



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of County Commissioners
From: Mike Russell, Public Works Director, Roadmaster MR
Cc: Ed McGlone, Assistant County Counsel
Date: October 30, 2025

Subject: Woodson Road Property Dedications for Right-of-way

Action Requested

The Board is being asked to accept right-of-way dedications to establish a portion of Woodson Road as a County Road and to authorize Public Works to maintain the road.

Background

The Board has been briefed several times on the issues related to no known right-of-way on the dikes in the Clatskanie drainage district areas.

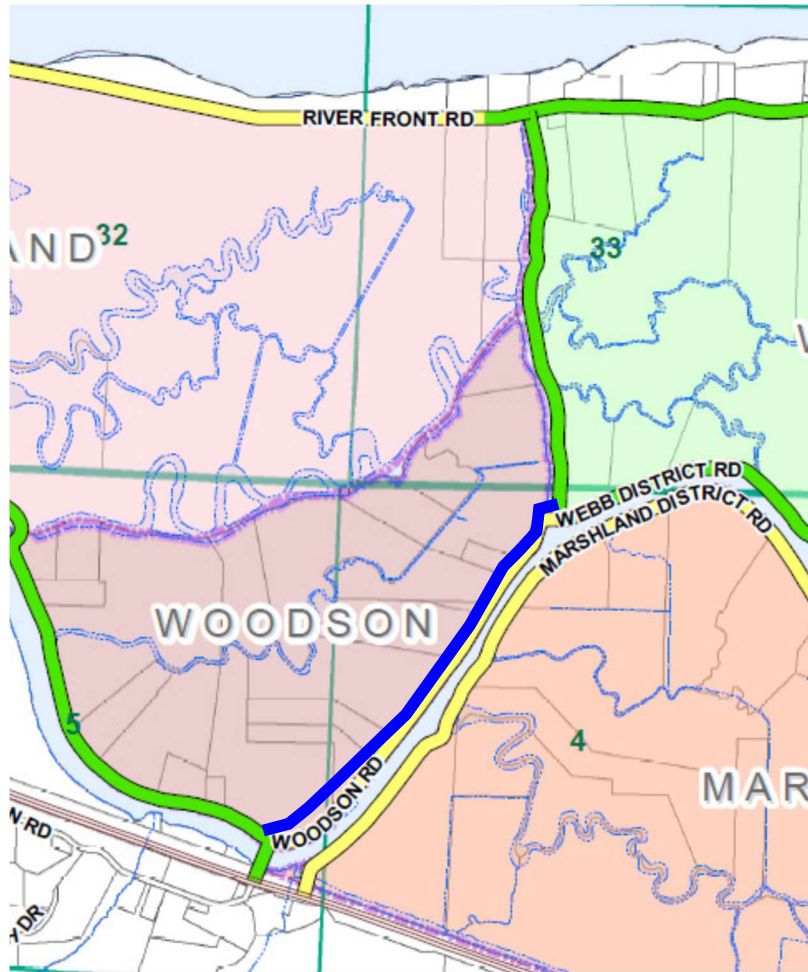
Most recently, the Board heard a report from staff and interested parties on Woodson Road on June 18, 2025. Property owners along Woodson Road indicated a desire to dedicate the necessary right-of-way to the County to create a county road and have the Public Works Department take over maintenance of the road. The Board directed staff to work with the property owners to prepare the necessary documents and take actions to accomplish it.

Since then, staff has worked to have the necessary documents signed by the property owners and is now coming to the Board to take formal action to accept the dedications and identify the road as a County Road.

Analysis

The portion of Woodson Road in question is that portion between the bridge close to Hwy 30 and the intersection of Woodson Road and Webb District Road, a distance of approximately 4,800 feet (see blue highlight on image below). Staff has not been able to find evidence that this portion of Woodson Road was ever accepted by the Board as a public road or identified as a County Road, the two requirements needed for the Public Works Department to maintain it.

The portion of Woodson Road from the intersection of Webb District Road to River Front Road is currently identified as a Local Access Road, created consistent with Board Order 113-91 that defined the roads around the Webb Drainage District as such.



Portion of Woodson Road

The subject section of Woodson Road is paved and is characterized as narrow, perched on top of the constructed dike, and in need of pavement preservation to dig out base failures and address potholes. Since the right-of-way issue was brought up, the neighbors have been performing some maintenance on this road to keep it passable.



Woodson Road looking North toward Webb District Road intersection

As you can see from the photo, taken in 2023, if the Board accepts the road as a County road, there will be a need to spend some time and resources on this road to reclaim the right-of-way, manage vegetation (the blackberries along the road can overtake the road and be a problem in the Spring) and address the pavement condition.

Recommendation

As has been discussed, there is some history of Public Works maintaining this portion of Woodson Road as with the other roads that are in question as to county road status. The Department Director has indicated verbally and in writing that, if property owners were willing to dedicate the needed right-of-way and make these roads County roads, the department would be willing to take over maintenance responsibility.

It is understood that the Department does not necessarily have the resources to take on additional milage at this time, but given the unique circumstances of the history of these drainage district roads, the department's past maintenance activity, and property owner's willingness to dedicate right-of-way to the County, the Director is willing to accept these roads at this time and work to address needed maintenance on this road into the future.

Therefore, the County Roadmaster recommends the Board accept the dedications of right-of-way for this portion of Woodson Road and identify it as a County Road.

Next Steps

If accepted and identified as a County Road, staff will record the dedications consistent with the Board's action. Public Works will add this portion of Woodson Road to our road maintenance list and perform routine road maintenance activities.