DCS Transportation Division:
Road Rules Update

Presented by:

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Planning Commission
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Road Rules Update: **Agenda**

Tonight's agenda:

- Overview of Transportation Division documents
- Explanation of code authority
- Process for changing the Road Rules
- Proposed changes

Road Rules Update: **Documents**

Transportation Division Documents

- Transportation System Plan
- Transportation Policy Framework

Our vision, policies, values

- Transportation Capital Improvement Plan
- Title II ADA Transition Plan

Project lists that implement our values

- Multnomah County Code
- Road Rules (Rules)
- Administrative Procedure
- Design and Construction Manual (Standards)
- Operational & Compliance Manuals

How we carry out our work

Road Rules Update: **Code**

Multnomah County County

The Code is the “general and permanent law of the county”. It provides the Transportation Division the authority to set rules and standards in order to meet Federal and State requirements and best practices.

Chapter 27: Community Services

1. Creates the Department of Community Services and associated work.
2. Creates ability to set fees for permitted work in the right of way, system development fees, survey fees.

Chapter 29: Building Regulations

1. Allows the Director to adopt **Rules**;
2. Establishes the process for adopting rules (Road Rules); and
3. Establishes the **Design and Construction Manual.**
4. Includes a section outlining the Willamette River Bridges Special Events

Road Rules Update: **Road Rules**

What is the “Road Rules”?

A document (allowed by Code) that allows the Director to set rules (which we call “Road Rules”

When and how do we update it?

The code establishes the process to update the Road Rules:

- MCC § 29.530: The director, a member of the planning commission or any member of the Board may propose adoption, amendment or repeal of a rule under this subchapter.
- MCC § 29.531: A proposed rule shall be approved as to form by the County Attorney and filed with the director, the clerk of the Board and with the staff of the planning commission.
- MCC § 29.532 - § 29.550: outline process for noticing and rule adoption, appeal process, and temporary rules

Road Rules Update: **Road Rules**

MCC § 29.532 - § 29.550 Noticing, review, rule adoption, appeal process, etc.

- Review period is 15 days (begins 11/3, ends 11/18)
- Notice in newspaper required
  - Press Release
  - Website
  - Presentation to Planning Commission
- Adoption is by Director within 10 days of close of review period
- Unless, during the review period:
  - Request for postponement (10-90 days)
  - Request for public hearing
- Appeal to Board of County Commissioners
- Temporary rules allowed

Road Rules changes will not affect any permit currently approved or in process. They will only apply to new applications after the updated rules are posted.

Road Rules Update: **Road Rules**

Powers of the Director to develop Rules:

§ 29.503 POLICY; POWERS OF DIRECTOR. It shall be county policy and the director shall be charged with the responsibility to:

- (A) Exercise the county's authority under ORS 368, ORS 382, the county code, and other authorizing statutes to adequately supervise, direct and control the laying out, opening, establishment, changing, alteration, straightening, working, grading, maintaining and keeping in repair the streets and roads, and to exercise the authority for the improvement, the regulation of use, and the vacation or closure of streets and roads where appropriate.
- (B) Promulgate such rules as shall be necessary for the administration and enforcement of this subchapter.

Road Rules Update: **Road Rules**

Section	Change
18.000	Removed reference to MCC § 29.700
21.000	Redrafted this section to more accurately reflect how we issue Special Event Permits and drafted them to apply more broadly to all county facilities (including Willamette River Bridges)

Road Rules Update: **21.000**

Section	Change
21.100	Purpose: Lists purpose, including that special events are intended for public as a whole except filming events which may restrict public access
21.200	Permit required: Defines that permits are required except under certain circumstances
21.300	Obtaining a permit: Outlines process for obtaining a permit, included initial submission and subsequent additional requirements
21.400	Special event restrictions: lists what is not allowed (no sale or consumption of alcohol, scheduling conflicts, no advertising or promoting if permit hasn't been issued
21.500	Special event fees: notes how fees are set, defines admin fees vs. deposit
21.600	Special event decision and appeal: outlines approval authority, purpose of denial, and appeal steps.

Road Rules Update: **Online Information**

Website:

https://multco.us/info/road-rules-updates-2026

Website includes:

- Current version of Multnomah County Road Rules
- Redlined version of rules showing proposed changes
- Webform to submit comments

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Comments due:

- November 18, 2026

Questions

