A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map of a coastline. The map features contour lines, a road network, and a yellow line indicating a specific path or boundary. The background of the slide is a dark teal color with light teal contour lines.

# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

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**Robert Breshears, PE**  
**County Engineer**  
**Okanogan, Ferry and Lincoln County**

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map of a county. A white circle is drawn on the map, with two white arrows pointing from it towards the text on the right. The background of the slide is a dark teal color with faint, light blue contour lines.

# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

## ISSUES

- Regulatory Strangulation
- Financial Limitations
- Maintenance of New Construction



# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

## ● Regulatory Strangulation -

- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
  - New Interpretation of WAC's
  - Stepping-up Enforcement activities
- Department of Ecology (DOE)
  - Water rights
  - Stepping-up Enforcement activities



# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

- Financial Limitations
- Property Taxes:
  - Limitation of the road levy to 1% over the previous year's revenue has resulted in "involuntary banking" of a portion of the road levy, for Okanogan County the \$2.25 per thousand Road Levy has been reduced to \$1.45 per thousand, a thirty-six percent reduction. A reduction of over \$2 million.

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# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

## Local Options

- Available local options provided by the legislature don't generate sufficient revenue to justify their implementation.
- The current attitude of the public makes it difficult to propose the increases; expectations are sound defeats and/or referendum movements to repeal.

# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

## ■ Maintenance of New Construction

New construction is great, it addresses many functional problems and looks good, although it's not too popular while it is being done, once complete it is very much appreciated. However . . . .



# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

- all too soon certain aspects of the new project will require maintenance or repair.
- Requiring specialty tools and equipment (read contractor)



# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities



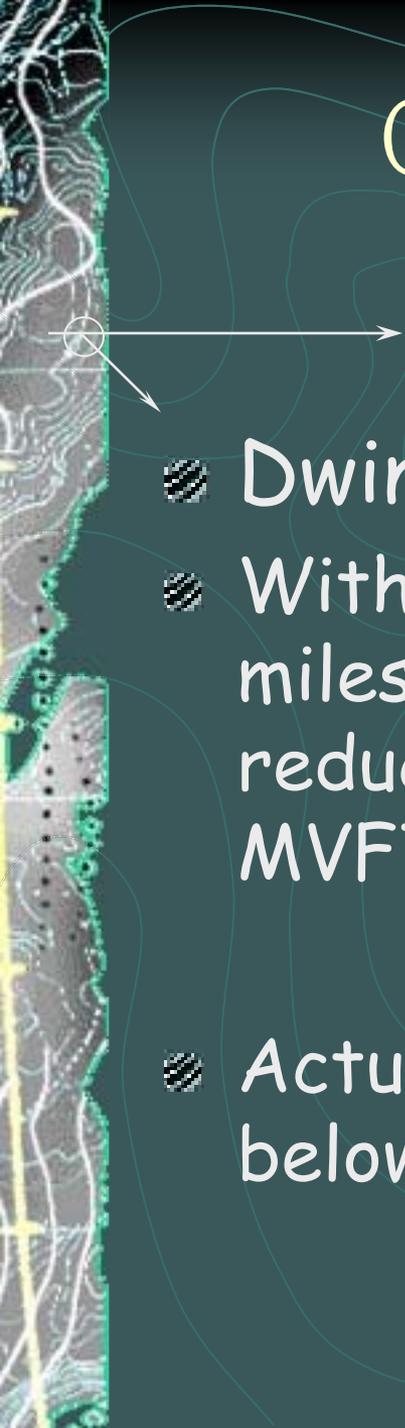
- ❖ These safety features did their job saving lives, but the repairs create a drain on already stretched resources.
- ❖ Insurance is not always available to fund the repairs.
- ❖ Contractors are not interested in single locations (mobilization)



# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

## ● CHALLENGES:

- Dwindling Revenues
- Preserving/Maintaining Public's Investment in Infrastructure
- Innovative Construction
- Other Challenges



# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

- Dwindling Revenues:
- With more efficient cars and less vehicle miles traveled we are looking at about a 5% reduction for next year in the county's MVFT receipts
- Actual MVFT revenues are coming in 5-10% below estimates

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# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

- In addition to a limit of 1% increase on property tax revenues, more and more Counties are looking to diversion of road levy funds in order to balance current expense budgets.
- Transportation systems are suffering more and more from deferred maintenance due to lack of funds.



# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

- Preserving/Maintaining Public's Investment in Infrastructure
- Project funding comes with more and more strings attached requiring more time to get the project to construction, making them cost more.



# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

- More frequently project funding comes with restrictions on how and where the funds can be used
- Combining funding sources (leveraging funds) State and Federal allows for 100% funding, but there is a cost.



# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

- Innovative Construction:

- The use of innovative construction in order to reduce the cost of a project is helping extend the impact of these funds.

# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

- Using Full Depth Reclamation, recycling the existing pavement plus adding cement for a stronger road and a thinner asphalt mat.



# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

- Using GPS controlled construction equipment during many phases of construction saves man-hours of surveying and a better project





# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

## Other Challenges Counties are dealing with:

- Rising Expectations from users
  - Dust - smooth roads - immediate responses during snow and ice events
- Continuing growth - although growth has slowed some due to the economic climate
- Changes in the Workforce
  - Aging workforce - rural communities don't have all the amenities - lower pay
- Environmental Compatibility - incorporating green solutions into maintenance and preservation activities



# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

- Overall Stewardship of County Infrastructure
- Maintenance of Safety Features
- Preserving Bridges
- Maintaining Pavements

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# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

- Overall Stewardship of County Infrastructure
- "Stewardship seeks continuous improvement in the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of the transportation system."

# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

- It is extremely difficult to focus on continuous improvement when you are up to your knees in alligators deciding which roads to maintain because the revenue to perform that maintenance has been eaten up by higher costs



# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities



, or you are  
conserving funds in  
order to plow snow  
during the winter

02/01/2006

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# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

- ▣ Safety on Roadways

- ▣ Improvements in signing, pavement markings and safety features address some of the causes of collisions, enforcement deals with other causes but the principal challenge for the local agency is to be able to maintain the new facilities now and for years to come.

# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

## Maintenance of Safety Features:



# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

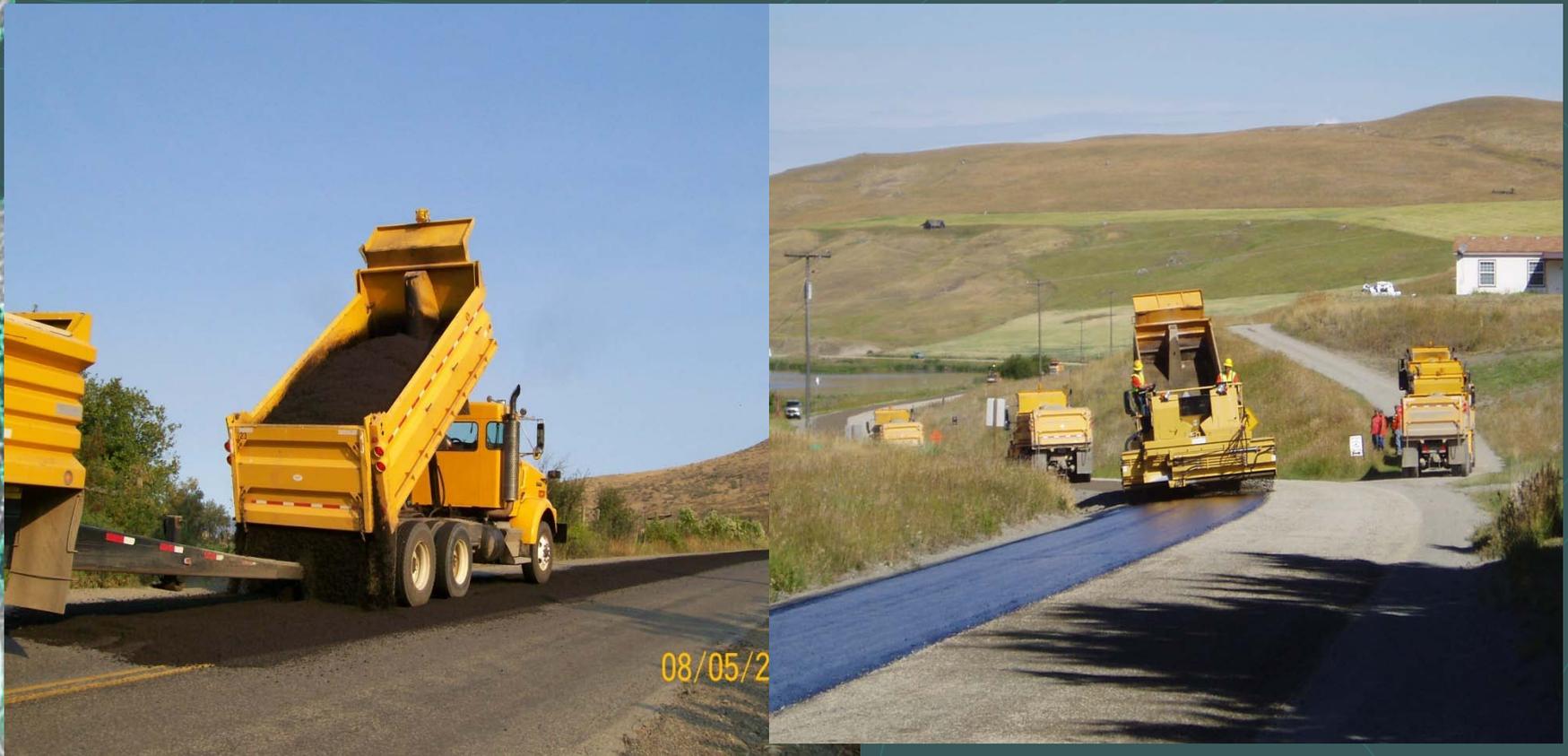


## ▣ Preserving Bridges

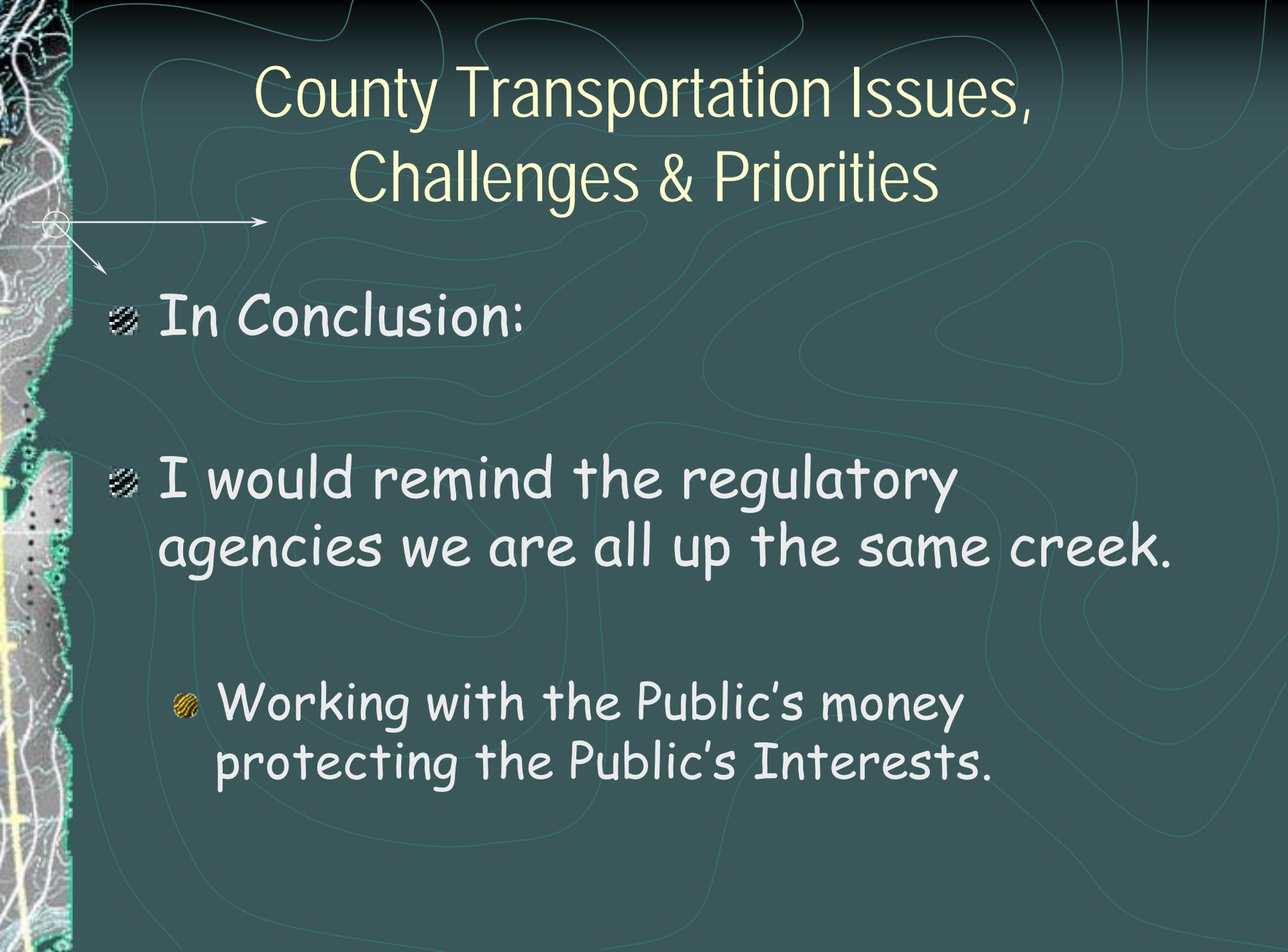


# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities

Maintaining Pavements:



# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities



● In Conclusion:

● I would remind the regulatory agencies we are all up the same creek.

● Working with the Public's money protecting the Public's Interests.

# County Transportation Issues, Challenges & Priorities



## ■ In Conclusion (cont.)

## ■ Keep in mind

- when discussing construction that after all the hoopla someone is going to have to preserve and maintain that investment in the years to come, and
- Revenue sources for maintenance and preservation work are dwindling.