

NW Oregon Area Commission on Transportation

July 9, 2009
Banks Fire Station
Banks, OR

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

Doug Baumgartner—ODOT Region 1	Larry McKinley—ODOT Region 2
Clark Berry—Washington Co Transportation	Matt Mumford—Tillamook Transportation District
Jolynn Becker—City of Banks	Ron Puzey—City of Clatskanie
Rita Bernhard—Columbia County	Shawn Reiersgaard—Tillamook Co Private Sector
Ron Blin—Sunset Empire Transit District	Dave Schron—Tillamook County Public Works
Michele Bradley—Port of Tillamook Bay	Dave True—Columbia County
Seth Brumley—ODOT Region 1	Russ Warr—City of Astoria
Senator Johnson—Oregon Legislature	Ingrid Weisenbach—ODOT Region 2
David Kim—ODOT Region 1	Janet Wright—Columbia County
Mark Labhart—Tillamook County	
Rosemary Lohrke—Columbia County Private Sector	

Excused: Jim Hough, Don Otterman, Ed Wegner

1. NWACT Minutes/Updates:

- Approval of May 7, 2009 Minutes—Approved unanimously. (LM/SR).
- Public Comment—None
- Legislative Update—Senator Johnson reported: Not only had to work on the new budget, but re-balance the current 07–09 budget. Balancing involved: Using stimulus and rainy day/education funds, cutting services, and increasing corporate and personal income taxes. Increased corporate taxes will likely come back to the voters, and likely fail, which will mean the Legislature will need to reconvene in February.
- State Transportation Package (HB 2001) garnered wide support by naming specific projects. Not expected to be referred to the voters because of support. \$300 million budget, with funds going for both state and county budgets. Includes a 6 cent increase in the gas tax, based on certain economic triggers happening. Still need to figure out how to pay for regional freight routes that have state-wide significance. Includes Connect Oregon III. The Hwy 6/101 interchange through the City of Tillamook got into the budget. Havlik Rd in Scappoose did not get into the budget, but received federal stimulus funding instead.
- ODOT Updates—Region 1: David Kim reported that they are well into the Summer construction season. Very busy season this year, with an emphasis on safety in the work zones. Encouraged to check TripCheck before using State Highways. I-405 will be closed on weekends for repaving. With ARRA funds, ODOT has 100% obligated those that have to be awarded within the first 120 days. Havlik project is out for bid and has come in well under budget. Construction should start this Fall, with paving in 2010. Multnomah County is spending its ARRA funding on safety improvements for Cornelius Pass Rd. Slide outside Rainier on Hwy 30 will be worked on this Fall using a Region 2 crew. Transportation Growth Management (TGM) applications: St Helens and Vernonia's Transportation System Plan applications were awarded. Scappoose sidewalks got alternative funding. While Rainier's TGM application wasn't approved, ODOT is working with the city and using other planning resources.
- Region 2: Larry McKinley reported downtown Warrenton street scaping will be completed this August. Seaside TSP is continuing to move forward, and should be having an alternative design process in a couple of months. Looking to get the Miles Crossing planning done, as is the City of Garibaldi downtown improvements. Hwy 6/101 interchange in Tillamook has started to gain momentum, with a lot of involvement from local stakeholders. Biggest issue for local business people is finding solutions to parking right away, so it is in place before construction starts in 2014. Ground breaking for Neahkanie rock wall will be tomorrow at 10:00 am. Megler Bridge painting will be starting soon. Hwy 30 bridge renovations to start as is the cross walk at Seaside High School across Hwy 101. Starting to scope out Beerman Creek crossing on Hwy 101 south of Seaside. Lewis and Clark and old Bay bridge are in dire need of repair: weight restrictions, deck repair and piling replacements which will require lane restrictions on old Hwy 101 for a while. Will start public education process as soon.
- Oregon Transportation Commission—Ron and Shirley presented NWACT Biennial Report in May. Provided some additional information on issues and transportation opportunities. The next Commission meeting will be held July 23rd in Forest Grove.

- Washington County Transportation—Clark Berry reported: Council Creek Trail. City of Forest Grove has an appropriations request in for planning, but has not heard back yet. Staley's Junction improvements have increased to about a \$20 million due to increased environmental costs. ODOT is about \$10 million short. Looking at instituting variable speed limit to allow vehicles turning off Hwy 47 onto Hwy 26 the ability to merge into through traffic. Problem is usually only about 6 hours during Summer months on Sunday afternoons/evenings. Variable speeds would be a far less expensive fix than making an overpass. Glencoe Rd looks to get the overpass fixed, but not immediately resolve the access management issues in North Plains. That will be addressed in Phase 2.
2. Federal Surface Transportation Authorization Act
Expires on September 30th of this year. House and Senate need to agree on a package. Likely will be another year before it is finalized. Interim bill continues current funding.
 3. Other Updates
 - ConnectOregon III—Likely to use the same process. NW Oregon needs to be prepared. \$100 million is budgeted. Community process needs to happen, so everyone is supportive. Want the process to happen quickly.
 - STIP Stakeholder Committee—ODOT is looking to reconvene the committee, with a focus on eligibility and prioritization factors for projects. HB 2001 legislation includes criteria to consider. First meeting is in August. The Association of Oregon Counties and League of Oregon Cities have been asked to sit on the committee.
 - 2010–2013 STIP—Because of stimulus funding and lack of STIP funding, some of the projects previously recommended may be re-prioritized.
 - Tolling White Papers—Shirley attended three of the seven meetings. Truck only toll lanes was especially interesting—how freighters look at tolling and what other areas have done. Truck only toll lanes really work best over long distances.
 - OCZMA has issued a LCDC paper on the effects of climate change on coastal communities. Mary will send it out. May be a good agenda item for a NWACT coast meeting.
 - NW Oregon Comprehensive Economic Development
 - Port of Tillamook Bay—Looking at getting 25% FEMA match, which will mean \$44 million for improvements to the Port. A private developer is looking at putting at a resort/convention center project that would want \$20 million of those funds. Senator Johnson secured \$7.8 million of the needed match, which goes toward \$32 million in total projects, but it does not include a resort. Included is a little over \$4 million in Oregon Solutions projects, moving flood water under Hwy 101. No more discussion on rail bridge repair for this funding, but are still pursuing other federal funding.
 4. STIP Public Outreach
 - Survey--Raising awareness,, understanding what is needed, get more people involved. Target—Public officials and other stakeholders. Do you know that the NWACT does these things. eg, prioritize road projects. Recommended changes include: Sending out the survey in stages: First to NWACT members, find out their interests, thoughts.
 - HB 2001 Legislation: Key components included in the bill: Develop 1 or more congestion pricing projects in Portland area, list projects on website, develop least cost model, \$100 million for multi-modal projects, programs for medium speed electric vehicles, co-locate state and county maintenance vehicles, establish environmental standards, permit Counties to submit vehicle license fees without going to voters, etc. Strengthen/Enhance relationship with OTC—Meetings such as in March 2008 with the OTC. Attend NWACT meeting. (As done this session) Providing list of needed transportation projects to Legislature.
 5. Next Meeting—July 9th, City of Banks Fire Hall.

Recorded: Mary McArthur, Staff

Shirley Kalkhoven, Chair