

NW Oregon Area Commission on Transportation

September 8, 2016
Port of Tillamook Bay
Tillamook, OR

The meeting was called to order by Henry Heimuller, Chair. The following members and guests attended

Mike Borresen—Washington Co Citizen-at-Large
Stevie Burden—City of Wheeler
Jamey Dempster—ODOT Rail/Public Transit
Debbie Dudley—City of Rainier
Mark Ellsworth—Governor's Regional Solutions Team
Brett Estes—City of Astoria
Valerie Folkema—Port of Garibaldi
Henry Heimuller—Columbia County Commission
Michelle Jenck—Tillamook Co Citizen-at-Large
Kathy Kleczek—Sunset Empire Transit District
Jim Knight—Port of Astoria
Rosemary Lohrke—Columbia Co Citizen-at-Large
Tom Messenger—Tillamook County Resident
Paula Miranda—Port of St Helens
Bob Mushen—Port of Astoria

Tim Potter—ODOT Region 2
Jennifer Purcell—OR DEQ/Regional Solutions Team
Christie Schreckengost—ODOT
Mike Schroeder—ODOT Area 1
John Serra—Congressman Schrader's Office
Michael Summers—Clatsop County Public Works
Jerry Taylor—City of Manzanita
Lianne Thompson—Clatsop County
Russ Warr—City of Astoria
Suzanne Weber—City of Tillamook
Liane Welch—Tillamook County Public Works
Lonny Welter—Columbia County Road Department
Paul Wyntergreen—City of Tillamook
David Yamamoto—Tillamook Co Citizen-at-Large
Jim Young—Port of Tillamook Bay

Excused: Representative Boone, Senator Johnson, Mark Labhart, Gary Stockoff

1. Welcome and Introductions—Chair Heimuller opened the meeting. Members, stakeholders and ConnectOregon 6 applicants introduced themselves.
2. NWACT Minutes and Updates
 - Approval of July 14, 2016 Minutes—Approved unanimously. (LT/KK)
 - Public Comment—None
 - Legislative Update—Senator Johnson sent regrets was unable to attend.
 - ODOT Update—Summer has focused on construction. Been no serious injuries in construction zones. All jobs turned out wonderfully. No plans to pave Hwy 131.
 - OTC—Did approve final list for ConnectOregon6 projects, which included 3 NWACT projects: Teevin Bros Mooring Points, Life Flight Hangar at the Astoria Airport, and Port of Astoria Pier 2 improvements. Included Port of Astoria because additional funding was found.
 - Tillamook County—Just finished preliminary design for Neskowin. 24 projects under contract with FEMA, but process has been going very slowly. Continue in water work, which delays getting the paving done. Pacific City has a new speed bump, needed, but having been getting some negative feedback. Thirty percent of the County's Transient Lodging Tax must go toward transportation projects, but currently cannot be directed to projects that provide capacity for tourism, eg, bike lanes. Liane will be discussing that requirement with the County Commission. There may be some flexibility with how that 30% is spent. League of Oregon Cities continues to work on that too. Have heard that Cape Meares federal funding grant application has been well-received, although no final decision yet. Starting to experience first land closures on Hwy 101/6 interchange. Expected to complete in 2 years. Working with businesses affected by the construction. Will be some lane closures and reduction of parking in the first year. However, will have no closures during the Summer travel season. Pacific Ave side first, and the following year, will work on Main St side. Completion will include a bicycle path, and a bike/pedestrian plaza. Great contractor working on the project.
 - Public Comment—None
3. Department of Aviation—HB 2075 Fuel Tax Revenue Grant Program

In 2015, the Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 2075 to increase the fuel tax on Aviation Gas (AV Gas) and Jet Fuel by .02 cents per gallon to invest in aviation for specific purposes, including the Critical Oregon Airport Relief Program (COAR). Fifty percent of the amounts from the fuel tax increase shall be distributed for the following purposes:

- A. To assist airports in Oregon with match requirements for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program grants.
- B. To make grants for emergency preparedness and infrastructure projects, in accordance with the Oregon Resilience Plan, including seismic studies, emergency generators, etc.
- C. To make grants for:
 - i. Services critical or essential to aviation including, but not limited to, fuel, sewer, water and weather equipment.
 - ii. Aviation-related business development including, but not limited to, hangars, parking for business aircraft and related facilities.
 - iii. Airport development for local economic benefit including, but not limited to, signs and marketing.

Applications are due October 17th. Mary will send out ODOT's link to the COAR program and application to NWACT's list serve the first of next week, although all of the Ports are aware the application process has started and will likely be submitting applications. Applications have just been released. \$1.2 million. Preference is to leverage FAA grant funds. Focus is on smaller general aviation airports. Looking for an economic development connection. NWACT will be able to weigh in on the applications within NW Oregon. The program is asking that each ACT designate a representative to review and collaborate with their ACT, Regional Solutions, Chamber of Commerce and other regional stakeholders. NWACT's representative will provide input on a statewide recommendation committee. Statewide committee of the reps from all the ACTs will bring back the recommendations to the NWACT. NWACT will want to identify those projects most competitive in a statewide competition. Motion: NWACT members unanimously approved a motion to appoint 3 port reps (Paula Miranda, Jim Knight and Michele Bradley) to review applications as a committee and make 1 of those committee members our state rep, to report back at Nov meeting. (KK/LT)

4. Upcoming Legislative Committee on Transportation Meetings

The Legislative Committee is looking at how transportation is funded in the State of Oregon. At tipping point. Looking at new ways to fund, new transportation technologies, etc. Key points:

- Comprehensive (all modes) funding
- Addressing long term problems, eg, high traffic
- Isn't going to come from a gas tax
- Congestion/Safety
- Maintenance
- Financing of transportation long term

Strategic + Tactical (projects) Add up total need of just the highest priority projects. Plus impact on local economy and livability.

We are the front line. We get the transportation impacts first. Safety of our communities, safety of our large visiting population.

Creative solutions are often best thought of at local level.

Inequity urban/rural well documented. History of lack of response from ODOT. If keep sending people to Coast on vacation, need to support infrastructure. Second home owners, a significant portion of our residents, don't spend as much time here, aren't as knowledgeable of the transportation issues we face.

Transportation challenges. At 3.5% state gas tax, only \$250,000 comes to Tillamook County which doesn't pay for much.

League of Cities is also having town halls on transportation. Priority is adequate maintenance funds. Meetings are being held in Astoria and Scappoose.

5. Member Updates

- Clatsop been selected for a Federal bridge replacement project. Been busy replacing culverts. Rehabilitating a bridge on Sunset Lane. Shared a striping/chip seal project with Columbia County. Busy summer.
- Sunset Empire has just received a couple of new buses, which will save on high maintenance costs. Finished transportation planning, adding some hours and routes. Making transit more accessible to more people.
- Year of Wellness in Tillamook County. Been going very well, and expect to continue into next year. Taken off throughout the county, and encouraging other areas to do the same.
- Port of Astoria. Went to Klamath Fall to thank OTC for being included in ConnectORIV. Leveraged almost \$6 million in FEMA funds for Pier 2 renovations.
- Pacific City. Busy Summer, high traffic volume. High number of fatalities on Cape Kiwanda has resulted in more park rangers directing traffic and monitoring visitors.
- Columbia County. Has also been busy. Chip sealing. Working up in Rainier, working collectively with other counties, for better utilization of equipment and expertise. May have missed window to complete striping. Still have over 50 outstanding FEMA/Federal Hwy associated project contracts outstanding.
- DEQ. Salmonberry Trail project continues. Tillamook County has been managing an EPA Brownfields assessment project. Community Open House on September 28th. Tillamook County website has information on the open house.
- City of Tillamook. Wilson River loop. Need to look at state standards for signs. Needs to be re-evaluated, could be an inexpensive fix. Make signs bigger, easier to read, and place in locations where have more time to react. (New signs on Hwy 30 in Columbia County have made a big difference.)
- Astoria. Reconstruction of street/bridge ends that extend north to the Columbia River, maintain to retain minimum loads. In design phase. Construction on every other one concurrently. Rail line is also going to need upwards of \$2 million for repairs, looking for funding.
- Port of St Helens. Completed Scappoose Airport Master Plan. Wings and Wheels event this weekend. Completed ConnectOR Beaver dock project, serviced 3 ships already.
- SuperAct is meeting tomorrow. Henry and Russ will be representing. Straw proposal includes sidewalk Astoria at the high school and Garibaldi street improvement projects.
- Wheeler. Have had traffic issues on Hwy 101 with speeders and passing because of 25 mph speed limit. Have an ongoing issue with a 75 foot stream culvert, across Hwy 101. Danger to the highway stability and to local businesses. Needs to be replaced, looking for funding resources.
- Manzanita—Tunnel under Hwy 101 has daylighted. Moving water from old culvert into new culvert. Will complete tunneling and change of culvert this year. Finish road work next year. Finding asphalt for these projects is fairly difficult. City Manager, Jerry Taylor, just finished 20 years with the City!
- Hwy 47/Verboort Roundabout almost complete.

Hold next meeting at Port of Astoria. Could look at the CO6 project at the beginning.

Recorded: Mary McArthur, Staff

Henry Heimuller, Chair