

North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT)
3012 Island Avenue
La Grande, Oregon 97850
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Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2009

Chairman Fred Warner called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.
He asked that visitors introduce themselves.

NEACT Members/Alternates

Ron Sivey
Bob Patterson
Terry Tallman
Bob Jepsen
Burke O'Brien
Ron McKinnis
Steve McClure
Robert Strobe
Bary Bieberdorf
Fred Warner
Jennifer Watkins
Mary Jo Carpenter
Mike Hayward
Russ McMartin
Patrick Munyan
Rowdy Smith
Frank Reading

Others Present

Andy Perry
Jeremy Morris
Jon Croghan
Scott Fairley
Norm Paullus
Kathleen Cathey

ODOT Staff

Doug Wright
Laura Slater
Nancy Martin, recorder

Nancy Martin took roll for the meeting. A quorum was present.
Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by the members.

Announcements: none

Public and/or stakeholders comments: none

Public comments may be taken at any time during the ACT meeting.

Old Business and Reports:

OTC – Frank Reading gave the update. There has been a request for ACT members to participate in the statewide stakeholder committee. If anyone from NEACT wishes to participate, please let Frank/Nancy Martin know by June 18th. We will send out an e-mail reminder. Frank also mentioned that the OTC had approved the 09’ – 11’ Transit Grants (see handouts). Frank discussed the HB2001 handout and how the ACT would be busy between July and October 2009 in approving the list of project’s that recipients of HB2001 funds will be bringing forward. Around the same time period, it will be necessary to start talking about Connect Oregon III projects. Frank recommended that everyone start identifying projects for Connect Oregon III now.

The Travel Information Council will take over maintenance responsibilities of three rest areas in Region 5 (two in Boardman 1 in Ontario), along with others throughout Oregon. They will receive \$3M a year for maintenance of the rest areas.

Fred Warner reminded the ACT that the Tolling Committee is looking for participants from the ACTs. We can have up to three representatives from NEACT. Please let him know if you wish to participate.

Frank presented the details of HB2001 funding (see handouts). He discussed what new revenue it would be bringing to the state, he also shared that we would still be looking at reductions to the 2010 -2013 STIP because the reductions in revenue from people driving less is greater that the new funds coming into the state via HB2001. He shared that the ACT would be involved in the STIP reductions.

At 9:30, Representative Greg Smith spoke to the ACT via telephone concerning the Governor's JTA. He indicated that HB2001 passed the legislature and was on its way to the Governor for signature. The provisions of the JTA are presented in detail in several handouts. He mentioned that the legislation also directs ODOT to provide stimulus project information on a public website. He discussed some of the likely revenue bills that will be presented to the legislature. He expects two will be referred to the voters: a provider tax for health care and a personal income tax increase. He does not expect that any part of the transportation bill will be referred. *Representative Smith strongly urged the ACT to send a letter of thanks to the Speaker of the House, Dave Hunt, for being very supportive to Region 5 needs.* He said that the Speaker did an excellent job of representing eastern Oregon's interests. He also mentioned the effective work done by Cliff Bentz in his role as a freshman representative in championing the Region's input to the transportation bill.

New Business:

The Culvert Hydraulic Removal video clip is available via e-mail for anyone who would like a copy of it.

Local Program Stimulus Update: Doug Wright reviewed the 120-day projects, the list of Region 5 projects awarded, and the revised 1-R programs for Baker County and Spruce Street (La Grande). He said most projects probably won't get started until next year due to the high number of projects that Salem is dealing with. They are preparing the agreements and sending them out to the field for ODOT to administer. He mentioned the TIGGER funds hand out and the March 2010 time frame for any funds coming back from cities and counties that may then be utilized by the Region.

Roundtable:

Scenic Byways Update: Alice Trindle gave a summary of Byways activities. Handout is available.

Bob Patterson, City of Pendleton, mentioned that there is a four-year moratorium on local agencies enacting any new gas tax. The moratorium is from October 2009 to January 2014. Pendleton's gas tax was approved by the voters and will take effect prior to October 2009.

Transit Update: Mary Jo Carpenter reviewed information included in the handouts.

Fred reminded the committee members to proceed with developing cost estimates for future projects to present to OTC. Connect Oregon III proposals need to be ready by January 2010.

Governor's Office – no update

Senator Wyden's Office: Kathleen Cathey said there is an ARRA guide on the website that will be kept updated. She mentioned that the Forest Service has gifted to Wallowa County an historic ranger station building and grounds for an interpretive center.

County Updates: Ron McKinnis, Port of Morrow, said that they will be paving approaches to the Port area utilizing IOF monies.

Agenda Build:

Terry Tallman, update on the Freight Mobility Workgroup Committee

HB 2001 Update

Review Connect Oregon III

STIP reduction, possible direction from OTC.

Legislative update?

Set time, date and place for next meeting:

August 6, 2009

9:00 a.m. – noon

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