



nwACT

Northwest Oregon Area Commission on Transportation

October 2009 Newsletter

NWACT is an advisory committee to the Oregon Transportation Commission on NW Oregon transportation needs and project priorities

Representing Counties:

Clatsop County Commission
Columbia County Commission
Tillamook County Commission
Washington County Commission

Representing Cities:

City of Astoria
City of Banks
City of Bay City
City of Cannon Beach
City of Columbia City
City of Clatskanie
City of Garibaldi
City of Gaston
City of Gearhart
City of Manzanita
City of Nehalem
City of North Plains
City of Rainier
City of Rockaway Beach
City of Scappoose
City of Seaside
City of St Helens
City of Tillamook
City of Vernonia
City of Warrenton
City of Wheeler

Representing Ports:

Port of Astoria
Port of Garibaldi
Port of Nehalem Bay
Port of St Helens
Port of Tillamook Bay

Representing Transit Districts:

Columbia County Transportation
Sunset Empire Transit
Tillamook County Transportation

Representing ODOT:

ODOT Region 1 -- NW Area
ODOT Region 2 -- NW Area

Representing Others:

NW Oregon Regional Partnership
Transportation Stakeholders
Citizens-At-Large

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Portland, OR 97239
503.228.5565

NWOregon.org/NWACT
Email: NWACT@NWOregon.org

Recent News and Recap of NWACT September 3rd meeting in Rockaway Beach, Oregon

Much of the September meeting focused on the **State Transportation Package (HB 2001)** also known as the Jobs and Transportation Act (JTA) funded in the 2009 Legislative session:

The funding package is expected to provide 4,500 jobs annually over the next 5 years. It is the largest transportation package ever passed in Oregon: \$300 million for transportation projects, Half of the funds will go to cities/counties. (50% state, 30% county, 20% city.)

The funding package is paid for by Vehicle Fees (registration, title, license plate); Manufacturing and Fuel Taxes; Truck Fees; and non-highway fees (Custom plates, id cards for targeted special population transit) When fully implemented, the increases will result in \$300 million/year.

The gas tax will go up to 6 cents over time. Included was a moratorium on any other new gas taxes before 2014, which has sparked a lot interest by local jurisdictions to pass their own local gas tax before the moratorium deadline.

Hwy Projects: 37 projects and 12 local governments, including \$27 million for Hwy 101/6 intersection improvements and \$32 million for the Glencoe Interchange in the NWACT region. Priority was for projects that benefit freight movement and economic development.

Creates an Urban Trail Fund, Rest Area Management, Pilot Programs: Portland Metro Congestion Pricing, Maintenance Outsourcing. Allows larger counties to add local vehicle registration fee to fund transportation projects in 2013.

ConnectOregonIII—\$100 million for a 3rd round of funding was included in

the State Transportation Funding package, for bonds backed by lottery proceeds. Funds will be distributed geographically, and 5% of the funding will be set aside for rural airport projects.

Application Schedule:

Submissions Due: November 20, 2009
Staff Reviews By: January 22, 2010
Modal Cmtees By: March 15, 2010
NWACT By: TBD—Between March 15 and May 5, 2010

Draft Recommendations to OTC:

Mid July 2010
Final Approval: August, 2010

Hwy 26 Dennis Edwards Tunnel—

Preliminary planning is underway to reline the tunnel, improve lighting and add better notification when cyclists are in the tunnel. ODOT is also exploring the possibility of increasing the vertical height of the tunnel to accommodate freight traffic to and from the coast.

A historic tunnel, relining or enlarging will require closure of the tunnel. The extent of the closure is being determined. Current plans call for the work to begin late 2010 or sometime in 2011. David Kim, ODOT Region 1 Area Manager, will be coordinating the project: 503.731.4998 or David.Kim@odot.state.or.us.

2010—2013 STIP Funding—ODOT will

be reinitiating the 2010—2013 STIP public involvement process started in 2007 but postponed in anticipation of reduced funding levels. The Oregon Transportation Commission has provided reduced program funding levels for preservation, safety, bridge and operations, and increased modernization due to the recently approved Jobs and Transportation Act.

Projects that have been cut from the draft STIP in the NWACT region include Hwy 101 improvements between the tunnel and Manzanita, and the

30th St signal in Astoria. Region 2 will bring all ACTs together on October 29th to review changes. Region 1 will incorporate their reviews in the regularly scheduled JPACT meetings.

Transportation Planning—The 2009—2010 NWACT Workplan was approved as proposed: First phase activities will include looking at existing local Transportation System Plans, and compiling an inventory of current conditions and a list of unmet needs. This data will then be used to determine:

- What is needed to maintain NW Oregon's transportation system
- What is needed to accommodate community and economic development growth
- What are the potential pressure or "choke" points, for prioritizing improvement projects

Second phase of the planning will take the current and projected system data, and identify what corresponding facilities and activities are needed to support transportation throughout NW Oregon. Examples include:

- Rail crossings, downtown rail safety im-

provements

- Maintenance of commercial air service
- Dredge disposal facility near the mouth of the Columbia River
- Transit facilities
- Dike restoration to carry rail track
- Culverts/Flood gates to allow passage of water during storm events

NWACT Board

NWACT's Officer Nominating Committee (Mark Labhart, Russ Warr, Rosemary Lohrke and Clark Berry) will be accepting recommendations for the 2010 Officer Slate. Contact Mark Labhart at 503.842.3403 or mlabhart@co.tillamook.or.us

NWACT regrets to report on the passing of Ray McFarlane, former Mayor of Rockaway Beach and long standing member of NWACT. The Board welcomes two new members:

Jack Bland — Port of Astoria
Kitty Poore — Pacific City/Nestucca Valley Chamber of Commerce

November 5, 2009 NWACT Meeting
Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce
207 N Spruce
1:00 pm — 3:30 pm

Draft Agenda Items ([Subject to change](#)):

Dennis Edwards Tunnel Update
Safety Corridors
Federal Reauthorization Bill Update
Climate Change Impacts on Transportation
Seaside Transportation System Plan Update
Proposed 2010 NWACT Officer Slate

For more information on NWACT, its members, meetings, charter/bylaws, and deliberations, please go to NWOregon.org. NWACT meetings are generally scheduled for the first Thursday of every other month at various locations throughout the four-county area.

NWACT meetings are open to the public and accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities. If a sign language interpreter is needed, please call Mary McArthur at 503.228.5565 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.