

NW Oregon Area Commission on Transportation

July 8, 2010
Banks Fire Hall
Banks, OR

The meeting was called to order by Shirley Kalkhoven, Chair. The following members and guests attended:

Rita Bernhard—Columbia County	Don Otterman—City of North Plains
Clark Berry—Washington County	Ron Puzey—City of Clatskanie
Ron Blin—Sunset Empire Transit District	Shawn Reiersgaard—Tillamook Co Private Sector
Seth Brumley—ODOT Region 1	Marc Siegel—Senator Merkley's Office
Brett Estes—City of Astoria	Jerry Taylor—City of Manzanita
Fritz Graham—Senator Wyden's Office	David True—City of Clatskanie
Jim Hough—City of Banks	Ed Wegner—Clatsop County
David Kim—ODOT Region 1	Liane Welch—Tillamook County
Larry McKinley—ODOT Region 2	Janet Wright—Columbia County
Matt Mumford—Tillamook Transportation District	

Excused: Mark Labhart, Lonny Welter

1. NWACT Minutes/Updates

- Approval of April 8, 2010 Minutes—Approved unanimously. (EW/RB).
- Public Comment—None.
- Legislative Update—Senator Merkley held a Town Hall in Columbia County last month. Will get more appropriations answers in late August or early September. Transportation Bill probably won't be passed for a few more months.
- Region 1 Update—David Kim handed out an ODOT's Northwest Oregon construction map and "Know Before You Go" materials related to road construction this Summer. Repaving Hwy 26 between Military Creek Rd to Wolf Creek (MPs 26—37), about 11 miles, which is combined with curve realignment, may be completed in one season rather than two years. Dennis Edwards Tunnel started inspection work. Still on track, design is underway. Started outreach plans, will be working with ODOT Region 2 and coastal chambers.
- Region 2 Update—Larry McKinley noted that there is \$28 million in Summer construction, which is significant work load. 12th St to Farmer Creek, south of Tillamook—Started digouts along Hwy 101 and will start paving base courses. On the Old Young's Bay Bridge, finished repaving the deck early. Paving Hwy 30 improvements between the John Day River Bridge and Astoria's 33rd St should start in August. Hwy 53 is closed at Bergsvik Bridge to replace a culvert and improve fish passage, will reopen in September. Work on the OR 6/101 interchange is in the NEPA process. Requests for proposals to update Astoria's Transportation System Plan (TSP) has been noticed. Seaside's TSP is under final review with completion by the end of year. Will allow them to access federal funding. ODOT has hired a new planner, Bill Johnston, from Colorado, who will start in August.
- ODOT Update-- Starting to see the bridge replacement funds reach NW Oregon as the replacements move down the priority list. Federal stimulus funding has been spent. Local governments that received funding can use the funds as new money. For ODOT, it has provided the ability to enhance existing projects and/or get projects done sooner.
- Oregon Transportation Commission Update—The OTC met in Jacksonville in June. A key discussion was held on greenhouse gas reduction efforts—the State was directed to reduce greenhouse gas by 80% by 2050. Next meeting will be held July 21st in Portland; that agenda will be sent out to NWACT members and stakeholders. Will be a presentation on Tillamook Oregon Solutions Project conducted by OCZMA. At their August meeting, the OTC will approve ConnectOregon III projects.
- Washington County—Clark Berry. Staley's Junction. Will be implementing variable speed traffic control. ODOT has \$12 million in the STIP, although expected to cost around \$16 million, a manageable funding gap. Been pushing ODOT for a TiGER II grant for the Junction. Requires a 20% match. It's very competitive process though. It is Washington County's number one priority. Glencoe Interchange is a \$32 million which also may not have enough funding. Working with the City of North Plains, drafting a MOU on the scope of the project. Access management still hasn't been addressed, just the interchange improvements.

2. NWACT Minutes/Updates

- ConnectOregon III Final Recommendations— Shirley, Tony Hyde and Ed Wegner attended the meeting where final recommendations to the OTC were decided. NW Oregon projects totaling \$18 million out of the \$97 million total were recommended. NW Oregon had very good projects, which is why the region was so successful. The NWACT forum really added value to the project—having project presentations helped Shirley defend and explain the projects when asked.
- 2014—2015 STIP Project Identification—Region 1: Still in project identification phase. Expect to have project scoping done by October. Paving management section provides the candidates for preservation projects. The 2011 public involvement process will get input from outside ODOT. Region 2 starting to look at scoping projects that would normally be slotted into the 2014—2015 STIP. Since the Modernization budget will be so small (potentially less than \$10 million Statewide, OTC will be holding the funds back, to potentially use when needed for cost overruns in previously funded projects. NWACT will still need to prioritize projects, in case funds become available. Because of that, there is more interest in prioritization of operations and safety. Region 2 has nine projects.
- Greening Rural Oregon Energy Grant—Goal is to develop a regional transportation system. Submitted a revised Scope of Work/Statement of Work. The award was \$3.5 million, down from the \$5 million request, so will be dropping the hybrid buses out of four of the counties, and seek from other funding for the buses Tremendous amount of effort on the part of David Evans Associates, Carole Richardson, Senator Johnson and the Transit District staff in a very short period of time. Only 20 grants were awarded in the country, so this is a significant award. Will allow major improvement in service.
- TIGER II Grants—Both ODOT and local entities can submit. July OTC meeting will decide when ODOT can participate in grant submissions. Local (pre) applications must be in by July 16th to give ODOT time to review before the process is continued.
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Applications—Information briefings were held, attendees found them helpful. Applications are expected from Astoria, Garibaldi, and Tillamook County Public Works.
- Transportation Enhancement Grants—Expected from Tillamook and Washington counties.

3. Member Updates

- Washington County—Will have a new western Washington County representative as Andy Duyck was elected County Chair.
- Clatskanie—Working with ODOT on highway improvements through town.
- Access Management becoming more of an issue as do the new projects. Especially affects the smaller communities which have state highways running through them or where a community has developments that connect to a state highway.
- North Plains—Widening of Glencoe Rd will start construction near end of August. Interchange will start 2012. That area of town will change substantially.
- Banks—Banks/Vernonia trailhead is being reconstructed. Requires some utility relocation. Had hoped to get electric vehicle charging station, but State Parks decided not to, because of lack of available space for potential parkers. Will start working on feasibility of Council Creek regional trail, and making connections to the Banks/Vernonia and Vernonia/Scappoose trails. Want Banks to become a recreational hub. Looking at a scenic bikeway application connecting to bikeways in Hillsboro.
- Columbia County—Wauna Credit Union is revamping an existing building in St Helens, and have encountered some access issues to Hwy 30. Will have a drive through window, and need the existing two access points to Hwy 30. Rita will be retiring at the end of November from the County Commission.
- Manzanita—Jerry Taylor. Hwy 101 important turning lane project as part of a culvert replacement project. Will improve the left turn lane and Hwy 101 curves at the bottom of the hill. Will affect some private businesses. Partnering with State Parks to improve access between Nehalem State Park and downtown Manzanita.
- City of Astoria—Brett Estes. Extending riverwalk through the Port of Astoria properties. Looking forward to a new Transportation Plan update. Have some trail grant applications in to extend river walk.

- Clatsop County—Working on opening on access to North Coast Business Park. Public hearing on Miles Crossing Transportation Plan. Putting in a new ferry landing at Westport, which would allow larger ferry crossings including logging trucks. Stimulus funded paving was completed.
- Tillamook County—Shawn. New traffic light on Hwy101 which has required some retraining of local traffic. Also added a no left turn exit sign at the creamery. Wilson River loop improvements should start in about a year. Gus Meyer has mentioned to Shawn that not enough is being done in South Tillamook County. Some of his requests are on the improvement list. Matt reported that Maintenance Facility is proceeding, with opening in late September/early October. Connecting to Banks, Tillamook and North Plains. Also connecting with Ride Connection which is really helping Banks and North Plains. And increasing connections with Lincoln County. Ridership continues to increase.
- Tillamook County Advisory Committee—Had been talking about potential bond measure, but a misprint in the local paper significantly overstated how much it would cost homeowners, potentially derailing a funding measure. Tillamook County is noted for having the worst quality roads in Oregon.

4. Other Business

Next Meeting—September 2nd, RockawayBeach City Hall.

Recorded: Mary McArthur, Staff

Shirley Kalkhoven, Chair

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