



2022

QUARTERLY
REPORT

PREPARED BY
County Road Administration Board

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WHAT'S NEW AT CRAB



Table of Contents:

Executive Director's Note	2
CRABoard & County Engineer Updates	2
July Board Meeting Highlights	3 - 5
Division Reports	
Engineering	6 - 7
◦ <i>Compliance Corner</i>	7 - 8
◦ <i>Grant Programs</i>	8 - 10
IT	10
County Spotlight	11
Calendar	12



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Summer season is in full swing at the County Road Administration Board, and we are moving full steam ahead. In July we completed our first road log using our newly-launched GIS-Mo program. This was years in the making, not without a few bumps in the road, but we reached our goal of all 39 counties submitting their completed road-logs. This could not have been accomplished without the joint, collaborative efforts of county and CRAB staff. Congratulations on this monumental milestone!

In addition to keeping busy with GIS-Mo, CRAB staff have taken advantage of the summer weather by hitting the road to visit with counties. Our engineering team has been busy rating Rural Arterial Program projects in each of the five regions. We have also enjoyed visiting with many of you on a one-on-one basis. We love stopping in to say hi and asking how we can be of service to you. If you are interested in us meeting with you, your staff, and/or Commissioners please let us know.

Summer also means budgeting at CRAB. We are preparing to submit our supplemental and biennial budget requests to the Governor in preparation for the upcoming legislative session. The budget request process is not complete and we will have more to share in our fourth quarterly report.

As we move into fall, we are looking forward to moving into the project selection phase of the Rural Arterial Program's call for projects. Tune into our October board meeting to view the project array.

-Jane Wall, Executive Director

NEW COUNTY ENGINEERS

New County Engineer Appointments

Ken Lader, P.E., was appointed interim Clark County Engineer and started on July 1, 2022

Grant Morgan, P.E., was appointed interim Columbia County Engineer on July 11, 2022

Dave Bren, P.E., was appointed Grant County Engineer in June 2022

Don Ramsey, P.E., was appointed interim Pend Oreille County Engineer in April 2022





JULY 2022 CRABOARD MEETING UPDATES

On July 28-29, 2022, the CRABoard held its most recent quarterly board meeting.

Information pertaining to past and future meetings can be found on the [CRAB Board website](#), along with prior Meeting Minutes and Board Reports, at:

<https://www.crab.wa.gov/about-us/county-road-administration-board/board-meetings>

Staff Contact: Jason Bergquist, jason.bergquist@crab.wa.gov

CRABoard Actions

Board Appointments

Commissioner Coffman, Commissioner Peck, and Chelan County Engineer Eric Pierson, P.E., were all granted additional 3-year terms on the CRABoard expiring in June 2025.

Board Elections

CRABoard Elections were held and Commissioner Coffman was re-appointed as Chair, Commissioner Janicki as Vice-Chair, and Grant Morgan, P.E. as Second Vice-Chair. They will serve additional one-year terms.

CERTIFICATIONS

Resolution 2022-005 Certifying the 2021 Master County Road Log

The CRABoard approved [Resolution 2022-005](#) Certifying the 2021 Master County Road Log. This resolution reflects the county road system as of January 1, 2022. Mike Clark reported that all 39 counties were in compliance with the requirements. This certification is completed on an annual basis and Mr. Clark mentioned this year there was a 0.4 mile (four-tenths) net gain in statewide centerline miles from last year.

Resolution 2022-006 Regarding Certifying MVFT Allocation Factors

The CRABoard approved [Resolution 2022-006](#) Regarding Roadway Categories and Unit Costs for the 2022 and 2023 County Fuel Tax Distribution. This resolution certified the factors used in the computation of the fuel tax allocation to the individual counties.

Staff Contact: Mike Clark, mike.clark@crab.wa.gov



JULY 2022 CRABOARD MEETING UPDATES

Proposed WAC Change - Chapter 136-400

Deputy Director Woods presented proposed WAC Change – Chapter 136-400 regarding the Administration of the County Ferry Capital Improvement Program. At the January 2022 Board meeting, the topic of placement of the (county) ferries into ER&R was discussed, proposed WAC 136-600-080, but the Board asked staff to meet with the four ferry counties to hammer out issues they had with the proposed section. CRAB staff met with the ferry counties to work on proposals to address concerns over the burden caused to the non-ferry counties by the CFCIP. Mr. Woods noted that 3 of the 4 ferry counties already had vessels replaced in the last 20 years, so the 1 remaining ferry county (Whatcom County) is the last eligible county to request vessel replacement funds. Once a vessel is replaced, it will be ineligible for future CFCIP funds. Mr. Woods then reviewed WAC 136-400-020 and pointed out section (4) and what the new proposed language would say and impact counties.

Staff recommended, and the CRABoard approved, a public hearing to be set for public comments and adoption at the next Board Meeting on Thursday, October 27 @ 2:00pm.

County Ferry Capital Improvement Program (CFCIP)

The CRABoard approved Whatcom County's request for a \$10 Million contribution over a 20-year period from the County Ferry Capital Improvement Program (CFCIP). This is for their Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Project. The Technical Review Committee found that the project submitted by Whatcom County is a viable proposal and makes needed improvements for the county to continue to provide service to Lummi Island. Furthermore, the estimated total cost of the project appeared to be reasonable.

Staff Contact: Steve Johnson, P.E., steve.johnson@crab.wa.gov

Resolution 2022-007 - Apportion RATA Funds to Regions

The CRABoard approved Resolution 2022-007 to Apportion RATA Funds to Regions, which authorized the accrued amount of \$5,602,674 deposited to the RATA for April, May and June 2022 be apportioned to the regions by the established 2021-23 biennium regional percentages after setting aside \$142,184 for administration.

Staff Contact: Steve Johnson, P.E., steve.johnson@crab.wa.gov

Resolution 2022-008 – Apportion Remaining 2021-2023 RATA Revenue Funds to Projects

The CRABoard approved Resolution 2022-008 to Approve 2021-2023 RAPA Projects and Allocate 100% of Estimated 2021-2023 RATA Revenue, rescinding Resolution 2022-003 and allocating the remaining '21-'23 biennium RATA revenue funding at this time to projects as shown in Resolution 2022-008.

Staff Contact: Steve Johnson, P.E., steve.johnson@crab.wa.gov



JULY 2022 CRABOARD MEETING UPDATES

Review of RAP Preliminary Arrays

Mr. Johnson reported that after the January 2022 request for project submittals, the counties submitted 118 preliminary proposals on March 1, 2022, totaling a request of \$208,493,300. San Juan County and Pacific County chose not to submit any new projects in this cycle. CRAB engineering staff reviewed these preliminary submittals between March and July with each county engineer or responsible staff to evaluate surface conditions and discuss overall scope of each of the proposals. The scores from the field reviews have been tabulated in order to prepare the preliminary visual arrays for each region.

Mr. Johnson shared arrays which included currently contracted projects that remain underfunded – meaning they have not yet accrued their full RATA requested amount. Partially funded projects will receive funding ahead of new projects. The new submittals are ranked based on visual score. This score will be incorporated into each project's final points based on the county's project expectations and preparation of the scoring worksheets which are included with the final prospectus applications due September 1, 2022.

The final prospectus applications are allowed to request RATA contribution amounts for projects up to the County's established submittal limit. County submittal limits vary per region, and per county in the SE region, and are calculated from the '23-'25 Call for Projects revenue estimate of \$50 million statewide. Staff anticipate that fewer than half of these potential projects will be submitted as final proposals as the counties prioritize these projects.

Staff Contact: Steve Johnson, P.E., steve.johnson@crab.wa.gov

IN OTHER NEWS...

THE CRABOARD IS HEADED ON THE ROAD IN OCTOBER!

The CRABoard's next quarterly meeting will be held up in Skagit County on October 27, 2022 from 9am-5pm, then the CRABoard will be touring county road projects around Skagit and Whatcom Counties the following day on October 28 from 9am-12pm.

Per usual, a Zoom virtual option will be provided for the October 28 Board meeting. Meeting agendas are posted at least five days prior to the meeting. Current materials as well as past agendas, meeting minutes and board packets can always be found at:

<https://www.crab.wa.gov/about-us/county-road-administration-board/board-meetings>



DIVISION REPORTS

ENGINEERING

DEPUTY DIRECTOR UPDATE

It has been a busy quarter for the engineering group. You will read in this report about the successful completion of the first road log submittal using GIS-Mo, work on the current RAP call for projects, and Whatcom County's successful application for funds to upgrade the Lummi Island ferry and facilities. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a few of our peers for awards that CRAB recently handed out in recognition of their service to their community and county governance.

Eric Pierson, P.E. from Chelan County was named the **County Engineer of the Year** at the WSACE conference in Winthrop. Others nominated by their counties for the award were: Mark Storey – Whitman County; Matt Pietrusiewicz – Yakima County; Walt Olsen – Lincoln County; Monte Reinders – Jefferson County; and Susan Eugenis – Cowlitz County

Ron Weeks, P.L.S. from Garfield County was awarded the **Program Manager of the Year** for his work as a one-man engineering department performing project design, construction management, county surveyor duties, GIS manager, and right-of-way manager. The award was given to Ron at the Garfield County BOCC meeting on August 8th.

Steve Bricker from Thurston County was named the **Project Manager of the Year** for Thurston County's Mullen Road project. This \$13.0M project included new water and sanitary sewer (City of Lacey), turn lanes, bike/pedestrian facilities, lighting, stormwater treatment, and a roundabout. The award was given to Steve at the Thurston County BOCC meeting on July 12th.

It is always wonderful to have the opportunity to receive these nominations and serve on the committees that review the nominations and decide on the winners. I hope every year is as strong a group of nominees as this year was. - Drew Woods (Deputy Director)

DESIGN SYSTEMS

Design systems issued a survey to counties to gauge their interest and timing of in-person training. We will use the survey to form our training programs over the next year. CRAB's learning management system is buzzing along with strong usage numbers, including approximately 55% of our own custom content. Overall, the system has provided about 225 hours of training to county staff over the quarter.

Staff Contact: Brian Bailey, brian.bailey@crab.wa.gov

UAS PROGRAMS

The UAS program has been involved in conversations with WSDOT and vendors to utilize the small unmanned aerial systems in various workflows to improve safety by reducing lane closures and exposure of personnel to hazardous environments, lowering costs of typical field inspections, saving time with optimized flights, and improving data with unambiguous analysis of imagery. Over the next quarter, the program will fly multiple missions in support of these initiatives.

Staff Contact: Brian Bailey, brian.bailey@crab.wa.gov

COMPLIANCE CORNER

AKA "STORIES FROM DUNGENESS COUNTY"

Over the last couple of years, we have entertained a number of questions around record keeping, records management, and 'office of record'. Excerpts from the relevant statutes are listed below.

RCW 36.80.015

Office at county seat—Records.

... "The records under the authority of the county road engineer shall be public records, shall be subject to the control of the county road engineer, and shall at all proper times be open to the inspection and examination of the public."

RCW 36.80.040

Records to be kept.

"The office of county engineer shall be an office of record..."

RCW 36.80.060

Engineer to maintain records of expenditures for equipment, etc.—Inventory—Physical archival—Public availability.

"The county road engineer shall maintain and has authority over complete and accurate records of all expenditures..."

Up until case law modified 'office of record' in the mid 1990's, the Office of the County Engineer (OCE) was a true, stand-alone, office of record for all records county road. As it stands now, however, office of record holds true for all Road Department records except those having property rights or 'Title' implications. So, records like ROW documents, easements, some types of permits, establishments, vacations, franchises, land surveys, CRID's, etc., shall be recorded with the county Auditor, and OCE shall keep copies for its records. This is so all these documents follow title, and all rights and encumbrances to title are located in only one office of record, that being the county Auditor.



COMPLIANCE CORNER

AKA "STORIES FROM DUNGENESS COUNTY"

It is recommended that anything you want subsequent owners of property adjacent to county roads to be aware of, you should consider recording with the county Auditor. Examples are access permits, special ROW use permits, notice of ROW encroachment letters, etc.

The modern version of the highway plat book (RCW 36.80.050) is a combination of your digital county road map, GIS layers, the county road log, and your ROW file documentation. Maintenance of the physical highway plat books fell away in the 1980s with the advent of computers in our county road departments but, they are historical documents which OCE must keep and preserve.

The Office of the County Engineer can participate in county centralized records management as long as the county engineer's ultimate authority over the records is not impeded. OCE does not have to designate staff specifically responsible for records management. And, there is the question of all-electronic versus hard copies, there are pros and cons for both, and that is the call of the County Engineer for county road related documents, plans, specs, contracts, as-builts, ROW, permits, etc.

Staff Contact: Derek Pohle, P.E., derek.pohle@crab.wa.gov

GRANT PROGRAMS

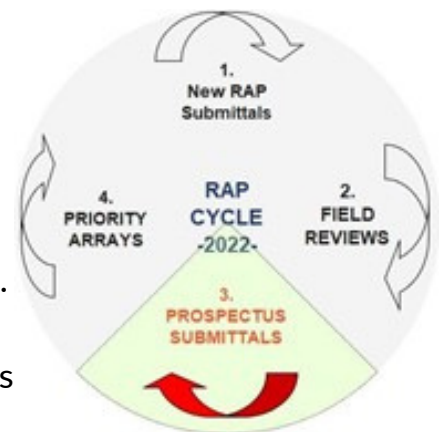
Rural Arterial Program

Field Reviews of all preliminary prospectus applications have been conducted by CRAB staff, allowing the preparation of the preliminary visual arrays for each region.

The preliminary visual arrays help county engineering staff prepare the final prospectus applications, which are due September 1, 2022.

Current RATA balance remains high, and CRAB encourages counties to bring projects to construction this season as possible.

Staff Contact: Steve Johnson, steve.johnson@crab.wa.gov





Completed Projects include:

There were five projects filing for completion in RAP Online during the second quarter of 2022, including Okanogan County's Statler Bridge Emergency Replacement project EM 2418-01. The Statler bridge footing was significantly undermined during high spring runoff in 2018 resulting in immediate closure of the bridge, and subsequent re-opening with a 15-ton weight limit.

A new structure was constructed in place of the old rubble foundation short span bridge, which also alleviated the stream constriction. Total project cost was \$1,284,811 including a RAP contribution of \$1,156,357.



Staff Contact: Steve Johnson, steve.johnson@crab.wa.gov

County Arterial Preservation Program

This year's state transportation budget included a \$10million appropriation from the Move Ahead Washington (MAW) account to counties to be used as additional CAPA funding.

These funds were distributed in early July and will need to be reported as part of the CARS reporting by April 2023. This fund distribution is in addition to the regular CAPA, TPA, and MVA revenue for the biennium.

County Ferry Capital Improvement Program

At the July Board meeting, the CRABoard accepted the CFCIP application from Whatcom County for their Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Project. This project requests \$10 million over a 20-year period. This funding request will be included in the CRAB biennial budget request to the legislature.

Emergency Loan Program

Two loans remain active, totaling \$812,196 awaiting repayment.

Current available balance is \$2,212,045 in case of emergency for eligible counties and purposes.

DIVISION REPORTS

IT

GIS-Mo Upgrade

In the next 12 months, GIS-Mo will be going through an update and upgrade transition that will change the way GIS-Mo looks that will better align with the new and current versions of our ESRI and VUEWorks products. Starting August 22, the IT team will work with ESRI for two weeks to start the upgrade of the ESRI application (GIS) in our dev environment (Test). The transition will be very slow to accommodate counties and their change management process on top of possible work currently happening in their respected counties. The changes will not impact how the application is being used but will have a large impact on the styling of how the county's users will see GIS-Mo. The update & upgrade will also help our security positioning.

CARS and RAP Replacements

CRAB and SmartSimple have finished the purchase order process to replace the CARS and Rap applications with a SmartSimple product. On August 15, CRAB and SmartSimple held an introductory kick off meeting to get the project underway. Over the course of the next year CRAB staff will work closely with SmartSimple to update our CARS and RAP Online systems.

Washington Traffic Safety Grants

CRAB has been awarded two traffic safety grants. The first grant is for \$20,400 to help retain professional services from ESRI to assist our staff upgrade to the new ESRI versioning. The second grant is for \$200,000 to develop a training plan and materials for GIS-Mo. The grant is to produce training materials that have been requested by counties. This is in addition to training that is provided by CRAB staff and is not meant to replace the one-on-one training CRAB provides to counties. *Staff Contact: Tommy Weed, tommy.weed@crab.wa.gov*



COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Connie Bowers – Island County

County Engineer & Public Works Director



After graduating from Texas A&M with a BS in Mechanical Engineering, Connie worked for Tracor Aerospace in Austin, TX, supporting teletypewriter development. She then moved to Waco, TX and designed / analyzed solid rocket motors for Hercules Aerospace.

Following that Connie worked for General Dynamics in Fort Worth, TX performing conceptual / new aircraft mission analysis using various computer models.

She entered the Civil Engineering field when she began working for Island County as their Traffic Engineer in 2007. In 2011, Island County hired Connie as their Assistant County Engineer. With this new responsibility, Connie studied to successfully add a Civil Engineering professional license to her existing PE in Mechanical Engineering. She had an opportunity to work on the municipal side as the Assistant City Engineer for Mukilteo in 2020. Then, returned to Island County at the end of 2021 as the Public Works Director / County Engineer.

West Cashmere Bridge – Chelan County

Chelan County recently completed a years-long effort to replace its functionally obsolete and structurally deficient, 91-year-old West Cashmere Bridge.

Originally built in 1921, the West Cashmere Bridge is a critical connector for the Chelan County community but had to be posted for both weight and height restrictions in recent years. This was the largest funding amount for a county road project in the history of Chelan County - \$26.7 million. The County Road Administration Board, through our Rural Arterial Program, was able to contribute \$2,376,491.48 to the project.



On Wednesday, June 22, the county held an official dedication for the opening of the new bridge. Congratulations to Chelan county!



CALENDAR

UPCOMING KEY EVENTS & MEETINGS

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) Meeting
Historic Davenport – Spokane, WA (Spokane County) | September 22-23, 2022 |
| APWA Fall Meeting
Davenport Grand – Spokane, WA (Spokane County) | October 5-7, 2022 |
| Quarterly CRABoard Meeting
Skagit County Commissioners Hearing Room | October 27-28, 2022 |
| WSAC's County Leaders Conference
Hyatt Regency Lake Washington - Renton, WA (King County) | November 14-16, 2022 |
| Highway Users Federation Interim Briefing
Tacoma Convention Center – 9am-12pm (Pierce County) | November 29, 2022 |
| Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) Meeting
Four Points by Sheraton - Bellingham (Whatcom County) | Dec 1-2, 2022 |
| County Engineer Training
CRAB Office – Olympia, WA
(* <u>Must Be</u> Registered to Attend)
https://www.crab.wa.gov/engineering/resources/county-engineer-training | December 6-8, 2022 |

