



2022

QUARTERLY  
REPORT

PREPARED BY  
County Road Administration Board

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Fourth quarter at the County Road Administration Board has proved to be just as busy, and rewarding, as the last three. We entered October with CRAB's own Cameron Cole presenting on our GIS-Mo project at the Washington Chapter of the American Public Works Association's fall conference in Spokane, WA. The painstaking work staff have put into this project over the past years is really paying off, with Cameron's presentation soliciting a great deal of interest from a broad spectrum of local governments. In many ways GIS-Mo is a game-changer for how local governments operate, and we are excited about the next phases in its development.

I am also proud of the gains we have made in our efforts to be more engaged in our communities. CRAB staff have been on the road ... a lot. We've been in communities providing engineer training, successfully trained nine public work's employees in small, unmanned aerial systems (UAS), held our fourth-quarter board meeting in Skagit County, and hosted our first-ever project tour. The project tour had great turnout, including representation from Washington's legislature, county commissioners, council members, executives, and public works staff. A huge thank you to Whatcom and Skagit Counties, especially, Skagit County Public Works Director, Grace Kane, P.E., and Whatcom County Engineer, Jim Karcher, P.E. The tour would not have been a success without all of your assistance and participation. Thank you!

As we close out the year and look towards 2023 one thing is certain, work will not be slowing down. CRAB plans additional engineer training in the winter, we host our board of directors in Olympia in late January, and the Legislature will commence its 105-day session on January 9. We expect the legislature's agenda to include a focus on driver safety in light of the alarming uptick in traffic collisions and fatalities over the past two years. We also expect a focus on inflation, supply chain issues, and refinement to the Move Ahead Washington transportation package. CRAB looks forward to engaging on these and other important issues in 2023.

As we close out the year, I would like to wish all of you a very happy holiday season and new year!

-Jane Wall, Executive Director

## NEW COUNTY ENGINEERS



### **New County Engineer Appointments**

Grant Morgan, P.E., was appointed the Columbia County Engineer / Public Works Director on November 1, 2022, and interim County Engineer for Garfield County.

Ken Lader, P.E., was officially appointed Clark County Engineer effective October 4, 2022



# OCTOBER 2022 CRABOARD MEETING UPDATES

On October 27, 2022, the CRABoard held its most recent quarterly board meeting up in Skagit County followed by our first ever County Projects Bus Tour the next day October 28. The CRABoard took Legislators, County Public Officials and Public Works Staff around Whatcom and Skagit Counties to show CRAB-funded county road projects.

Information pertaining to past and future meetings can be found on the [CRAB Board website](https://www.crab.wa.gov/about-us/county-road-administration-board/board-meetings), 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](mailto:jason.bergquist@crab.wa.gov)

## New CRAB Staff

The CRABoard welcomed Jacque Netzer as the newly created position of Communications Director. She provided a brief update on her background and prior work experience and shared her excitement in stepping into the new role and helping CRAB tell its story.

## CRABoard Actions

### CERTIFICATIONS

#### Resolution 2022-009 Apportion RATA Funds to Regions

Resolution 2022-009 authorizes that the accrued amount of \$8,656,164 deposited to the RATA for July, August and September 2022 be apportioned to the regions by the established 2021-2023 biennium percentages after setting aside \$159,318 for administration. The resolution was approved by the CRABoard.

#### Resolution 2022-010 RAP Match Adjustment

Resolution 2022-010 was a proposal that “any project that certifies the commencement of construction in 2023 or 2024 will receive full RATA funding up to the total project estimate in the final prospectus. Phased projects must certify construction of all phases to be eligible. Proposal does not require any changes to WAC. Authorizes the Executive Director to amend contracts for eligible projects. Must be formally approved by OFM before final implementation. OFM has reviewed proposal and has no concerns so formal approval was lastly required by the CRABoard.

Example: Dungeness County’s project was estimated at \$3 million, funded with \$2.7 million in RATA and \$300k in local match. If this project reaches construction in 2023/2024, the project RATA share will increase to the full (original estimate of) \$3 million.

Based upon the current revenue forecast, and the statewide reimbursement schedule (compiling each county’s RAP project schedule), increasing the RATA share for projects that certify construction in 2023/2024 will not only assist counties in meeting the increased project costs, but will help spend down the high RATA balance in a controlled and predictable manner. CRAB will retain the authority to pause or withhold voucher payments on projects in the event that the RATA balance drops below predicted levels. If there are too few projects that take advantage of this opportunity, CRAB can consider allowing additional projects that are currently contracted but underfunded to request advance funding. Resolution 2022-010 was approved by the CRABoard.



# OCTOBER 2022 CRABOARD MEETING UPDATES

## **2023-2025 RAP Priority Array Review**

Steve Johnson shared that after the January 2022 request for project submittals, the counties submitted 118 preliminary proposals on March 1, 2022. CRAB engineering staff field reviewed these preliminary submittals in the spring of 2022 with the county engineer or responsible staff to evaluate surface conditions and discuss overall scope of each of the proposals.

63 final prospectuses were received from the counties by September 1, 2022, requesting \$100,660,700 in RATA funding in the 2023-2025 biennium. This is compared to the 75 prospectuses requesting \$103,132,800 in the current biennium. The estimated revenue for the 2023-2025 biennium is \$50,000,000, which includes \$9,331,000 in legislative Motor Vehicle Account transfers into the RATA account. Including the MVA transfers in the estimate for the call for prospectuses (though not codified in CRAB's budget) ensures the Board has a large array that can direct all 'potential' funding to the most competitive projects in each region.

CRAB staff will review the 2023-2029 Six Year Program submittals for each county early in January to ensure that proposed RAP projects are included in those programs.

Mr. Johnson shared draft funding arrays which included a column showing "likely funding" amounts. These amounts are assigned based on project scoring, with consideration of county funding limit, as well as project type (in some regions). There may be changes to the arrays and funding amounts depending on budget forecasts, and county priorities. Initial funding (90% of the forecast amount) will be presented to the Board for consideration in April 2023.

Staff Contact: Steve Johnson, P.E., [steve.johnson@crab.wa.gov](mailto:steve.johnson@crab.wa.gov)

## **Annual Certification Form**

The 2022 Annual Certification Form was approved by the CRABoard.

## **Proposed WAC Change – Chapter 136-400**

Deputy Director Drew Woods presented the Board with proposed amendments to adopt for Chapter 136-400 WAC regarding the administration of the County Ferry Capital Improvement Program (CFCIP). The proposed amendments to Chapters 136-400-020, 136-400-030, and 136-400-080 WAC would limit funding from the CFCIP to replacing an existing ferry vessel once. With this proposed change, Whatcom and Wahkiakum counties would still be eligible for CFCIP vessel replacement funding. However, Pierce and Skagit counties will no longer be eligible for CFCIP vessel replacement funding since all of their vessels have received CFCIP funding for replacement. A public hearing for public comments and adoption at the Board Meeting took place but no further comments were received so the CRABoard approved the proposed WAC changes be adopted. Staff Contact: Drew Woods, P.E., [drew.woods@crab.wa.gov](mailto:drew.woods@crab.wa.gov)

## **Next Board Meeting**

The CRABoard will have its next Quarterly Meeting from January 19 – 20, 2023 in Olympia.



# DIVISION REPORTS

## ENGINEERING

### DEPUTY DIRECTOR UPDATE

The third quarter of 2022 was one filled with travel, training, and outreach. In August we made county visits to Garfield, Columbia, and Walla Walla counties. The visits give us the opportunity to hear what is happening in the counties, get feedback on what CRAB does and how we can do better, and answer questions that counties have. Besides CRAB staff on these visits, it was nice to have Axel Swanson, WSACE Managing Director, with us to give updates on the federal fund negotiations and other legislative items and priorities.

Our travels also took us to Benton County and Whatcom County. In Benton County, we were invited to provide a condensed version of our county engineer training to staff from Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, and Yakima counties. We had over 20 participants and the training went very well. The attendees included county engineers, financial staff, project managers, and maintenance personnel.

I would like to give a big thank you to Benton County for hosting us and providing a great facility for the training. Derek Pohle also provided a one-day class for Whatcom County maintenance staff highlighting the interaction of the office of the county engineer and road maintenance activities. If you have desire to have CRAB come to your county or region to offer training on the office of the county engineer, please reach out to Derek Pohle. We are happy to travel and offer the training to counties that fits their needs.

I want to highlight a new training at CRAB that I think is a huge assistance to county staff. In October, Brian Bailey (CRAB staff) and Dave Bren (Grant County Engineer) hosted a class to aid county staff obtain their pilots license to fly Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) aka drones. This three-day class was hosted by Grant County in Ephrata with testing performed at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake. All nine participants successfully passed their exam and now have their UAS pilot's license. Great work Brian, Dave, and everyone who attended. Keep your eyes open for an announcement from CRAB offering the same training on the west side of the state in early 2023. Our goal will be to offer this training twice a year - once on each side of the state.

- Drew Woods (Deputy Director)





# COMPLIANCE CORNER

## AKA “QUESTIONS FROM DUNGENESS COUNTY”

“As a western Washington County, we have various drainage concerns. Some of these directly involve the roadway template, but others are only adjacent or have a limited link to the road system. Request – can you provide guidance on good decision-making with Road Fund monies in mind when involved & cost-sharing with other county divisions or outside agencies?”

CRAB is not aware of anything written down like a decision matrix but, we offer this narrative, the principles of which you may be able to develop your own basic matrix. Passing a natural water course under the road is a clear road purpose, water present year-round or intermittently. Same with water flowing in your constructed roadside ditches, although hopefully it's not there year-round. Passing water under the road from a manmade off-site ditch system or canal depends on the type of structure. Culverts are typically part of the canal system, bridges are typically part of the road system. Hopefully there is some sort of crossing agreement between the parties. When dealing with other county or outside agencies regarding drainage, the first question is why are you doing the project, road purpose or other purpose? Who is proposing the project? Sometimes fish passage can be a road purpose, or flood/high water management can be a road purpose. Who will own, manage, and maintain the facility when it is complete? There are ample opportunities to partner or cost share on these projects, maximizing everyone's resources. Partnering can be a trying exercise sometimes, but don't shy away.

Here is an example scenario: The road department has a culvert that is old and in fair condition, but deterioration is ongoing. It performs adequately most of the time but backs up water in the highest runoff events, and it is considered a partial fish barrier. It is on your list of culverts to replace but it's down the list. Your stormwater/surface water group or local conservation group also has it on their list due to its being a high-quality habitat drainage, flood control and fish passage issues, and it is higher up on their list and receives some grant funding. Your replacement analysis indicates a larger culvert would suffice, but the water resources group analysis indicates a bridge is required to meet channel/floodplain/floodway issues and fish passage. You could cost share on the project, and probably should take that opportunity, with an equitable distribution of costs. County Road more than likely administers the project. The majority of the project cost and match falls on the grant and water resources funds, with County Road paying an equitable share of the match. Obviously, the bridge becomes yours when it is complete, but the driving force for the project, and grant funding success, was not a road purpose.

Each situation will have its own unique circumstances and merits so, be prepared to talk, to be creative and less territorial, and to recognize the public benefit and good public policy. What will your citizens expect? Remember the “Who Cares” test...

*Staff Contact: Derek Pohle, P.E., [derek.pohle@crab.wa.gov](mailto:derek.pohle@crab.wa.gov)*



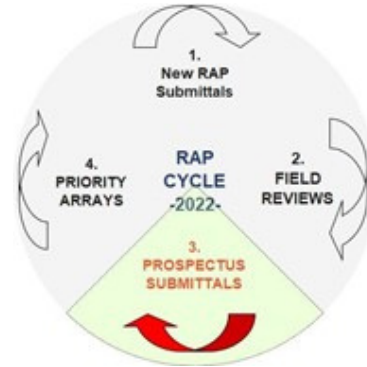


# GRANT PROGRAMS

Staff Contact: Steve Johnson, [steve.johnson@crab.wa.gov](mailto:steve.johnson@crab.wa.gov)

## Rural Arterial Program

63 final prospectuses were received from the counties by September 1, 2022, requesting \$100,660,700 in RATA funding in the 2023-2025 biennium. The estimated revenue for this biennium is \$50,000,000. This revenue is expected to be awarded in April 2023 to existing underfunded projects as well as new contracts, as ranked on the funding arrays, considering county funding limits and regional rules.



All proposed RAP projects must be included in the counties' six-year plans.

Since the RATA fund balance remains high, the CRABoard approved a resolution allowing a short-term RAP project match elimination for projects reaching construction in CY23 and CY24. This resolution will allow CRAB to increase the RATA authorized funding amount to the full project estimate provided on the project's final prospectus, again, for those projects reaching construction in 2023/2024. Projects that are phased must commence with construction of all phases to be eligible. While this match elimination will not necessarily cover the entire project construction cost increase due to inflation or other pressure, the proposal will help partner with the counties to meet that need, while also spending down the high RATA balance in a controlled and predictable manner.

## Completed Projects include:

There were five projects filing for completion in RAP Online during the third quarter of 2022, including Franklin County's Coyan Bridge #200-9.93 project FA 1118-02.

Coyan Bridge #200-9.93 was an 84' three span timber structure constructed in 1055 to span the Columbia Irrigation District's Potholes East Canal.



In 2004, rotting timber stringers were detected. A temporary fix was installed in 2017, and federal funds were secured to replace the bridge. This was a Federal Aid Bridge project. A new single span concrete bridge replaced the rotting timber structure. The new bridge is wider, allowing agricultural implements to cross safely.

## Emergency Loan Program

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

Current available balance is \$2,216,776 in case of emergency for eligible counties and purposes.



# DIVISION REPORTS

## IT



### **CRAB Product & System Updates**

GIS-Mo Transportation Asset Management System (TAMS)

### **APWA Conference Presentation**

CRAB Staff attended the APWA Fall 2022 Conference in Spokane from October 5th-7th. Cameron Cole spoke twice, once on a Panel Discussion in “Emerging Technology for Public Works” and then presented later on “GIS-Mo: GIS Impact on County Road Department”.

### **ESRI Environment Upgrade**

CRAB GIS recently upgraded our entire ESRI environment to a more current version. This provides many features our users have been requesting, and resolves several critical system bugs, e.g., the road log event timeout issue! This major upgrade was accomplished with minimal downtime thanks to a good test run in our development environment.

Looking forward, CRAB IT will be upgrading both the VUEWorks application when it receives a stable Road & Highways enabled version and moving our ESRI environment to the web GIS platform (ArcGIS Pro).

### **VUEWorks Reports**

The GIS-Mo team has refactored how it delivers dynamic report data sources. Pivoting from 39 unique data sources to one for all 39 counties will improve overall delivery times for CRAB IT services. In the last quarter 11 new dynamic report data sources have been made available. Very soon CRAB will provide a data dictionary for all available dynamic report data sources. Further descriptions and specific instructions regarding these are available on the Pinnacle Series LMS under the VUEWorks topic. If you have any problems or questions, please reach out to us by phone (360.753.5989), or ticket <https://www.crab.wa.gov/form/helpdesk-form>.

### **GIS-Mo Pavement Management System (GPMS)**

CRAB & 19 Counties formed a workgroup to develop a configuration template that each county can fill out and supply CRAB staff with relevant pavement management system information that will be used to configure their county’s VUEWorks application to their pavement management program. The workgroup has concluded with what is need and CRAB staff is currently working on the collecting the information from the 39 counties. Thank you to those counties for your engagement in the GPMS Workgroup! Adams, Chelan, Clark, Douglas, Franklin, Island, King, Kitsap, Lincoln, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skagit, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Whatcom, Yakima

### **CRAB-NET Help Desk (<https://www.crab.wa.gov/form/helpdesk-form>)**

CRAB has revamped the IT helpdesk. This project overhauled the Help Desk categories so tickets to be routed to the appropriate team member and removed the barrier of logging-in to create a ticket. CRAB staff is committed to provided excellent service to counties and all its’ customers!



# COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

## Grace Amundsen-Barnkow – Pacific County County Engineer & Interim Director



Grace Amundsen-Barnkow is a Civil Engineer (PE) and Manager, specializing in Transportation, Development, and Public Policy Analysis, with Pacific County, Washington. She has a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Colorado Denver.

Her research interests include telework, the effects of deregulation of traffic safety, and zoning code revisions to promote affordable housing. Grace currently serves as the President of the PNW Chapter of the Society of Women Engineers, and previously has served as the Secretary of the ASCE Tacoma-Olympia chapter and as a past President of the ITE UAF chapter, among other roles.

She moved down to Washington from Alaska in 2017. Past professional roles have included work with the City of SeaTac, Parametrix, and the State of Alaska. Grace also owns two small businesses, a fabrication shop and a farm. In her free time, she enjoys historical reenactment events with the Society for Creative Anachronism and local Renaissance Fairs, open water swimming, bee and goat keeping, travel, and art.

## CALENDAR

### UPCOMING KEY EVENTS & MEETINGS

**Highway Users Federation Interim Briefing**  
Tacoma Convention Center – 9am-12pm

**November 29, 2022**  
Pierce County

**Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) Meeting**  
Four Seasons by Sheraton - Bellingham

**Dec 1-2, 2022**  
Whatcom County

**County Engineer Training**  
CRAB Office – Olympia, WA

**December 6-8, 2022**  
\*Must Be Registered to Attend

**Quarterly CRABoard Meeting**  
CRAB Office – Olympia, WA

**January 19-20, 2023**  
Thurston County



## **NEED OUR HELP?**

In order for CRAB to best serve you, please put in a request to the [Help Desk](#) so the appropriate CRAB staff member receives your question and can follow up.

(webpage: <https://www.apps.crab.wa.gov/helpdesk>)