

NW Oregon Area Commission on Transportation

September 3, 2009
Rockaway Beach Civic Center
Rockaway Beach, OR

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

Clark Berry—Washington Co Transportation	Matt Mumford—Tillamook Transportation District
Rita Bernhard—Columbia County	Kitty Poore—Pacific City/Nestucca Valley Chamber
Jack Bland—Port of Astoria	Ron Puzey—City of Clatskanie
Ron Blin—Sunset Empire Transit District	Mary Swanson—Consultant to Tillamook Transit
Bret Estes—City of Astoria	Dave True—Columbia County
Jeff Flowers—ODOT Region 1	Russ Warr—City of Astoria
Katie Gauthier—Senator Merkley's Office	Ed Wegner—Clatsop County
Mark Gervasi—City of Tillamook	Ingrid Weisenbach—ODOT Region 2
Dan Hess—Port of Astoria	Liane Welch—Tillamook Co Transportation
Dennie Houle—Business Oregon	Lonny Welter—Columbia County Transportation
David Kim—ODOT Region 1	Rian Windsheimer—ODOT Region 1
Mark Labhart—Tillamook County	Janet Wright—Columbia County
Rosemary Lohrke—Columbia County Private Sector	Bob Young—City of Vernonia
Larry McKinley—ODOT Region 2	

Excused: Jim Hough, Don Otterman, Ed Wegner

1. NWACT Minutes/Updates:

- Approval of September 9, 2009 Minutes—Approved unanimously. (LM/RB).
- Public Comment—None
- Legislative Update— David Kim reported the area managers have been asked to share the Oregon Transportation Commission agendas in case there are items of interest to ACT members. At the July OTC meeting, some obligated ARRA funds were re-allocated. Cuts in the 2010—2013 were also addressed, about a 15% reduction. At August Meeting—Approved amendment to the current STIP to fix the slide outside Rainier on Hwy 30. At next meeting in Eugene, will be considering adding Megler Bridge painting to the STIP.
- State Transportation Package (HB 2001) garnered wide support by naming specific projects. Not expected to be referred to the voters. \$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 ConnectOregon 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 the projects underway in or planned for in NWACT area include: Staley's Junction—variable speed message (during peak times, Sunday afternoons). Safety project at Salmonberry view point. Improvements to Dennis Edwards Tunnel to increase vertical height—which could mean closure of up to 8 months. Will need to know of concerns about doing this, get to David. Slated to start July 2010 and finish April 2011. Need improved lighting and notification when cyclists in the tunnel. Quartz Creek bridge retrofit. Hwy 6 emergency slide repair and some bridge repair. Banner Bridge replacement on Hwy 202. Paving on Hwy 47 between Sunset Hwy and Banks. Variable message sign on Hwy 30 at Cornelius Pass Rd interchange.
- Region 2: Larry McKinley reported ready to start \$40 million in construction projects: 4 bridge projects in Columbia County, Neahkanie Rock Wall which will require one lane traffic for about 30 days. Adding temperature cameras at Bradwood Landing. May do some pre-work in Tillamook on 12th St. Seaside looking to finish their Transportation System Plan in time for Nov 5th meeting. North span of Megler Bridge painting underway.
- Tillamook County Transportation—David Kim showed road washout resulting from a plugged culvert. Liane Welch reported on the Blaine Rd culvert failure near Beaver. Have designed a new bridge, so have a \$1 million shovel ready bridge ready to go. Looking at building a one lane bridge on an interim basis. Received \$626,000 in stimulus funding which went to repair of Johnson Bridge.

2. HB 2001 Oregon Jobs and Transportation ACT

4,500 jobs annually over next 5 years. Largest transportation package ever passed in Oregon. \$300 million for transportation projects, Half to cities/counties. Paid for by Vehicle Fees (registration, title, License plate; Manufacturing and Fuel Taxes, Truck Fees, non-highway: Custom plate fee, id card fee for targeted special population transit. When fully implemented increases will result in \$300 million/year. Gas tax to go up 6 cents over time. 50% state, 30% county, 20% city. Has a moratorium on any other new gas taxes before 2014, which has sparked a lot interest by local jurisdictions to pass their own local gas tax before the moratorium deadline. Project details: Hwy Projects: 37 projects and 12 local governments, including \$27 million for Hwy 101/6 interchange improvements and Glencoe Interchange in NWACT region. Priority was for projects that benefit freight movement and economic development.

Creates an Urban Trail Fund, Rest Area Management, Pilot Programs: Portland Metro Congestion Pricing, Maintenance Outsourcing. Allows larger counties to add local vehicle registration fee to fund transportation projects in 2013.

ConnectOregon \$100 million; bonds backed by lottery funds. 5% to rural airports 10% to four geographic regions.

STIP Selection Criteria. Work with stakeholders—Improved freight, green practices. Practical design for reducing cost by using maximum flexibility in the application of standards while maintaining safety and mobility.

Act was designed and passed through a large coalition of diverse efforts and interests. Act represents a large shift in how ODOT operates.

3. ConnectOregonIII Schedule

Handed out. Start outreach now. Include in NWACT newsletter. \$5 million set aside for rural airports. NWACT will review applications in the Spring 2010. Applications due November 20. May want to have ConnectOregonIII as an agenda item at the November meeting. Modal Committees reviews and recommendations will be sent out to ACTs March 15th, so NWACT will need to move March meeting date to later in the month.

4. STIP Funding

Updating STIP—Public involvement process started in 2007 in anticipation of reduced funding levels. STIP was put on hold until funding is fully figured out. Approved was reducing preservation, safety, and operations with an increase in modernization in part because additional preservation funding has become available through stimulus monies. Projects that have been cut from the draft STIP in the NWACT region include Hwy 101 improvements between the tunnel and Manzanita, and the 30th St signal in Astoria. Region 2 process will bring all the ACTs together on October 29th to review changes.

5. Culverts

Senator Johnson is interested in potentially looking at Legislation to manage preservation of culverts. Currently, limited to being able to only work on public right-of-ways, streams and hillsides on private lands that impact public culverts.

6. NWACT Officer Nominating Committee

Shirley named: Mark Labhart, Russ Warr, Rosemary Lohrke, and Clark Berry to the committee with a proposed slate of officers due for the November meeting.

7. Other Business

NWACT Member Survey—6 responses. To close in two weeks

Transportation Planning—The 2009—2010 NWACT Workplan was approved as proposed: First phase activities will include looking at the existing Transportation System Plans, and compiling an inventory of current conditions and a list of unmet needs. This data will then be used to determine:

- What is needed to maintain NW Oregon's transportation system
- What is needed to accommodate community and economic development growth
- What are the potential pressure or "choke" points, for prioritizing improvement projects

Second phase of the planning will take the current and projected system data, and identify what corresponding facilities and activities are needed to support transportation throughout NW Oregon. Examples include:

- Rail crossings, downtown rail safety improvements
- Maintenance of commercial air service
- Dredge disposal facility near the mouth of the Columbia River
- Transit facilities
- Dike restoration to carry rail track
- Culverts/Flood gates to allow passage of water during storm events

Roster—An updated NWACT roster was distributed, including new members, Jack Bland from the Port of Astoria and Kitty Poore from the Pacific City/Nestucca Valley Chamber.

8. Next Meeting—November 5th, Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Recorded: Mary McArthur, Staff

Shirley Kalkhoven, Chair

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