

<p>SOUTH WEST AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION (SWACT) Meeting Minutes January 13, 2023 Teleconference</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] membership positions.)

Commission Members and Alternates in Attendance (alphabetical)

Bernhardt, Kathryn	Transit (Primary)	V
Boyer, Brant	Douglas County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Cheas, Cheryl	Douglas County Stakeholder (Alternate)	V
Christensen, Richard	Curry County (Alternate)	V
Cook, Theresa	Aviation (Primary)	V
Dolgonas, Dick	Bicycle & Pedestrian (Primary)	V
Elliott, Brian	Douglas County City-at-Large (Primary)	V
	Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians (Primary)	V
Gray, Garrett	City of Coos Bay (Primary)	V
Hossley, Jim	ODOT (Primary)	V
Hunter, Chris	Coquille Indian Tribe (Primary)	V
Jensen, Matthew	Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians (Primary)	V
Johnson, Brett	Douglas County (Primary)	V
Kress, Tom	Coos County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Kutch, Ron	City of Roseburg (Primary)	V
Messenger, Nikki	ODOT (Alternate)	V
Neavoll, Darrin	Coos County (Primary)	V
Sweet, John		

ODOT Staff in Attendance

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Boardman, Jennifer | Region 3 Transit Coordinator |
| 2. Brown, Julie | Oregon Transportation Commission |
| 3. Cornutt, Lisa | Region 3 Principal Planner |
| 4. DeWald, Teresa | Region 3 Local Agency Liaison |
| 5. Latham, Dan | Region 3 Public Information Officer |
| 6. Pederson, Glen | Interim District 7 Manager |
| 7. Thompson, Sarah | Region 3 Executive Analyst |

Guests in Attendance

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. McKeown, Caddy | Northpoint Development |
| 2. Metz, Melissa | Coos County Area Transit |
| 3. | |

❖ Public Input ❖

None

❖ Approval of Minutes ❖

- **Motion made and seconded to approve the November 04, 2022 SWACT Minutes. (Jim Hossley/John Sweet)**
- Discussion: None.
- *Motion carried.*

❖ Membership Updates ❖

Chris Hunter informed the group a number of the members terms have expired or will be expiring by March. Sarah will reach out and send applications and also submit a legal public notice to solicit new members. These new applications will be voted on at the March 2023 meeting.

❖ STIF - Discretionary ❖

Presentation: Jennifer Boardman gave an overview of the STIF-D program and the amount of funding available for this round and stressed how important the ACT feedback is in this process. The three applicants then each gave a brief description of their projects. Melissa Metz with Coos County Area Transit (CCAT) is requesting \$122,000 for operation, preventative maintenance and project administration costs for continued service between Coos Bay and Florence, \$40,000 for operation and project administration costs for continued deviated fixed-route service between Coos Bay and Roseburg and \$630,000 for purchase of three Category D XL hybrid (gas-electric) E-450 to address increased ridership on all three fixed routes. Kathy Bernhardt with Curry County Transit is requesting \$450,000 for purchasing three replacement vehicles. Cheryl Cheas with the Umpqua Public Transportation District is requesting \$777,133 for upgrades to system software and addition of IT staff. The ACT is to provide feedback/ranking/letter of support by February 6th, 2023.

Discussion: John Sweet is interested in the veteran usage of the Coos Bay – Roseburg route. Melissa indicated the majority of the riders are veterans. She doesn't have an exact count but can provide it after the meeting. Jennifer Boardman indicated that CCAT is currently working with Rogue Valley Transportation District on the GOVets program. John Sweet asked if it worked out for us last time to just support all the projects. Jennifer Boardman stated we got the majority of all projects last round. John indicated that there will be less extra funding this go around than the last due to Covid monies. Jennifer agreed, however, indicated there are other sources of funding for the projects requested.

- **Motion made and seconded to support all projects. (John Sweet/Brant Boyer)**
- Discussion: Cheryl indicated that we could do a ranking and speak to phasing on the UPTD project. Kathy indicated her application states that they would take just one bus instead of

three. Melissa stated that they have already significantly shaved their project down to the bare minimum.

- **Motion rescinded**
- **Motion made and seconded to give priority to the first year ask of UPTD, 2 buses to Curry County Transit, and support all of CCAT's requests as they stand. (John Sweet/Brant Boyer)**
- Discussion: None
- **Motion Carried**

Sarah will write up the letter of support and send to Nikki for final signature.

❖ OTC Overview/ACT Chair & OTC Meeting ❖

Presentation: Julie Brown with the Oregon Transportation Commission gave an overview of the goals and vision of the OTC for 2023. The first meeting of the year was held yesterday. Senator Beyer brought conversations to the table from the legislature and how that impacts Region 3. The Community Workforce Agreement pilot program was approved at the meeting yesterday. The legislature has tied the hands of the commission by mandating that tolling be implemented and \$101 million be set aside for the tolling program. Julie also indicated it is a challenge with how the ACT's and the OTC correspond. Nikki and Julie gave a brief overview of how the ACT chair and OTC meeting went. Comments weren't all positive and there is room for improvement. A big takeaway is that other ACTs operate differently than the SWACT.

Discussion: Dick Dolgonas – wants to ensure that equity is at the forefront of the discussions and would like to know what we as an ACT should be preparing for. Julie stated that we need to get a work plan together. Ron Kutch will be reaching out to Julie, but the message is clear that we need to “go big”. Julie urged the SWACT members to reach out to her and she will respond as she is able to and will attend SWACT meetings if she is available.

❖ Port of Coos Bay Facility ❖

Presentation: Caddy McKeown of Northpoint Development gave an overview of the new proposed port facility at the port of Coos Bay. Their firm is currently going after federal funding through the IJA round 1 and will additionally go after rounds 2, 3 and 4 as they come available. Benefits of the new facility include adding 1.2 MM TEUs per year, a new gateway for import of containers from Asian Markets, enhanced opportunity to export agricultural and forest products, approximately 3,500 construction jobs estimated over a five year period, and thousands of new long-term jobs in the Coos, Douglas and Lane Counties (direct & indirect).

Discussion: Chris Hunter indicated this project has received lots of support up the line. Darrin asked Caddy if she would be willing to present to the RVACT. Nikki asked if there is a separate project going on at the port in addition to this one? Caddy would be happy to present to RVACT and to answer Nikki's question, the port is purchasing the old GP saw mill and is developing it to move rail cars. That is separate from this project.

❖ 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, 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 as well as the Cedar Point – Finley Loop project, Bunker Hill sidewalks in Coos Bay and Garrison Slough – Cemetery Loop rd. on US101. In addition, there is work underway to get US101 opened up where the Arizona Slide collapsed on Sunday.

Discussion: Glen Pederson indicated that US101 should tentatively be opened up this afternoon providing a single lane with flaggers. The rain is not helping. Over dimensional permits will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Ron Kutch thanked ODOT maintenance for all of their work on the slide area.

❖ Region 3 Updates ❖

Presentation: Darrin Neavoll gave a summary to the commission members of updates in Region 3. He thanked those on the coast for their patience with the slide.

- Region 3 has finalized the 2024 – 2027 STIP list and will be giving a presentation at the March meeting.
- \$100 million has been granted across the state for the EV charging stations. For us this will start on I-5 south of Cottage Grove all the way to the CA border. A public meeting will be opening in February.
- We've talked about the budget cuts previously. Another round of exercises has occurred and Maintenance & Operations will be cutting 5% in July of this year. These first cuts will impact public less, however, another 5% reduction will come during the 2025 – 2027 biennium that will impact personnel, facilities and the public.
- The new legislative session has started and there are 1800 bills that ODOT is tracking in regards to transportation.
- Great Streets program has called for applications. Region 3 has submitted four pre-applications and we are awaiting review and feedback.
- Region 3 submitted 3 FLAP applications and were notified that none of them were successful.

For the OTC meeting, some highlights:

- As Julie mentioned, the CWA program was approved to commence. For Region 3 the Gold Beach Bridge is the project selected.
- OTC approved the Safe Routes to School. Four grants were awarded in Region 3 (2 RV/2 SW)

Discussion: Dick Dolgonas asked why cuts are happening if Maintenance and Operations are such a priority for the agency. Darrin stated that revenue is dropping and there are limited state

funds that are utilized for maintenance and operations. Julie Brown indicated that we are going after a road-user fee to help cover some of the deficit.

❖ **NOA's and Adjournment** ❖

Nikki Messenger adjourned the meeting at 11:59 am.

Next SWACT Meeting: Friday, March 10, 2023, at 10 am. Meeting will be virtual.