

<p><b>SOUTH WEST AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION (SWACT)</b></p> <p><b>Meeting Minutes</b></p> <p><b>July 14, 2023</b></p> <p><b>Teleconference</b></p>
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❖ Roll Call ❖

Chair Nikki Messenger called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. Roll was called, and a quorum confirmed. (16 voting members present. V = voting member for this meeting. Quorum = 11 (50% of filled [currently 22] primary membership positions.)

**Commission Members and Alternates in Attendance (alphabetical)**

Alcorn, Brad	Curry County (Primary)	V
Allaway, Julie	CCBUTI (Primary)	V
Bernhardt, Kathryn	Transit (Primary)	V
Boyer, Brant	Douglas County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Cheas, Cheryl	Douglas County Stakeholder (Alternate)	V
Dinning, Michael	Port (Primary)	V
Dolgonas, Dick	Bicycle & Pedestrian (Primary)	V
Gilbert, Kristi	Douglas County City-At-Large (Primary)	V
Gray, Garrett	CTCLUSI (Primary)	V
Hossley, Jim	City of Coos Bay (Primary)	V
Howard, Janell	City of Brookings (Primary)	V
Hunter, Chris	ODOT (Primary)	V
Jensen, Matthew	Coquille Indian Tribe (Primary)	V
Kutch, Ron	Coos County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Messenger, Nikki	City of Roseburg (Primary)	V
Pederson, Glen	ODOT (Alternate)	

**ODOT Staff in Attendance**

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Baker, Mike       | Region 3 Planning Manager              |
| 2. Cornutt, Lisa     | Region 3 Principal Planner             |
| 3. DeWald, Teresa    | Region 3 Local Agency Liaison          |
| 4. Horlacher, Ian    | Region 3 Senior Transportation Planner |
| 5. Latham, Dan       | Region 3 Public Information Officer    |
| 6. Neavoll, Darrin   | Region 3 Manager                       |
| 7. Stradtner, Janell | Region 3 Senior Transportation Planner |
| 8. Thompson, Sarah   | Region 3 Executive Analyst             |

❖ Public Input ❖

None

❖ Approval of Minutes ❖

- **Motion made and seconded to approve the March 10, 2023, SWACT Minutes. (Dick Dolgonas/Jim Hossley)**
- Discussion: None.
- *Motion carried.*

❖ Membership Updates ❖

Chris Hunter reminded the group a number of positions are still vacant, and to please think of others that may be interested in filling those positions.

❖ 2027-2030 STIP ❖

**Presentation:** Mike Baker gave an overview of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan funding that will be coming to ODOT in the 2027-2030 cycle. Funding scenario focus areas for the new STIP cycle will include maintenance, safety, multimodal and timely investments. These focus areas align with the strategic action plan and the newly adopted Oregon Transportation Plan. Funding will be limited in the 27-30 STIP for a number of reasons.

1. Federal Infrastructure Bill expires in 2026;
2. State Highway Fund revenues are flat;
3. HB2017 names projects will be complete;
4. Funds shifted from the STIP to cover ODOT's Operations and Maintenance shortfall;
5. ADA program costs will be at their peak; and
6. Rapidly rising construction costs.

OTC discussions and outreach will occur from May – November 2023. The OTC will approve the funding allocation in November 2023. Project scoping and selection will occur in 2024 – 2025 and public comment/OTC approval will occur in 2026.

Current outreach being requested:

Given the policy direction in the Oregon Transportation Plan, the needs across the state's transportation system and funding limitations, what are the priorities for investment in the STIP?

**Discussion:** Nikki Messenger would like to know how the electrification of the State Highways is being funded. A: Through IJA and other federal funding. Nikki Messenger is concerned about the shortfall of maintenance funding and the safety impacts that will have. Ron Kutch works for a bridge contractor. He feels that we need to fix the problems with current infrastructure instead before worrying about enhancing. Dick Dolgonas feels there are a lot more crashes occurring and shutting the freeway down and feels there is a lack of enforcement. Nikki Messenger would like to know how the I-5 Bridge/Rose Quarter fit into the STIP. A: Those projects are a legislative ask, not STIP funding.

❖ Federal Aid Urban Boundary & Federal Functional Classification ❖

**Presentation:** Ian Horlacher gave an update on the schedule for updating the Federal Aid Urban Boundaries (FAUB) and Federal Functional Classifications (FFC) for Oregon’s Road and Inventory Classification System. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires state DOTs to use the census data/revised urban areas to review and update all FAUB. Along with FAUB updates, a review and update of the FFC is also completed. FA programs distinguish between urban and rural areas in order to allocate funding under certain programs. In addition, States, MPOs and local governments may choose to make boundary adjustments for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to:

1. Aligning urban area boundaries with existing planning boundaries;
2. Addressing irregularities in urban area boundary shapes;
3. Maintaining consistency with highway functional classifications;
4. Including transit routes and/or traffic generators;
5. Incorporating local knowledge of urban form; and/or
6. Fostering an inclusive, effective, and comprehensive transportation planning process.

Summer/Fall 2023: Project team will review and formalize FAUB w/MPOs and LPAs and finalize draft for FFC changes.

Winter 2023: Project team will submit final FAUB and continue meetings with MPOs and LPAs as needed.

2024: Project team will review FFC changes, reengage with MPOs and LPAs as needed and ODOT will submit final FFC.

Early 2025, project team will compile documentation for ODOT and FHWA.

**Discussion:** Chris Hunter informed the LPAs that Ian will be reaching out over the next year for input. Nikki Messenger asked if preliminary information is showing that an MPO will need to be formed in the Roseburg area A: No, not at this time.

### ❖ 2023 ACT Modal Advisory Committee Chair Meeting ❖

**Presentation:** Nikki informed the group that on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the ACT chairs along with freight, rail, transit and bike-ped modal groups met with Lee Beyer and Julie Brown to talk about funding, budgets and had a tabletop conversation regarding ACT roles and work plans. In addition, discussion was held regarding the Oregon Transportation Plan and Strategic Action Plan update. Safety and Maintenance were not strong pillars in the newest SAP update, however, are being added back in. ACT and OTC representatives are working towards trying to meet at least twice per year. Julie is very interested in hearing from the ACT’s.

**Discussion:** Chris Hunter thanked Nikki for bringing up small coastal towns in the meeting and how underrepresented they are.

### ❖ ACT Work Plan ❖

**Presentation:** Chris Hunter and Nikki Messenger gave a brief overview to the group on the ask from the OTC for an ACT work plan. This group was formed to be an advisory committee to the OTC. As we no longer have discretionary funding, the OTC is requesting the ACTs to create a work plan to outline the goals of the ACT and strategies to achieve those goals. There is a

possibility of partnering with the RVACT or the Lane ACT. Draft materials have been sent to the membership. Chris requested the group look through the materials and provide suggestions to him or Nikki.

**Discussion:** None

### ❖ Region 3 Construction Update ❖

**Presentation:** Dan Latham gave an update on construction projects currently underway in the area. These include ADA curb ramp replacements on the coast and the I-5 corridor, paving from Azalea to Glendale on I-5, the I-5 and OR138E Variable Message Sign Installation, the Conn Ford and Oakland Bridges replacement project, Lone Rock bridge repairs in Glide, some final repairs being done to the Scottsburg bridge, Frenchie Creek bridge project on OR42, Bunker Hill sidewalks in Coos Bay and Garrison Slough – Cemetery Loop rd. on US101, and the new Welcome to Oregon sign being installed on US101 at the CA border. In addition, there is work underway on US101 where the Arizona Slide collapsed in January.

**Discussion:** Chris Hunter indicated that CalTrans has reached out to ODOT for information on the Welcome sign as they would like to update their sign as well to match. Ron Kutch asked how the ADA ramps are currently being put out to bid? A: Depending on constructability, they are either bid out in batches or individually. Ron Kutch asked if the Oakland bridge will retain the character of the old bridge, and who decides the design? A: The new bridge is to mimic the old bridge features. If a bridge is historic there are State Historical Preservation Office regulations requiring the use of visual elements of the old bridge.

### ❖ Region 3 Updates ❖

**Presentation:** Chris Hunter gave a Region 3 update in Darrin's absence. A few topics included: State Funds – As of July, ODOT has reduced maintenance and operations by 5%. In 2025, the legislature and the governor's office are willing to discuss a funding package. Funding Opportunities – two applications were submitted for planning grants under the Great Streets program. None were selected. Region 3 was awarded \$21M in RAISE funds for OR99. We are still waiting to hear back on the Carbon Reduction Applications. PROTECT application was submitted for the Arizona Slide mitigation and a pilot grant for \$20M was submitted for a wildlife crossing in Southern Oregon. Awards should be announced the first of the year. OTC – Julie Brown was selected as the new Chair; former Senator Lee Beyer was selected as Vice Chair. Alicia Chapman and Jeff Baker were recently appointed to the Commission, making it whole again and we should see some positive changes coming. The OTC held a special meeting a couple weeks ago regarding tolling and there was some support and some opposition. At yesterday's regular OTC meeting the Oregon Transportation Plan was approved, the 2024 – 2027 Draft STIP was approved and the adopted the State Rail Implementation Plan.

**Discussion:** None

❖ **NOA's and Adjournment** ❖

Nikki Messenger adjourned the meeting at 11:32 am.

**Next SWACT Meeting: Friday, September 14, 2023, at 10 am. Meeting will be virtual.**