

## NW Oregon Area Commission on Transportation

January 8, 2009  
Scappoose Fire Hall  
Scappoose, OR

The meeting was called to order by Shirley Kalkhoven, Chair. The following members and guests attended:

Rita Bernhart—Columbia Co Commission  
Clark Berry—Washington County  
Transportation  
Ron Blin—Sunset Empire Transit District  
Seth Brumley—ODOT Region 1  
Mark Ellsworth—Governor's Office  
Senator Johnson—Oregon Legislature  
Jon Hankin—City of Scappoose

Shirley Kalkhoven—City of Nehalem  
David Kim—ODOT Region 1  
Mark Labhart—Tillamook County  
Larry McKinley—ODOT Region 2  
Matt Mumford—Tillamook County Transit  
Don Otterman—North Plains  
Kathy Sanders—Port of Astoria

Excused: Ray McFarlane

### 1. NWACT Minutes/Updates:

- Storm Updates: Clatskanie suffered some flooding, but it receded pretty rapidly. Washington County had more trouble with the snow event rather than flooding, keeping up with transit and road sanding. Vernonia dodged flooding, although there is currently a log jam on Rock Creek. Flooding south of town at Seaside on Hwy 101. Hwy 202 has a couple of grade failures, and single lane closures to landslides. Hwy 53, one slight grade failure, and a small amount of flooding in the City of Tillamook. Not likely to get much FEMA funds for these events, so will hit already depleted ODOT emergency budgets. Tillamook County has four slides blocking Cape Meares. Tremendous amount of tree damage which will have a huge impact on future forests. This also leaves the sight-of-ways along highways vulnerable to more blow down. Scappoose, overall, just basically has some high and standing water. Snow was an inconvenience. Surprisingly, Seaside has a snow sander. ODOT Region 1 prepared for the event by clearing storm drains and culverts ahead of time. During the snow event, ran 2 12 hour shifts, and brought in equipment from other parts of the state. A priority was keeping detour/alternate routes open. Chains had a lot of impact on the roads, so fixing potholes is a priority. Culverts seem to hold pretty well. Durable striping got scraped off when ice clearing occurred, which affects public safety, commerce and visitors interest in traveling. For North Plains, the main problem was snow. The culvert draining the north end of town has rusted out and will cost \$50,000 to replace. Important for local jurisdictions to have snow plans, including road clearing, clearing roofs, opening up entrances to businesses, communicating amongst multiple jurisdictions. Advice of NWACT that have snow plans that are vetted with ODOT, and other jurisdictions—send out to County Commissions. County winter operations plan with cities, county, ports, etc. Acknowledged mutual aid that outlines what is available for public assistance. Managing expectations. If you live out in outlying areas, should invest in a generator, extra food, water.
- Approval of November 6, 2008 Minutes—Approved unanimously. (RB, MM).
- Public Comment—None.  
Legislative Comment—Senator Johnson noted that the session starts on Monday, and that she co-chairs the economic development sub-committee of Ways and Means. Will be a budget of cuts, not adds. Already in the hole for the 2007–09 budget. Could be short as much as \$2 billion for the 2009-2010 budget. Not a lot of support for the Governor's proposed transportation budget, particularly the vehicle mileage tax. Some talk about setting up a Transportation Authority which would oversee transportation rates, construction costs
- ODOT Updates—Region 1: Projects under development: Widening from Cornell to 185<sup>th</sup> to be done by 2010; widening and relining the Dennis Edwards tunnel but will require closing it for 2 – 3 months (needed for freight traffic); Quartz Creek bridge repairs; replace Devil's Lake Creek bridge and add climbing lane; first phase of Staley's Junction, replace Banzer bridge; Van St turn lane in Clatskanie. Region 2: Young's Bay bridge is still underway, should complete in April. Mohler Bridge is ahead of schedule, and the next work will move to the Trask Bridge. Tillamook River loop is complete. Scenic Byway application process is open with applications due in April—Hwy 101 projects would qualify.
- Columbia County Transportation—Crews have been out since December 15<sup>th</sup> working on storm-related activity. Limited funding has meant cannot get to all the ongoing work that is needed. Discussion on how to get the public to understand the value of what getting for ODOT funding.

Port of Astoria: Pier 2 project is getting done. On final negotiations with SeaPort on the Astoria airtservice. ODOT trail grant of \$750,000 which extends the City of Astoria's riverwalk way.

Sunset Empire is working with Clatsop Community College on extending bus service to the college, a huge win for the community and the college. Ridership has increased. Free transit out to Tongue Point.

2. Governor's Proposed Transportation Budget

Federal stimulus funding is expected to come in February with 180 days to get projects underway. Have to be projects that don't need right-of-way, are designed and have the permitting done. Or projects that are already underway and can do something else to extend. Expect to get the funds out to the counties and cities. Projects need to be back to ODOT by January 16<sup>th</sup>. ODOT already has projects that can be started right away. Haven't seen any requirement for matching funds. Fairly easy application. Readiness-to-proceed will be the key priority. Will also look at the priorities established by the local governments.

Governor's proposed transportation budget has two parts. A bonded portion which could become available fairly soon. The other funding would come from increased in fees and taxes would be available in 2010. Will be a ConnectOregon III. ACTs will be asked to provide input on projects. Co-location of local and state maintenance facilities is encouraged. The vehicle mileage tax is universally unpopular in rural areas.

3. Regional Transportation Priorities

Difficulty is that if everyone else is putting together a list, it would be important to have one. Yet if don't know what the criteria will be, then may be premature to do a list. New projects need to be in local TSPs. Create an inventory of transportation projects: transit, freight, rail, etc that are safety, maintenance, readiness-to-proceed. Go to AOC and LOC and get lists for transportation projects and get a NW Oregon list for the March meeting.

4. NWACT Newsletter

Add a web-based survey to get responses back. Add some graphics about ODOT funding, eg, transportation funding 101. (Go to Highway Plan for some graphics). Expand email to more public officials. David volunteered his communications person for help with the newsletter and putting together a survey monkey.

5. Nominating Committee Report

Recommended accept Nominating Committee's recommendation for NWACT Slate of Officers: Shirley Kalkhoven—Chair, Ron Bline—Vice Chair and Rita Bernhart—Second Vice-Chair. The recommendation will be ratified at the March meeting.

6. ByLaws and Charter Update—No changes or updates have been suggested.

7. Biennial Report—May 20<sup>th</sup> before OTC.

---

Recorded: Mary McArthur, Staff

---

Shirley Kalkhoven, Chair