



June 20, 2013

Coos Bay City Hall
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Coos Bay, OR
97420

www.coosbay.org

Police Department
(541) 269-8911

Fire Department
(541) 269-1191

Library
(541) 269-1101

Public Works &
Development
Department
(541) 269-8918

Economic
Development
(541) 269-8924

Finance
Department
(541) 269-8915

City Manager's
Office
(541) 269-8912

Streets Task Force Committee Openings

If you think our streets are crumbling before our very eyes, you're not alone. Take a drive through most any part of Coos Bay and you can't miss the evidence. Many of our asphalt streets look like a patchwork quilt with the temporary repairs made to them over the years, some of which have failed. Other asphalt streets are plagued with dips, dives, and potholes. Most of our nearly century old concrete streets are crumbling or breaking apart. In some places, there are spaces in the streets where the grass and weeds could use a good mowing. It's not that bad everywhere, of course. Some sections of streets, such as portions of Ocean Blvd and 10th Street for example, are nice and smooth thanks to recent renovations. Some stretches in residential areas are still in sound shape decades after they were built. But many streets in town fall far short of bragging material, and a lot of them are simply bad and getting worse.

In 2002, a comprehensive analysis of street conditions was performed for the City of Coos Bay. At that time, 35% of the roadways were considered to be in "fair" or "poor" condition. More than ten years later, scarce funding has allowed only minimal maintenance to occur, and the percentage of roads in the "fair" or "poor" category has increased.

"Gas taxes, the primary source of revenue for roads, have continued to generate less revenue as cars become more fuel-efficient," explained City Councilor Jennifer Groth. "We need input from the community to find out what aspects of street maintenance are most important to our citizens and to look for creative ways to fund those roadway improvements and repairs."

The City of Coos Bay is forming a Streets Task Force to gather citizen input and provide recommendations to the City Council regarding the best alternatives to maintain city roadways and plan for future growth. The Task Force will convene to discuss the current physical condition of our streets, to learn what other Oregon cities have done to maintain their roads, and to recommend solutions to improve maintenance of our streets to the City Council. The Task Force will meet on an as-needed basis.

The Streets Task Force will include representation from high mileage users of roadways (e.g. taxi and delivery services), experts in engineering and finance, and five (5) members-at-large from the community. Once formed, this group will convene to discuss the current physical condition of our streets, to learn what other Oregon cities have done to maintain their roads, and to recommend solutions to improve management of city streets.

Applications for the Streets Task Force's at-large members are available on the City's website or at City Hall, and they are due by 5:00 p.m. on July 5, 2013. Appointments to the Streets Task Force will be made by the City Council, and all members-at-large positions are required to be City residents. Community members residing outside the City, but who own property within the City are considered to have a residential status and are encouraged to apply for the open positions. The members-at-large position interviews with the City Council are scheduled to start at 6:00 p.m. on July 16, 2013 at Coos Bay City Hall. Questions about the Streets Task Force should be directed to Randy Dixon at 541-269-8918 or rdixon@coobay.org.