



2023

QUARTERLY
REPORT

PREPARED BY
County Road Administration Board

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The County Road Administration Board is full steam ahead in 2023, providing the same great service with some new flair. We are extremely proud of our recent [Data Story](#), a months-long effort funded by Washington State Association of Counties fuel-tax study funds. This communication medium is just one way we are changing how we communicate with all of you. In fact, this will be our last Quarterly Report. You will still receive the same great information, but in new formats to ensure we are getting our messages out effectively and efficiently. Keep an eye out in your inbox as we move into spring when we transition to an easier to read newsletter.

These changes and additions are a larger part of our vision to be a recognized leader in trusted, effective, visionary transportation administration. To be recognized, we have to highlight the exceptional work of our counties and the County Road Administration Board. We welcome feedback and ideas, so please do not hesitate to reach out and let us know what you think.

None of this could have been done without the extraordinary efforts of the County Road Administration Board staff. The work they are producing is a testament to their commitment to our counties, and the broader public at large. We have a great team, and it is a privilege to work with them every day.

- Jane Wall, CRAB Executive Director



NEW COUNTY ENGINEERS

New Appointments

Joe Donisi, P.E., was appointed Clallam County Engineer effective December 6, 2022, after previously serving as interim County Engineer since February 1, 2022.

Seth Scarola, PE., was appointed interim Klickitat County Engineer effective December 31, 2022

Sadi' Stouder-Pettenger, PE., was appointed Skamania County Engineer on February 1, 2023



JANUARY 2023 CRABOARD MEETING UPDATES

On January 19-20, 2023, the CRABoard held its recent quarterly board meeting at the CRAB office in Olympia, WA

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

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

Board Member Update

Skagit County Commissioner Lisa Janicki notified the CRABoard she was resigning her position effective January 31, 2023. A replacement will be chosen soon to complete her current 3-year term on the Board which is set to expire in June 2024. The position is for a commissioner or councilmember from a medium size county with a population between 30,000 to 150,000. Anyone meeting these criteria who is interested can apply by going to the [WSAC website](#)

2023 Meeting Schedule

The CRABoard set the remaining 2023 Quarterly Meeting dates for April 13-14 (Olympia), July 27-28 (Kitsap County) and October 26-27 (Spokane County) with a County Projects Tour in that area.

Annual Report

CRABoard's 2022 Annual Report was sent out to Legislators on the Senate and House Transportation Committees in early January and hard copies were also mailed to each County Engineer. You can also go to the [CRAB website](#) to find the Annual Report.

CRABoard Actions

CERTIFICATION

Resolution 2023-001 Apportion RATA Funds to Regions

Resolution 2023-001 – Apportion RATA Funds to Regions - was approved by the CRABoard. This resolution authorized that the accrued amount of \$5,636,181 deposited to the RATA for October, November, and December 2022 be apportioned to the regions by the established 2021-2023 biennium percentages after setting aside \$165,476 for administration.

Skagit County Construction Extension Request

The CRABoard approved a request by Skagit County to extend the construction time for RAP funded Francis Road (segment 1) project that was going to lapse April 16, 2023 and has now been granted an extension by 2 years through April 16, 2025.



JANUARY 2023 CRABOARD MEETING UPDATES

Budget Status Update

Deputy Director (Drew Woods) provided an update of the current budget status. CRAB's three operating accounts continue to project to end with a positive variance. CRAB staff is evaluating 23-25 biennium expenditures to move into the current biennium to take advantage of the remaining budget capacity.

A review of the Governor's proposed 23-25 transportation budget was discussed. The Governor's budget includes all of the requests made by CRAB with the exception of a reduced transfer from the State Motor Vehicle Account into the Rural Arterial Trust Account and the County Arterial Trust Account. The transfer amounts were decreased from the 21-23 amount to the 19-21 biennium amount. This is approximately \$7.4 million in funding that CRAB hopes to restore for county road preservation needs. Staff will be working with legislative staff to try to get the transfers restored to the current 21-23 amounts.

Next Board Meeting

The CRABoard will have its next Quarterly Meeting on April 13-14, 2023 at the CRAB office in Olympia.

DIVISION REPORTS ENGINEERING

DEPUTY DIRECTOR UPDATE

It was another successful quarter for the engineering division. In November 2022 we participated in the County Leaders conference. At the conference, the opportunity to network is always a positive. At the same time, we are able to listen to the counties and hear opportunities to learn, improve, and provide assistance to and from the counties.

From those interactions, the engineering division will be evaluating several items this next quarter such as:

- Required submittals for compliance – evaluating the why, do we still need it, and explaining how the submittal and data is used.
- RAP Program – How can we make the program more effective at funding projects that meet the counties needs with as few constraints as possible while still meeting the statutory requirements of the program.
- What data do we currently not collect, but see a need to communicate the counties road needs.

In December 2022, the Governor's transportation budget was announced. It was very fulfilling to see our hard work culminate in the Governor's office fully funding all of our requests. While this is only the first milestone in the budget adoption process, I think this speaks to the success of the work that has been done to strengthen relationships with OFM and legislative staff.

Staff Contact: Drew Woods, P.E., drew.woods@crab.wa.gov



DIVISION REPORTS

ENGINEERING

Design Systems and UAS Programs

Registration is now open for the 2023 Road Design Conference, which will be held at Campbell's Resort on March 22nd to March 24th, 2023. The conference has been fully funded and will be sponsored by 9 companies in 2023. Autodesk, IMAGINiT Technologies, Cadapult Software Solutions, Carlson Software, Team D3, Eagle Point Software, TOPCON Solutions, Frontier Precision and DTS have graciously agreed to support CRAB in our efforts to provide quality training to county staff. We will have 13 speakers offering 14 presentations over the three-day conference. Attendance this year will be capped at 100 registrants. This number has been increased from last year's cap of 90 registrants.

Register [HERE](#) or go to our CRAB website at:

<https://www.crab.wa.gov/services/design-systems/2023-road-design-conference-coming>

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*Washington State
County Road Administration Board*

*2023 Road Design
Conference
Chelan, Washington*



County Compliance Support

CRAB staff conducted two training sessions in the last quarter of 2022. In December, a three-day county engineer training (CET) was held at the CRAB offices in Olympia with six counties represented. In October, a two-hour Teams training was given to Benton County staff to help get new management and key staff refreshed on annual reporting and the use of CARS.

All of the following forms and reports required to be submitted to CRAB by December 31st, 2022 in order to maintain compliance with the Standards of Good Practice have been submitted on time by all of the 39 counties.

Annual Construction Program, Six Year Transportation Improvement Program, CAPP program, PMS Certification, Road Fund Budget Summary, Maintenance Management Work Plan and Budget, County Engineer's Certification Form.

All counties are required by WAC 136-28 to have responded to/processed at least 90% of the county road collision reports submitted to them for coding by December 31st of each calendar year. For 2022, 35 of 39 counties were compliant as required with the 3 remaining counties being very close to compliance and considered to be in reasonable compliance due to timing system issues outside of county control. One issue still plagues the CLAS system which relates to how the WSDOT program reacts to a "not my jurisdiction" response from the county.

CARS replacement with SmartSimple continued in earnest.

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DIVISION REPORTS

ENGINEERING

Road Systems Manager Update

This quarter was spent running numerous road rating status reports and working with county staff to ensure they met the December 31 due date for WAC 136-70 CAPP-Pavement Management Certification. This submittal is to ensure all paved arterial and collectors have been surveyed for pavement distress within 2021 and/or 2022 year.

Next quarter, I will be conducting onsite Pavement Management (VisRate) training for Clallam, Benton, San Juan, and Whatcom counties. In addition, we have conducted numerous Teams meeting for new users and refresher GIS-Mo training opportunities to prepare staff for the upcoming Road Log submittals that are due on April 1.

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RAP Regional Meetings

Regional meetings were held in November 2022, including topics:

Publishing public hearing notices in alternate language(s) –

- Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in any program or activity that receives Federal Funds or other federal financial assistance.
- Heal Act (state funds) requirements only apply for transportation projects over \$15m.
- 6-year Plan notifications: consider your notification requirements for public hearings announcements

Discussion of WDFW fish passage permitting requirements (recent WDFW rulemaking outreach)

- Climate change consideration impacts (WDFW map tool), as well as other WDFW proposed rules, may result in significantly larger fish passage structures than current rules.
- For more information on WDFW rulemaking, see their [website](#)
 - There you can find several presentations that WDFW have prepared, as well as a recorded meeting presentation on their YouTube page.
- Also briefly discussed was maintenance culvert work and referenced a Memorandum of Agreement between WDFW and WSDOT on one of their projects. This agreement includes processes agreed to between WDFW and WSDOT for permitting of culvert work. [Click link](#) for more details.
 - Appendix B (pages 48-49) outlines the Statement of Principles in developing this WSDOT/WDFW agreement, and is worth reviewing for context in county projects.

RAP Online updates

- RAP Online (and CARS) are in the process of being replaced. Working with SmartSimple to build the replacement. Beta testing likely to begin early next year, and full replacement by June.



DIVISION REPORTS

ENGINEERING

Match adjustment for projects reaching construction in 2023/2024.

- The current RATA balance remains high, and counties are facing increased costs for projects (among multiple other difficulties).
- At the October CRABoard meeting, the Board approved a proposal to adjust RAP match requirements for projects reaching construction in calendar year 2023 or 2024.
- Qualifying projects will be offered additional RATA up to the original final prospectus estimate. Since projects typically require a 90%/10% RATA/match ratio, for most projects, this will increase RATA by that remaining 10%.
- If construction is phased, the final phase of construction must occur within the 2023/2024 timeframe to qualify.
- This RATA match adjustment is not expected to cover for all project cost increases, but will help counties meet these costs, while also lowering the RATA balance.

RAP/FLAP project updates

- Reviewed projects – including projects that may potentially qualify for the RATA match adjustment.
- Highlighted projects that are within 6 months of design/construction/phase lapse

Draft funding array – 2023-2025 Biennium

- Reviewed draft funding arrays
- All active and proposed projects must be on the county's 6-year plan (by December 31, 2022) – if you need time to process an amendment, please contact Steve Johnson directly to discuss.
- The draft funding array includes “Likely Funding” – there are many factors that may result in changes to these funding amounts – final array will be prepared for CRABoard consideration in April 2023.

Emergency Loan Program Status: Current fund balance is \$2.2 million

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GRANT PROGRAMS

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

Rural Arterial Program

Rural Arterial Program (RAP) regional meetings took place in November 2022. Reviewed all active and proposed RAP projects against the county-submitted 6-year plans. Reviewed County Arterial Preservation Program (CAPP) Plans that were submitted in CARS. RAP Online replacement with SmartSimple continued.



Completed Projects include:

There were three projects filing for completion in RAP Online during the fourth quarter of 2022, including Chelan County, Skagit County, and Thurston County.



Chelan County

Wenatchee Heights Road

RC -0415-02

Total Project Cost: \$2,343,026

RAP Contribution: \$2,108,723

Local Contribution: \$234,303

Wenatchee Heights Road is a rural minor collector that serves as the main access to the Wenatchee Heights area from the City of Wenatchee. It serves residential and school bus traffic, orchardists, and outdoor enthusiasts. The road was rutting, alligating, shoving, and settling in many locations. The horizontal curves were tight and the width varied, resulting in difficult maneuvering for trucks.

This was a Reconstruction project.

The road structure was reconstructed and strengthened. The alignment was improved within topographical limitations to provide a consistent width, improved curves, and stormwater management.



GRANT PROGRAMS

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

Skagit County

Josh Wilson Road

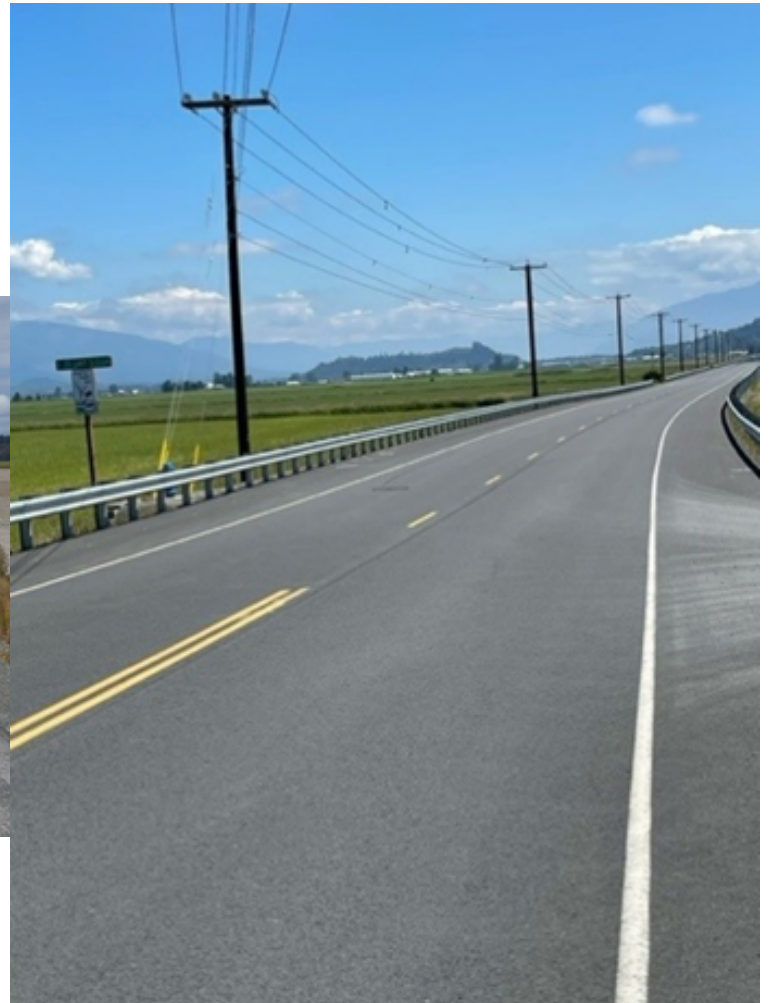
3R -2918-01

Total Project Cost: \$4,437,879

RAP Contribution: \$1,100,000

Fed Contribution: \$1,337,161

Local Contribution: \$2,100,718



Josh Wilson Road provides direct access to the Port of Skagit, over 100 businesses, connections between farming communities, and residential housing.

The original road was constructed on a peat bog and has been deteriorating even with continuous county maintenance.

This was a 3R project (Resurface/Restoration/Rehabilitation).

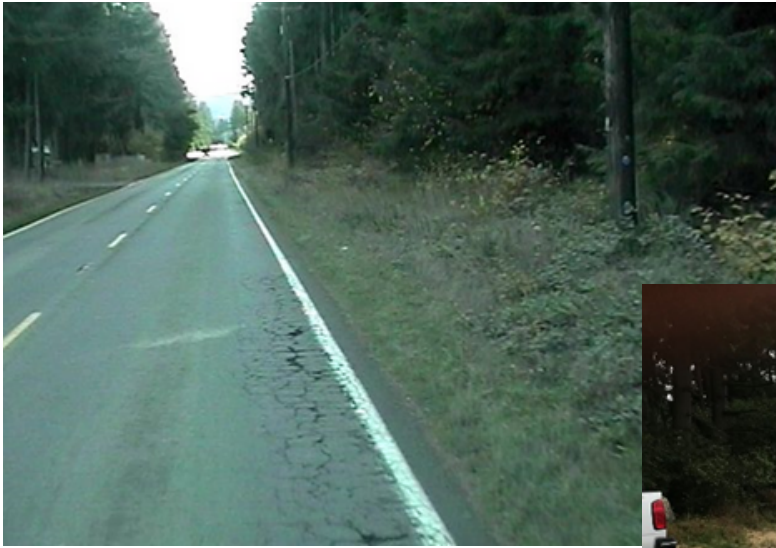
The existing pavement was removed, the roadbed was regraded with new rock and surfacing, and a new concrete box culvert was installed.

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



GRANT PROGRAMS

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



Thurston County

Vail Road

3R -3415-01

Total Project Cost: \$2,549,268

RAP Contribution: \$1,800,000

Local Contribution: \$ 749,268



Vail Road provides access from parts of southeast county to SR507 and the City of Yelm. This segment of Vail Road connects to previous widening projects.

The road was narrow with minimal shoulder, rutting and cracking, and clear zone obstructions.

This was a 3R project (Resurface/Restoration/Rehabilitation).

The road was widened to 11-ft lanes with 5-ft paved shoulders. Obstructions were removed from the clear zone or accommodated appropriately.

DIVISION REPORTS

GIS-Mo – December 2022 Update

IT

CRAB IT staff performed a major update to all 39 county GIS-Mo VUEWorks sites. CRAB IT & Engineering met following the inaugural road log certification in 2022 to document lessons learned. This update completed the effort to ensure the product changes from lessons learned were implemented so that County and CRAB Engineers could begin submitting, auditing, and certifying county road logs immediately beginning 2023.

In addition to the primary road log certification changes, the December update included high value improvements for pavement management and other user feature requests, such as Surface Condition Layers (Previous Year, Current Year, and Most Recent Rating) for standards of good practice compliance analysis and pavement management, Pavement Management Layer to prepare for advanced module configuration in budget forecasting, and a Network Milepost Layer used for county technicians to quickly locate new and existing assets.

DIVISION REPORTS

IT

GIS Day Presentation

GIS Day provides an opportunity for GIS professionals to highlight and celebrate solutions that are transforming data management, customer service, decision making, and much more! It's also an opportunity for GIS professionals to highlight and celebrate their awesome work. Part of our ongoing effort to meet the strategic goal to magnify CRAB presence and credibility from our CRAB 2021 strategic plan.

SmartSimple: CARS & RAP Saas Replacement

The 2020 CRAB IT Strategic Plan identified a strategy to implement more Commercial off the Shelf (COTS) and Software as a Service (SaaS) solutions as opposed to custom software solutions. This would allow CRAB software to meet the needs of County and CRAB staff more rapidly. With both the CRAB Annual Report System (CARS) and RAP Online applications ready for overhaul, CRAB secured a grant via WSAC/E study funds to update these in FY23. Using the SaaS master contract, CRAB staff is currently underway with SmartSimple in developing a scope of work. SmartSimple is a low-code, configuration-based technology that specializes in workflow automation and will give CRAB IT the ability to self-configure as the needs of business owners change.

Emma: Email and Marketing Campaign

Most of what CRAB does requires excellent communication. One of the strategic goals from our 2022 strategic plan is to magnify CRAB presence and credibility. Emma® is an email marketing tool to manage distribution lists and so much more. CRAB staff will be able to build brand consistency, target audiences, automate campaigns, and analyze outreach effectiveness, all from the Emma® platform. The Emma® project team is in final stages of implementation.

Security: Vulnerability Management

It is critical that our IT security keep pace with the constantly evolving risks and exploits faced in cybersecurity. The State Office of Cybersecurity was established to develop centralized services and functions across state agencies in 2021. CRAB IT security has been implementing all manner of cybersecurity tools in the form of threat protection, mobile device management, and vulnerability management to protect state and county data from bad actors.

CRAB IT Security has been so effective implementing these solutions that since inception of the program in September 2022, CRAB has always ranked in the top 3 of 150 agencies! In November 2022, CRAB ranked #1 of 150!





CALENDAR

UPCOMING KEY EVENTS & MEETINGS

Board of County Commissioner (BOCC) Training On-line (County Engineers & Staff welcome to attend)	February 23-24, 2023 *Register HERE
FMSIB Board Meeting Port of Kalama	March 17, 2023 Cowlitz County
Road Design Conference Campbell's Resort (Lake Chelan)	March 22-24, 2023 Chelan County
Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) Meeting DoubleTree Suites by Hilton (SeaTac)	March 23-24, 2023 King County
Quarterly CRABoard Meeting CRAB Office - Olympia, WA	April 13-14, 2023 Thurston County