepared and/or updated. |
| Yes | No | (2) | Activity Guidelines have been prepared, reviewed and/or updated for all significant maintenance activities. |
| Yes | No | (3) | A work program and budget has been prepared for maintenance activities planned in the year. This work program and budget is based upon the road features to be maintained, the types and amounts of maintenance work planned and the costs for the labor, equipment and materials needed to complete the work. |
| Yes | No | (4) | Labor, equipment and material resource requirements needed to accomplish the planned workload are identified. |
| Yes | No | (5) | Work scheduling procedures are identified, documented, and utilized in carrying out the maintenance work program. |
| Yes | No | (6) | Reports showing work accomplishment and cost have been prepared and reviewed by managers and supervisors. |

WAC Amendments and Hearings

The CRABoard adopted amendments to several WAC sections at its meeting on October 29, 2009. These changes have been filed with the Code Reviser's Office, and will become official about December 7, 2009:

- **Construction by County Forces:** These amendments reflect the adoption of ESSB 5228 by the 2009 Legislature. The former calculation of "Day Labor Limits" has been deleted, and replaced by a new calculation for "Construction by County Forces." The advantage of the new system is that the limit is based on county population and the county gas tax factor, and will not change during the year due to changes in construction contract amounts. The change is effective with the calendar year 2010 county budget cycle.
- **County Road Accident Reports:** WAC 136-28 has been amended to reflect the current procedure for counties to submit the County Location Coding Form (CLCF) to the WSDOT Traffic Data Office electronically. The revised WAC also establishes a requirement that each county submit CLCF data for at least 90% of accident reports provided to the county by the Transportation Data Office each calendar year.

CRAB Contact: Bob Moorhead, Compliance and Data Analysis Manager. 360.753.5989, BobM@crab.wa.gov .

WAC Hearings Scheduled for the January 22, 2010 CRABoard Meeting:

- **WAC 136-161-080 Limitations on Allocations of RATA Funds to Counties**
- **WAC 136-130-050 Project Prioritization in Northeast Region**

Information on these proposed amendments is available on the CRAB Web Site at www.crab.wa.gov.

CRAB Contact: Randy Hart, Grant Program Manager, 360.753.5989, Randy@crab.wa.gov.

2010 County Forces Construction Limits Calculation

Date: 11/16/2009

RCW 36.77.065 Limits (amended - 2009 Legislative Session)					
County	2009 County Total Population	2009 County MVFT %	2010 Base Limit	2010 County MVFT % times Base	2010 Calculated Limit
King	1,884,200	9.9022	\$ 3,250,000	\$ 321,822	\$ 3,571,822
Pierce	805,400	7.5180	\$ 3,250,000	\$ 244,335	\$ 3,494,335
Snohomish	696,600	6.7685	\$ 3,250,000	\$ 219,976	\$ 3,469,976
Spokane	459,000	6.0870	\$ 3,250,000	\$ 197,828	\$ 3,447,828
Clark	424,200	4.5534	\$ 3,250,000	\$ 147,986	\$ 3,397,986
Kitsap	246,800	3.6193	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 63,338	\$ 1,813,338
Thurston	245,300	3.4564	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 60,487	\$ 1,810,487
Yakima	235,900	3.9785	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 69,624	\$ 1,819,624
Whatcom	191,000	2.6613	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 46,573	\$ 1,796,573
Benton	165,500	2.1761	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 38,082	\$ 1,788,082
Skagit	117,500	2.2039	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 25,345	\$ 1,175,345
Cowlitz	99,000	1.5915	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 18,302	\$ 1,168,302
Grant	84,600	4.2349	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 48,701	\$ 1,198,701
Island	79,300	1.5465	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 17,785	\$ 1,167,785
Lewis	74,700	2.2580	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 25,967	\$ 1,175,967
Chelan	72,100	1.5842	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 18,218	\$ 1,168,218
Grays Harbor	70,900	1.5655	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 18,003	\$ 1,168,003
Franklin	70,200	1.8844	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 21,671	\$ 1,171,671
Clallam	69,200	1.3229	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 15,213	\$ 1,165,213
Walla Walla	58,600	1.9756	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 22,719	\$ 1,172,719
Mason	56,300	1.5164	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 17,439	\$ 1,167,439
Stevens	43,700	2.5211	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 28,993	\$ 1,178,993
Whitman	43,000	2.8171	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 32,397	\$ 1,182,397
Okanogan	40,100	2.2989	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 26,437	\$ 1,176,437
Kittitas	39,400	1.3261	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 15,250	\$ 1,165,250
Douglas	37,000	2.4426	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 28,090	\$ 1,178,090
Jefferson	28,800	0.9514	\$ 700,000	\$ 6,660	\$ 706,660
Pacific	21,800	0.9239	\$ 700,000	\$ 6,467	\$ 706,467
Asotin	21,400	1.1028	\$ 700,000	\$ 7,720	\$ 707,720
Klickitat	20,100	1.8252	\$ 700,000	\$ 12,776	\$ 712,776
Adams	17,800	2.7222	\$ 700,000	\$ 19,055	\$ 719,055
San Juan	16,100	0.6190	\$ 700,000	\$ 4,333	\$ 704,333
Pend Oreille	12,800	1.0788	\$ 700,000	\$ 7,552	\$ 707,552
Skamania	10,700	0.5777	\$ 700,000	\$ 4,044	\$ 704,044
Lincoln	10,400	2.7989	\$ 700,000	\$ 19,592	\$ 719,592
Ferry	7,700	1.1880	\$ 700,000	\$ 8,316	\$ 708,316
Columbia	4,100	0.9696	\$ 700,000	\$ 6,787	\$ 706,787
Wahkiakum	4,100	0.5614	\$ 700,000	\$ 3,930	\$ 703,930
Garfield	2,300	0.8708	\$ 700,000	\$ 6,096	\$ 706,096