



Yamhill County

Public Works Department

2060 Lafayette Avenue, McMinnville Oregon 97128
Ph. 503-434-7455 Fax. 503-435-2699 E-Mail; phelanj@co.yamhill.or.us

John Phelan
Department Director

Roy Panschow
Road Supervisor

Griffin Peal
Road Master

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 26, 2017

TO: Board of Commissioners
Laura Tschabold, County Administrator
Commissioner Stan Primozych
Christian Boenisch, County Counsel
Crystal Cox, Keri Hinton

FROM: John F. Phelan, Director Public Works

SUBJECT: Temporary Reduction of Speed Limit on Willamina Creek Road

During the weekend of October 22, 2017, there was a rock slide near the Hampton Lumber Mill on Willamina Creek Road which resulted in nearly a dozen boulders—a couple as large as vehicles—coming down the hillside and taking out a power pole in the path. This has created an emergency situation that we feel requires us to reduce the speed from mile post .3 to the intersection with Fort Hill Road. This area currently has an ODOT approved speed limit of 35mph. This was approved through Order # 37D dated January 17, 1983. Our intention is to slow traffic to 25mph, and to make the change this week.

Yamhill County Public Works has had a crew and equipment on site to clear the road and is still in the process of trying to barricade the shoulder to protect the travelling public. The department is also fabricating signage to warn of the precarious rocks and is hereby requesting permission from the Board of Commissioners to temporarily reduce the speed limit from 35 MPH to 25 MPH due to potential of more slides.

The obvious concern is for traffic proceeding around the corner at 35 MPH in the hazardous area and encountering a boulder before Public Works has been alerted. The speed limit of 25 MPH would only be imposed for approximately **.75 mile** to Fort Hill Road.

Road departments have the authority under ORS 810.180(8-9) to set a temporary reduced speed limit,

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for all vehicles, if approved by order of the governing body. The order must include the reason for the temporary speed zone (stated above) and the duration of the reduced speed limit. Public Works thinks the order should last until a permanent solution to secure the unstable hillside can be engineered in order to protect the road from damage and more importantly, the public. This designated time period is at the discretion of the Board and may ultimately include the request for a speed zone evaluation and permanent reduction through ODOT processes.

Because of the urgency of this situation, Public Works is requesting that this matter be added to the Agenda for this Thursday's Formal Session, on October 26, 2017. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

John F. Phelan
Director, Yamhill County Public Works

Accepted by Yamhill County
Board of Commissioners on
10-26-17 by Board Order
17-445
for 120 days per ORS 816.180(8)