



North East Area Commission on Transportation Meets March 11 in La Grande

LA GRANDE, Ore. - The North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT) will hold its next meeting on March 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Region 5 Headquarters, located at 3012 Island Avenue, La Grande, Oregon. The NEACT, comprised of transportation stakeholders from Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Baker counties, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, helps identify and prioritize transportation-related projects in the five-county area. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities, per the Americans with Disabilities Act. The general public is invited to attend.

On the agenda for this NEACT meeting are the following key topics:

Morning Session: 10 a.m. - noon

- General updates on Oregon Transportation Commission and ODOT
- Byways Committee news
- Updates from League of Oregon Cities (LOC) and American Public Works Association (APWA)
- Updates on the Connect Oregon II program and Senate Bill 566
- New NEACT Chair discussion
- Draft ODOT Earmarking Policy presentation

Lunchtime Session: noon – 1 p.m. (lunch served for NEACT members and staff only)

- County Roundtable

Afternoon Session: 1-3 p.m.

- Connect Oregon II Presentations
During this time presentations will be given for the following Connect Oregon II project applications:
 - Baker City Municipal Airport Improvements
 - Baker City Elkhorn View Industrial Park Rail
 - Alicel Intermodal Transportation Project
 - Port of Umatilla - Upland Distribution Center
 - Port of Morrow - Multimodal Rail Logistics Center
 - Lexington - Aviation Expansion Project
 - Sumpter Railroad - Machine Shop expansion and rebuild program
 - Boardman Barge Terminal

- Inland Energy Rail Spur
- Construct Yard Connections/Hinkle Yard

Connect Oregon II

During this meeting members of the NEACT and other stakeholders will discuss the Connect Oregon II process, timelines and project proposals. Connect Oregon II will fund \$100 million in marine, rail, aviation and transit projects in the form of grants and loans. Project activities that are eligible for funding from the State Highway Trust Fund or that require or rely upon continuing subsidies from the Oregon Department of Transportation are not eligible for Connect Oregon II funding. For more information about Connect Oregon II visit the ODOT Web site at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/CO/COII.shtml> . Parties interested in the Connect Oregon II program and project proposals are invited to attend this meeting.

Time has been set aside for public comments regarding project proposals and other transportation related topics. To schedule time on the agenda at future NEACT meetings, please contact Glenis Harrison (541) 963-3179.

An Area Commission on Transportation is an advisory body chartered by the Oregon Transportation Commission to help address all aspects of transportation. More information about ACTs is available at the ODOT Web Site at www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/act_main.shtml .

For more information about any of the agenda item topics, please contact Tom Strandberg at (541) 963-1330, or via email at thomas.m.strandberg@odot.state.or.us .

ODOT