

North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT)

3012 Island Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850

Phone: 541-963-3179 Fax: 541-963-9079

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: November 1, 2007 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION: Oregon Department of Transportation
3012 Island Avenue
La Grande, Oregon

Open Meeting

- Roll call of voting members

Voting Members (Alternates)		
Larry Lehman	Ron McInnis	Nancy Gover
Bob Patterson	Bob Jepson	Mike Hayward
Terry Tallman	Steve McClure	Russ McMartin
Gerald Breazeale	Dan Chevaleer	Frank Reading
Gary Bieberdorf	Fred Warner	

- Approved minutes from August 2nd meeting:

MOTION: Commissioner Hayward

SECOND: Nancy Gover.

Approved unanimously

- Introductions – Sign in sheet on file

Ex-Officio Members	Guests		Staff
Janet Dodson	Barbara Van Arsdale	Beth Vargas Duncan	Pat Fisher
Alice Trindle	Karen Pettigrew	Steve Brocho	Doug Wright
Jennifer Watkins	Barry Beyeler	Craig Thompson	Tom Strandberg
Judy Loudermilk	Andy Perry	Jeff Wise	Nancy Martin
Kathleen Cathy	James Dodson	Curt Wiedermann	
Larry Bartee	Nola Driskell		
Jon Crogan	Zee Koza		

Public and/or Stakeholders Comments: Public comments may be taken at any time during the ACT meeting

- City of Imbler: Hwy 82 Mod Project
- Norm Paullus, City of La Grande: Grand opening for the Gekeler Lane project at noon today at Gekeler and 16th. Stream relocation project will be completed next year along with sidewalks on ditch side of Gekeler.
- Janet Dodson: Thank you for support for the Elgin to Wallowa RR.
- Terry Tallman: Discussed the ground breaking on Boardman Raceway. Brought maps and drawings to share.

Old Business and Reports

OTC and ODOT Update, Commissioner - Monte Grove

- Talked about the \$56 million that the state transferred to the counties and other cuts in the Mod program for Region 5. Commission continues to work on Connect Oregon II. Currently in the application phase. Accepting apps until the 21st of November. Commission is updating the administrative rules for Connect Oregon II. Asked NEACT for any comments. Region's share is \$10 million. Notice of Intent: 86 applications for state at \$240 million. 14 projects for Region 5 at \$51 million.

Draft letter to Steve Ellis – Steve McClure, Janet Dodson

- A request to NEACT to support a change in the FHWA Transportation Bill that would allow "Federal Forest System Roads" that are part of designated National or State Scenic Byways or All American Roads, to be designated as "Public Roads" - Alice Trindle and Dana Taylor
- Steve McClure: Letter is not ready; he and Janet will circulate electronically; letter's intent is to express concerns for scenic byway and funding options.
- Alice Trindle: Signed off on letter to congressional representatives. Letter was sent. Letter was asking for roads that are currently forest system roads that are national or state scenic roads be eligible for federal funds.
- Terry Tallman: Expressed concern adding to a division of critically diminished funds by asking for funding.

New Business and Presentations – (*Handouts and audio tape are available if you are interested in the information that was given out during the following presentations: Transportation Enhancement, Byway Report.*)

Identify Process for STIP Program Reductions – Frank Reading/Monte Grove

- Frank explained the reductions that Region 5 needed to make to the STIP and what the responsibility was for NEACT. Suggested that a sub-team be put together to select recommendation and present to NEACT.
- Steve McClure: Wants to discuss whether to postpone or cancel (eliminate) mod projects to make reductions. He believes projects should be postponed, projects will move ahead when funding is available.
- Consensus was that NEACT will postpone projects rather than cutting them from the STIP. New projects would not be added for some time to come.

MOTION: Steve McClure: To readjust the funding, NEACT will postpone projects, not cancel projects.

SECOND: Nancy Gover

Passed unanimously

MOTION: Gerry Breazeale: Keep same committee members as before.

SECOND: Steve McClure

Approved Unanimously

- After discussion, consensus was to keep this same sub committee to serve for Connect Oregon II.

ConnectOregon II Process – Frank Reading

- Frank went over the timelines and changes to the rule. He announced that the application deadline is November 21, 2007.
- Connect Oregon II Roundtable: Floor was opened to anyone who might be submitting a project for Connect Oregon II funding.
 - Zee Cosa, New Day Enterprises in La Grande
Application: \$60000 geriatric lift van to carry two wheelchairs.
 - City of Boardman in review process.
 - City of Baker City: Rail expansion and spur.
 - Union County: Alicel project. \$2.3 million
 - Port of Morrow: 1 marine, 1 rail project
 - Inland Pacific Energies, Stanfield: Video Conference Equipment
 - Local Government Certification Program Presentation– Beth Vargas-Duncan, ODOT Local Government Section

County Roundtable, Terry Tallman, Morrow County: Racetrack update

Agenda Build

Set time, date and place for next meeting

January 15, 2008

3012 Island Avenue

La Grande, Oregon

Meeting Adjourned