

# CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Study Session Worksheet

**Presentation Date:** October 20, 2015

**Approximate Start Time:** 3:00 PM

**Approximate Length:** 60 minutes

**Presentation Title:** County Weighmaster Program

**Department:** Department of Transportation and Development (DTD)

**Presenters:** Barbara Cartmill, Director, Director, DTD; Randy Harmon, Manager, Transportation Maintenance

**Other Invitees:** Tedra Waxenfelter; Matt Ellington and John Naccarato, CCSO; Mike Bezner, DTD Asst. Director of Transportation; Kevin Peterson, Chris Beko and Debi Normand, DTD Weighmaster Program; and Kevin Hutchinson, Road Operations

### WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

Staff is requesting BCC direction on answers to the following questions:

1. Shall Clackamas County maintain a Weighmaster Program?
2. If the answer to #1 is yes, what should be the parameters of the program and in which department should the program reside?

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

#### **Background**

The Clackamas County Weighmaster Program performs inspections on and permits heavy vehicles traveling in the county in order to create a safe, healthy, livable and prosperous community for those who live, work, do business and recreate in Clackamas County. The tasks performed by staff are listed in Attachment A. Inspections keep heavy vehicles operational and compliant with safety standards. Permitting allows our trucking industry to move smoothly and legally both in and through Clackamas County as well as the rest of the state of Oregon.

The Weighmaster Program includes a number of special services developed by staff to better serve customers and the public.

- A Christmas tree program, Seasonal Transportation Operations Permits (STOP), is an early, route-specific permitting system that allows Christmas tree farmers to move their product efficiently and safely to market during the busiest season of the year. Customer service is provided to residents with complaints about trucks, volumes and carriers, as well as road conditions for the truckers.

- The Sheriff's Office relies on the weighmasters for Level I\* inspections when they suspect a noncompliant rig and for assistance with an investigation in the event of a crash.
- The Weighmaster Program uses a M.A.C.E. (Multi-Agency Carrier Enforcement) truck – a mobile weigh station ensemble that can be set up in any parking lot. In contrast to traffic stops, where drivers aren't always sure who is approaching them, the truckers pull into this station knowing they are there for weight and inspection verification. There remains an element of risk, because weighmasters verify licenses and other requirements.

*\*Level I inspection: All checks included in level II (see next sentence) plus brake systems, exhaust systems, cargo securement, steering mechanisms, suspensions, tires, battery compartments, etc. Level II inspection: Basic inspection including driver's record of duty status, hours of service, vehicle inspection reports, headlamps, tail lamps, turn signals, etc.*

## Response to Program Assessment

An assessment of the Weighmaster Program conducted by Commercial Truck Consulting LLC in June 2014 identified a number of deficiencies and weaknesses. At that time, the Board agreed to continue the program contingent on the immediate suspension of traffic stops and the promise of a proposal from staff for BCC consideration with options for an ongoing Weighmaster Program.

A number of steps have already been taken to address major findings from the 2014 review.

- **Vehicles** driven by weighmasters are now clearly marked with *Clackamas County Weighmaster* and an amber-colored light bar is attached over the cab for safety (Attachment B).
- **Uniforms** will be light gray in color (consistent with those used by our Dog Services officers) and will display the county logo, rather than the star emblem, to avoid confusion with law enforcement. Light gray will be the consistent uniform color in DTD. Code Enforcement staff do not wear uniforms.
- **Training:** Weighmaster staff members are part of a safety committee comprised of representatives from DTD's three enforcement sections (Code Enforcement, Dog Services and Weighmaster) that meets monthly to share experiences. This group created a master matrix of all safety training classes; some of which apply to all specialties and others which are specific to one vocation. The training, who attended and when, and when staff are due to attend again are listed on a matrix (Attachment C).
- **Equipment:** The Weighmaster Program now has consistent communications equipment tied to the 911 center for clear communication of their location and status. (This is also the case for Dog Services and Code Enforcement.)

## **Future Options**

As well as reviewing programs in other jurisdictions to determine future options, interviews were held with a number of people including the Weighmaster staff (Kevin Peterson, Debi Normand and Chris Beko); Transportation Maintenance Manager Randy Harmon; Transportation Maintenance supervisors Warren Gadberry and Terry Learfield; Transportation Maintenance worker Kevin Hutchinson, who formerly worked in the County Weighmaster Program; Sheriff's Office Undersheriff Matt Ellington and Sergeant John Naccarato, and Paul Kroll from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Motor Carrier Division.

There are a number of ways the Weighmaster Program might be configured. Those options are influenced by budget considerations.

Option 1: Work with another department or agency to maintain a Weighmaster program for Clackamas County (such as the Sheriff's Office, or perhaps ODOT) and provide gap funding for costs over and above housing it in Transportation Maintenance. At this point in time, the Sheriff's Office is not in a position to take on an additional division.

Option 2: Continue with the program in DTD as currently implemented, including usage of the M.A.C.E. station. The Sheriff's Office has 30 officers with Level II truck inspection certifications that conduct traffic stops. They are willing to partner with the Weighmaster Program so that the Sheriff's Office requests a Weighmaster when they make a stop and determine that a higher (Level I) truck inspection is warranted, and as needed.

Option 3: Continue with the program in DTD as currently implemented, but without the M.A.C.E. station, and partner with the Sheriff's Office for Level I truck inspections as described in Option 2.

Option 4: Eliminate the Weighmaster Program and reassign staff to other duties in the Transportation Maintenance Division.

People who have been involved and interact with the Weighmaster Program believe it has value to the traveling public and residents of Clackamas County. Sheriff's Office staff stated that the program improves safety and that brake checks would suffer without the M.A.C.E. program. Specifically, rural Clackamas County would be underserved if our Weighmaster Program did not operate in some form. The Sheriff's Office especially supports reaching out to heavy vehicle operators at the source – going to bus barns, etc. where vehicles are housed to offer inspection services.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The Weighmaster Program's current annual budget is approximately \$300,000 and funded from the County Road Fund.

**LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:**

County Counsel has determined there are no statutory requirements to maintain a County Weighmaster Program.

**PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:**

Coordination and cooperation with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office.

**OPTIONS:**

1. Work with another department or agency to maintain a Weighmaster Program for Clackamas County (such as the Sheriff's Office, or perhaps ODOT) and provide gap funding for costs over and above housing it in Transportation Maintenance.
2. Continue with the Weighmaster Program in DTD as currently implemented -- issuing permits, performing inspections for truck owners in Clackamas County, maintaining a M.A.C.E. off-road inspection program and citing truckers in partnership with CCSO.
3. Continue with the Weighmaster Program in DTD as currently implemented -- issuing permits, performing inspections for truck owners in Clackamas County and citing truckers in partnership with CCSO -- but without a M.A.C.E. off-road inspection program.
4. Eliminate the Clackamas County Weighmaster Program and reassign staff to other duties in Transportation Maintenance.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff respectfully recommends the Board of County Commissioners support option two; continue with the Weighmaster Program in DTD as currently implemented -- issuing permits, performing inspections for truck owners in Clackamas County, maintaining a M.A.C.E. off-road inspection program and citing truckers in partnership with CCSO.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Weighmaster tasks
- B. Schematic of Weighmaster truck
- C. Training class matrix
- D. Comparable w/other counties matrix

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Division Director/Head Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Department Director/Head Approval \_\_\_\_\_

County Administrator Approval \_\_\_\_\_

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Barbara Cartmill @ [barbc@clackamas.us](mailto:barbc@clackamas.us) or 503-742-4326

*Clackamas County Department of Transportation & Development:  
Transportation Maintenance Division*

**WEIGHMASTER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES  
Summer 2015**

**INSPECTIONS**

**Inspect County Fleet:** Perform annual Transportation Maintenance fleet inspections, inspecting trucks individually and often concurrently. The fleet has been slowly upgraded to newer equipment so full, annual inspections are not currently required.

**Level 1 Inspections for Company Fleets, As Requested:** Carriers ask that a weighmaster inspect their trucks, often to ensure that all their vehicles meet safety standards. While our contract with ODOT precludes onsite inspections, we notify the carriers when our mobile inspection is operating nearby.

**Inspect Farm Trucks, As Requested:** Farm trucks are not required to have Level 1 inspections; however, we provide the service when owners ask for a Level 1 inspection to ensure their farm trucks are safe.

**M.A.C.E. (Multi Agency Carrier Enforcement):** Set up mobile inspection vehicle (M.A.C.E. truck) to perform Level 1 inspections roadside throughout the county. In addition to portable scales, there is full computer access to ODOT's Aspen system and inspection reports are sent electronically to the state as they are completed, in real time. Commercial motor vehicles are required by law to pull over for these roadside inspections.

**PERMITS**

**Issue County Fleet Permits:** Issue all required annual permits for county vehicles and interpret the laws and rules of these permits for DTD/Transportation Maintenance.

**Issue Continuous Operation Variance Permits (COVPs) for all Oregon Counties and the City of Portland:** This ODOT program allows the issuance of annual permits for oversize and overweight loads meeting specified limits for certain types of haulers within the state, which allows travel on both state highways and county roads in every jurisdiction in Oregon. The permits are issued by ODOT as well as third party agents like Clackamas County.

**Issue County Permits for Single-Trip Loads:** Issue permits to carriers seeking one-time permits to move any and all over-dimensional loads on county roads from one location to another.

**Oversee and Approve ODOT Single-Trip Permit Applications:** Coordinate 10-day permits for carriers with over-size loads requesting to travel on county roads with permit specialists at

ODOT. Permit applications are received by phone and email, and permits are approved, redirected or declined based on dimensions of the vehicle combination as well as the specific route of travel. All oversize configurations traveling on county roads must have county approval on the permit.

## DIRECT RESPONSE

**Place and/or Remove Road Restrictions as Needed:** Study and determine whether truck traffic warrants signage to be posted or removed, typically in response to requests from the public, other staff or a CPO.

**Monitor Extraordinary Moves, i.e., Houses, Super Loads:** Oversize loads require pilot cars and monitoring. These moves typically happen in the late night/early morning to not interfere with the natural flow of traffic. The weighmaster(s) test runs the route to determine whether the combination of vehicles is approved for the proposed operation and, if approved, monitors the move as it occurs. These moves are most often coordinated with utilities, signal crews, the ODOT Bridge Department and county engineers.

**Assist at Commercial Motor Vehicle Crashes, As Requested:** Perform a Level 1 inspection on a commercial motor carrier is involved in a crash, based on the response team's discretion, to assist the sheriff's office and other law enforcement agencies with their investigation.

### Support for Christmas Tree Industry

Since Clackamas County is one of the largest providers of Christmas trees in the nation, there is a considerable increase in truck traffic during the winter holiday season.

- *Oversee and direct Christmas tree shipments:* Track the volume of trucks, approve and provide routes, and oversee all shipping operations.
- *Issue seasonal transportation operations permits (S.T.O.P.) to Christmas tree shippers, farmers and nurseries:* A STOP permit is issued to the farms, which then distributes them to the shippers. Shipper must provide copies to all drivers involved in their operation. The permits are *route specific* and shippers have established guidelines to follow. This assists in their safe movement through the county and creates efficiencies by managing road volumes.

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

**Respond to Public Complaints:** Receive and handle service requests and complaints from the public (i.e., mud/debris on the road, Jake brakes being a nuisance, truck volume on roads), and respond to resolve any problems.

**Education and Response to Questions from the Public and Industry:** Members of the public inquire about increased truck traffic, logging operations and/or construction on their roads, and

ask for details about projects such as completion date, number of truck trips, hours of operation, etc. Carriers ask about road and bridge restrictions, permit application process, fees and a variety of other issues.

**Presentations at Safety Meetings for Independent Carriers, As Requested:** Speak about commercial vehicle safety regulations and requirements to make the carrier's fleet compliant.

## GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS

**Maintain Consistent Guidelines for Trucking Companies:** Identify companies with the worst safety ratings through ODOT's Aspen software program and assess for critical violations. Carriers should be in compliance at all times, and weighmasters help maintain compliance and safety standards, thereby leveling the playing field for trucking companies.

## OUR PARTNERS AND CUSTOMERS

County Transportation & Development

- Truck safety in county work zones
- Engineering
- Planning
- Bridge Shop
- Sign Shop
- Traffic

Oregon Department of Transportation

- Permit analysts
- Motor carrier officers
- MCSAP
- Committees i.e. MCTAC, COVP,  
Roundabouts

County Sheriff's Office

Oregon State Police

City Police Departments

Trucking industry

Local land owners

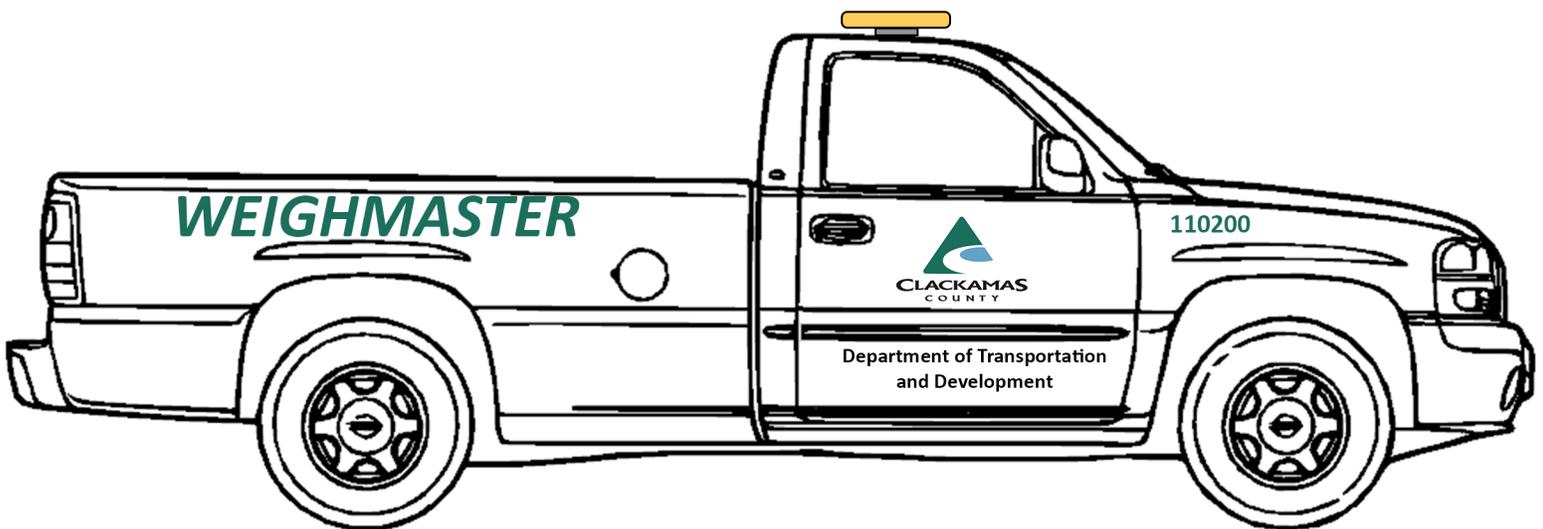
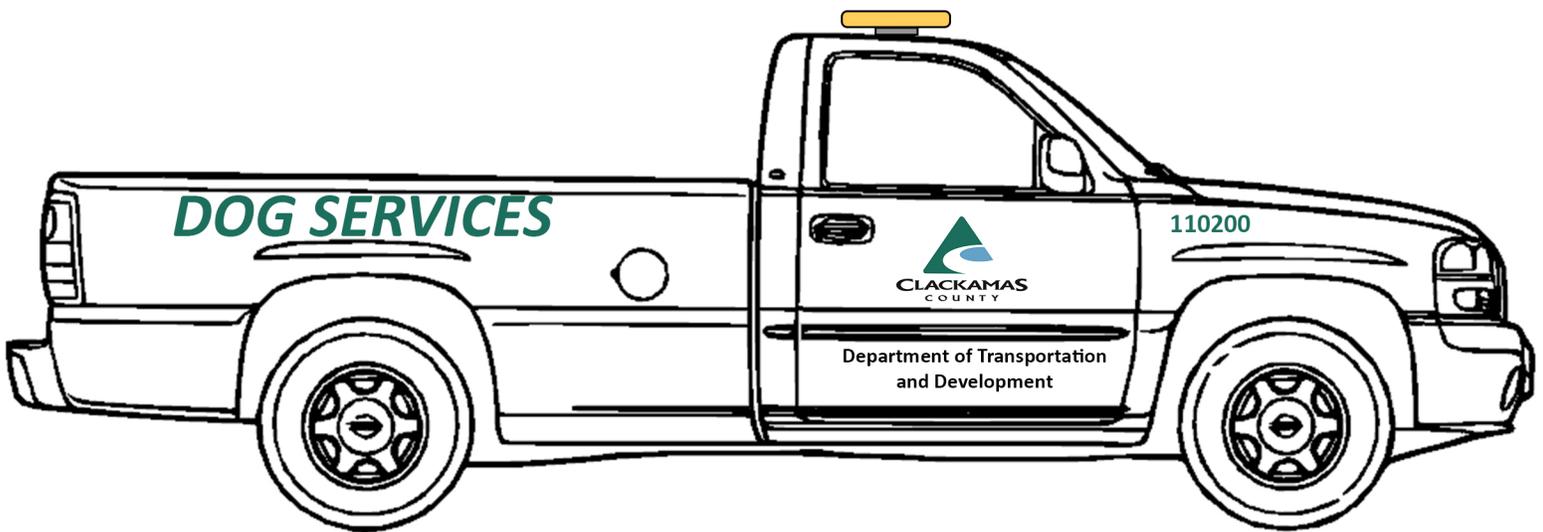
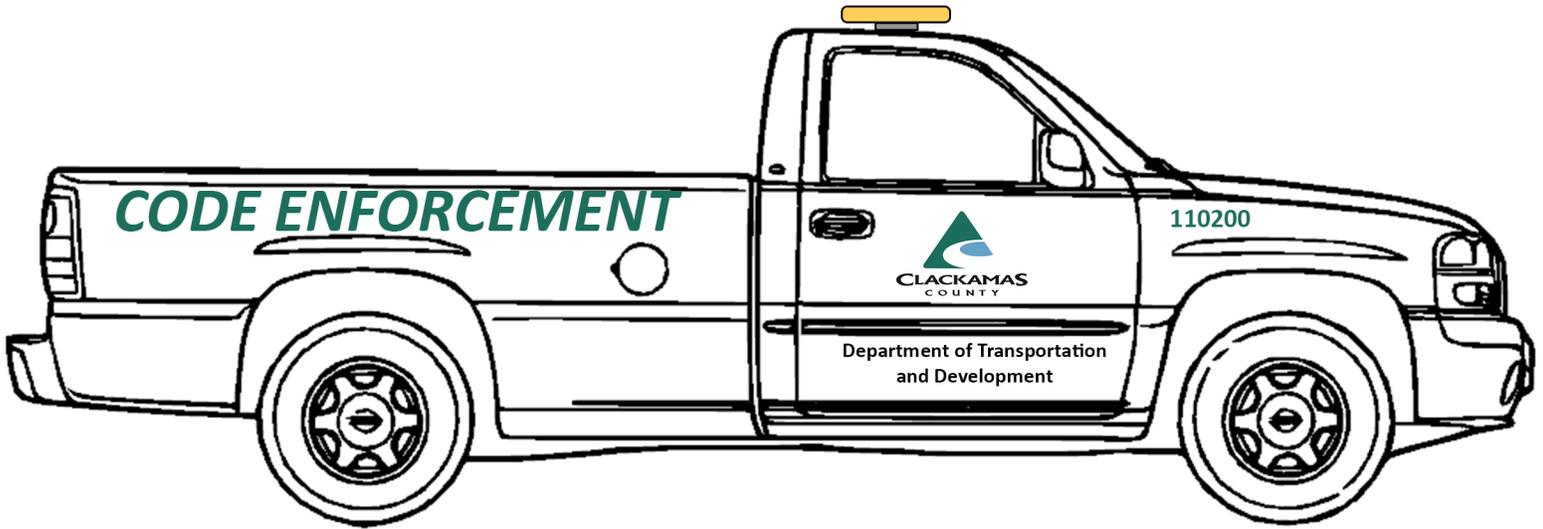
Farmers

Businesses that use trucks for shipping

City councils

# Draft DTD Vehicle Markings

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## Weighmaster Section Training Matrix

COMMON TRAINING FOR DTD COMPLIANCE DIVISIONS	INITIAL TRAINING	RECURRING TRAINING	BEKO, CHRIS*	NORMAND, DEBI *	PETERSON, KEVIN*
New Employee Orientation	Within 3 months of hire	Not Required	9/27/1996	Apr-08	12/1/1985
Sexual Harassment	Within 3 months of hire	As needed	5/14/2015		2005
Workplace Violence Awareness	As available	As needed	7/20/2010		
Defensive Driving / Backing	Within 3 months of hire	3 years			1987
General Safety Training	Within 3 months of hire	Annually	3/12/2015		5/19/2011
Flagging / Traffic Awareness	Within 3 months of hire	As needed			1985
Emergency Action Plan	Within 3 months of hire	As needed / changes			2013
Fire Extinguisher	Within 3 months of hire	Annually	12/2/2010	12/2/2010	12/2/2010
Hazard Communication HAZ-COM	Within 6 months of hire	Annually			
Hazardous Materials HAZ-MAT	Within 6 months of hire	As needed			1987
Hearing Protection	Within 12 months of hire	Annually	2/4/2015	2/4/2015	1985
Blood Borne Pathogen	Within 6 months of hire	2 Years	5/19/2011		2005
CPR / First Aid (every 2 years)	Within 6 months of hire	2 Years	12/24/2015	12/24/2015	2007
Diversity Training	Within 3 month of hire	As needed	11/2/2010	11/2/2010	2010
How to Deal with Angry People	As available	As needed			1987
Conflict Resolution	As available	As needed			1987
Defensive Tactics	Within 6 months of hire	1 year	4/16/2015	4/16/2015	4/16/2015
Report Writing	Within 12 months of hire	As needed			1987
Situational Awareness Training	Within 6 months of hire	2 Years			1987
Radio Procedures	Within 3 month of hire	As needed			1987

ADDITIONAL TRAINING FOR WEIGHMASTER	INITIAL TRAINING	RECURRING TRAINING	BEKO, CHRIS*	NORMAND, DEBI *	PETERSON, KEVIN*
CVSA Level II	Within 6 months of hire	As required	7/23/1999	5/15/2009	
CVSA Level I	Within 6 months of hire	As required	7/23/1999	5/15/2009	3/1/1997
LED (Law Enforcement Data System) training	Within 1 Year of hire	As required			1999
MDC (Mobile Data Communications) training	Within 1 Year of hire	As required			2000
EVOG Driver Safety	Within 1 Year of hire	2 Years			1987
Drug / Alcohol Awareness	Within 6 months of hire	5 Years			4/1/2008
Verbal Judo	As available	5 Years			1987
Chemical Capture	Within 6 months of hire	2 Years			
ASP / Baton training	Within 6 months of hire	2 Years			1987
Mace Training	Within 6 months of hire	2 Years			

*\*We are currently in the process of integrating our employee training records from a number of computer and paper based records. The dates included here are only those currently in our safety training database and do not represent the total training received by these employees.*

**WEIGHMASTER PROGRAMS COMPARED BY COUNTY**  
September 2015

<b>County</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Staff FTE</b>	<b>County Size (sq. mi.)</b>	<b>County Population</b>	<b>MACE Program?</b>
Jackson	Roads	1*	2,292	118,765	Yes
Lane	Public Works	1**	4,722	356,212	Yes
Linn	Roads	1***	2,292	118,765	Yes
Washington	Sheriff	1	727	511,075	Yes
<b>Clackamas</b>	<b>Roads</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,879</b>	<b>383,000</b>	<b>Yes</b>

\* *Jackson:* Budget cuts; there used to be 2 weighmasters.

\*\* *Lane:* Budget cuts; there were 6 weighmasters in 2002, 3 in 2007 and 1 in 2014.

\*\*\**Linn:* There were 2 weighmasters, but one position was not filled when it was vacated.  
When the current weighmaster retires, they plan to evaluate positions.