

## NW Oregon Area Commission on Transportation

May 7, 2009  
Camp Rilea  
Warrenton, OR

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

Clark Berry—Washington Co Transportation	Larry McKinley—ODOT Region 2
Ron Blin—Sunset Empire Transit District	Gerry Meyer—Port of St Helens
Seth Brumley—ODOT Region 1	David Neys—ODOT Region 2
Brett Estes—City of Astoria	William Pollard and Mrs Pollard—Tillamook County resident
Val Folkema—Port of Garibaldi	Ron Puzey—City of Clatskanie
Dennie Houle—OECDD	Shawn Reiersgaard—Tillamook Co Private Sector
Jim Hunt—Clatsop Co Private Sector	Kathy Sanders—Port of Astoria
Shirley Kalkhoven—City of Nehalem	Dave True—Columbia County
David Kim—ODOT Region 1	Ed Wegner—Clatsop County Public Works
Rickard Krikava—Senator Johnson's Office	Ingrid Weisenbach—ODOT Region 2
Mark Labhart—Tillamook County	Liane Welch—Tillamook Co Public Works
Steve Marx—Representative Wu's Office	Lonny Welter—Columbia County
Robert Maestre—ODOT Long Range Planning	

Excused: Rita Bernhart, Matt Mumford, Russ Warr

### 1. NWACT Minutes/Updates:

- Approval of March 5, 2009 Minutes—Approved unanimously. (LW/KS).
- Public Comment—Bill Pollard talked to the poor condition of Hwy 22 between Hebo and Valley Junction, and Hwy 101 from MP 76 to MP 92 with its s-curves and washouts. And expressed concern that neither highway meets highway design standards listed on ODOT's website. He brought supporting letters and documentation of vehicle incidents. Could upgrade to include bike lanes.
- Steve Marx—Federal Transportation/Surface Transportation Bill Reauthorization—Opportunity to send in earmarks. So far, no projects have come from Clatsop or Columbia Counties. Transit Facility in Columbia County might be eligible. Usually projects are those that are already in the STIP, and have been funded, and need some gap financing. They also need to either be on the federal system or connected to it.
- Legislative Update—HB 2001 has moved out of the House. Currently, the Oregon Transportation Commission has sent on a list of \$15 billion in priority projects for the Legislature. Most of the projects came off prior existing lists, such as past STIPs, safety and preservation.
- ODOT Updates—Region 1: David Kim reported that in 2009 and 2010 the region will have unprecedented construction. Will be implementing a media campaign to let the public know to of the scope of work underway. Deadline for small cities ARRA projects is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Going through Transportation Grant Management applications from St Helens, Scappoose, Vernonia, Rainier and Clatskanie. Rail corridor study is done. Section of Hwy 30 between Rainier and Columbia City beginning to really deteriorate. Region 2: Larry McKinley reported that Region 2 will also be assisting Region 1 with their workload. Painting of Megler Bridge will be staged, and in process of pre-bidding. Will involve limited lane closures. Hwy 30 bridges will have railings replaced. Paving in Miles Crossing area, east of Astoria on Hwy 30. In Tillamook, paving on Latimer Rd, Farmers Creek, Hwy 101, Neahkanie Rock Wall (part of Oregon's 150 celebration).  
County cutting of trees along Hwy corridors is pretty much complete. Cut timber is being given to local Community Action Teams for heating homes. Should make the highways safer from future storms.  
David Neys reported on Region 2's storm damage repair. They have also been touring the region to look at the priority preservation (paving) improvements needed. With bids coming in so low, there will be more funds to do more projects. Bridge on Hwy 101 near Oswald State Park suffered significant damage to the sidewalk and rail, from an unknown vehicle crash—will likely be a \$300,000 fix, with one lane closed 24/7 for another couple of weeks. Putting together a list of stakeholders to talk to about load limited bridges.
- Clatsop County Transportation—Working on stimulus funding overlay package. Working with ODOT. Also looking at getting rail restored to Tongue Point by December. Budget-wise, looks like the road budget will be okay.

infrastructure projects needed, as well as prepare for the future of transportation. Least cost looks at different options to solving traffic congestion, eg, using multi-modal options.

- HB 2001 Legislation: Key components included in the bill: Develop 1 or more congestion pricing projects in Portland area, list projects on website, develop least cost model, \$100 million for multi-modal projects, programs for medium speed electric vehicles, co-locate state and county maintenance vehicles, establish environmental standards, permit Counties to submit vehicle license fees without going to voters, etc.
- Utility relocation costs—When a transportation project impacts a utility, the utility would like early notification with full plans. Could slow a project down.

5. NWACT Updates

- NWACT Report to the OTC. NWACT has been asked to provide the OTC with an overview of the key transportation needs and issues in NW Oregon. Needs/Issues recommendations from Board members included: New air service from Portland to Astoria could potentially be more viable with a connection to Seattle. Rail out to Tongue Point. Improve freight mobility by reducing congestion at choke points, continue to focus on recognizing the role transportation plays in State's economic development. For rural areas: making roads wider would make them safer. Great deal of deferred maintenance. Work to get more money into the maintenance side of transportation.

Strengthen/Enhance relationship with OTC—Meetings such as in March 2008 with the OTC. Attend NWACT meeting. (As done this session) Providing list of needed transportation projects to Legislature.

6. Next Meeting—July 9<sup>th</sup>, City of Banks Fire Hall.

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Recorded: Mary McArthur, Staff

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Shirley Kalkhoven, Chair