



# MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 8/18/11)

### Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 6/14/12  
 Agenda Item #: R.4  
 Est. Start Time: 10:20 am  
 Date Submitted: 5/23/12

**Agenda Title:** **Resolution Setting a Public Hearing and Directing Notice Regarding the Proposed Vacation of a Portion of a Public Road Pursuant to ORS 368.346(2)**

*Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title sufficient to describe the action requested.*

**Requested Meeting Date:** June 14, 2012      **Time Needed:** 10 minutes

**Department:** Community Services      **Division:** Land Use & Transportation

**Contact(s):** Patrick Hinds, LUT Right of Way Manager

**Phone:** (503) 988-3712      **Ext.** 83712      **I/O Address:** #425/2nd

**Presenter Name(s) & Title(s):** Patrick Hinds, LUT ROW Manager, and Matthew Ryan, Assistant County Attorney

## General Information

### 1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Approve the vacation of a portion of a public road as shown on the Hillhurst Plat pursuant to ORS 368.326 to 368.366.

### 2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

The portion of public road proposed to be vacated was established by dedication on the recorded plat for Hillhurst Subdivision in 1892. The road was never improved and mainly consists of a 30-foot wide right-of-way encompassing most of the perimeter of the subdivision, hereinafter referred to as the "Hillhurst Road." In 2009, certain abutting landowners filed a declaratory judgment action challenging the existence of Hillhurst Road, and the matter was tried in August 2010. In August 2011, the trial court issued its decision finding that the public road was created by the recording of the Hillhurst Plat, but events subsequent to the road's establishment resulted in a vacation of the entire Hillhurst Road.

The County believes the trial court erred in this decision and filed a timely notice of appeal to the State Court of Appeals in October 2011. The parties to the appeal are the County and the abutting property owners (the "respondents") who filed the original case. The Court of Appeals has implemented a Settlement Program which requires parties to an appeal to make a good faith effort to settle the case. The County and the respondents have proposed a mutually acceptable settlement concept under which the County will

initiate the road vacation of a portion of Hillhurst Road that abuts respondents' property under ORS Chapter 368. If that portion of the road is successfully vacated pursuant to ORS Chapter 368, the County will dismiss its appeal, and the respondents will stipulate to and assist with vacating the trial court judgment.

On March 8, 2012, by Resolution No. 2012-028, the Board declared its intent to vacate the portion of Hillhurst Road identified in Exhibit A to the Resolution and directed the County Road Official to prepare the report required by ORS 368.346(1). On April 26, 2012, by adoption of Resolution No. 2012-046, the Board accepted the report of the County Engineer in support of the proposed vacation, which said report found as follows:

The County Engineer has reviewed the proposed vacation of a portion of Hillhurst Road as more particularly described in the Exhibit A to the Resolution and has determined it is in the best public interest to proceed with the vacation because that action is consistent with County land use and transportation goals, plans, and needs in the vicinity; and further, it accomplishes an equitable resolution of the court appeal. Moreover, the area surrounding this portion of Hillhurst Road to be vacated has recently been designated as Rural Reserve under the County's pending Comprehensive Plan revision. When the revised Comprehensive Plan is fully implemented, it is designed to protect the rural and forest practices in this area and to restrict development; and hence, there should be little need for new road construction. Finally, the existing terrain of the Hillhurst Road area would make road construction costly and difficult.

Finally, by Resolution No. 2012-046, the Board set this matter for a public hearing and directed the Multnomah County Land Use and Transportation Program (LUTP) to provide notice of the hearing in compliance with ORS 368.401-ORS 368.426. At the public hearing on June 14, 2012, the County Board will determine whether the proposed road vacation is in the public interest and shall enter an order or resolution granting or denying the Multnomah County Land Use and Transportation Program (LUTP) road vacation under 368.326 to ORS 368.366.

**3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).**

Costs associated with administering and processing this road vacation will be borne by the Multnomah County Land Use and Transportation Program (LUTP) and are not expected to exceed \$5,000.00.

**4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.**

See the discussion in No. 2 above.

**5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.**

It is not anticipated at this time that there will be other citizen or government participation, but there may be citizen or interested party comments at the hearing.

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**Required Signature**

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**Elected  
Official or  
Department  
Director:**

Cecilia Collier /s/

**Date:**

6/4/12

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