

NW Oregon Area Commission on Transportation

September 1, 2005

Oregon Department of Forestry
Tillamook, OR

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

Rita Bernhard – Columbia County	Charlotte Mendenhall – Sunset Empire Trans Dist
Clark Berry – Washington County	Gus Meyer – Tillamook Co SWCD, Tillamook
Lylla Gaebel – Clatsop County Commission	Estuary Project
Mark Gervasi – City of Tillamook	Heather Ornelas – Tillamook Transportation
Vicki Goodman – OECDD	Ron Puzey – City of Clatskanie
Valerie Grigg Devis – ODOT Region 2	Carole Richardson – ODOT Region 2
Dick Hellberg – City of Warrenton	Jeff Scheick – ODOT Region 2
Jim Hunt – Clatsop County Citizen-at-Large	Charlie Sciscione – ODOT Region 1
Rosemary Lohrke – Columbia Co Citizen-at-Large	Kim Shade – Port of St Helens
Shirley Kalkhoven – City of Nehalem	Aaron Suko – Tillamook County Roads
Don McDaniel – Port of Astoria	Dave True – City of Clatskanie
Ray McFarlane – City of Rockaway Beach	Tim Wilson – ODOT Region 1

Excused: Jon Hankin, Mark Labhart, Kathleen Newton, Shawn Reiersgaard, Carmen Swigart.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Members and guests introduced themselves.
2. NWACT Minutes/Updates:
 - Approval of July 7, 2005 Minutes – Approved, with one correction – Carole Richardson should be listed as excused, rather than attended.
 - Public Comment – None
 - Legislative Comment – None
 - ODOT Updates
 - Region 1 – Projects in Clatskanie and Glencoe interchange continue are on schedule.
 - Region 2 – The Fort to Sea Hwy 101 undercrossing is complete, new signals are being installed in Astoria, and a preservation project is scheduled next May on Hwy 101 between Manzanita and Wheeler. The City of Nehalem will be coordinating its water line project to happen at the same time as it parallels the highway.
3. 2008 – 2011 STIP Recommendations

Valerie reviewed the STIP process, including the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) criteria, the difference between “D” Developmental STIP and “C” Construction STIP projects, the role of NWACT, potential funding available to NW Oregon, and NWACT’s criteria used by the sub-committees to make project priority ranking recommendations. NWACT members then discussed:

 - NWACT’s Congestion Criteria – At the July NWACT meeting, members expressed concern that system-wide congestion criteria needed to address volume to capacity, not just overall volume. This criteria was then modified to use ODOT’s map of average vehicle counts. However, once actual project proposals were reviewed against the criteria it became clear that using averages masks the peak congestion occurring from visitor traffic in NW Oregon. NWACT’s Executive Committee’s voted to drop the congestion criteria from NWACT’s 2008 – 2011 STIP Criteria, subject to full NWACT ratification, and to set up a technical sub-committee to work on a more accurate measure of congestion for the next STIP. NWACT members unanimously ratified NWACT’s 2008 – 2011 STIP criteria, including not having congestion scoring.
 - Future NWACT STIP Criteria – Members also agreed to establish a Technical Sub-Committee to look at congestion, and the other NWACT STIP criteria. Other issues raised during the sub-committee project review process included: How should “immediate opportunity” projects be handled, eg, projects that may not score as high as other projects, but could be combined with an existing project at a substantial cost savings? How should traffic improvements resulting from private development be handled? As NWACT’s criteria is revised, it will be important to run projects through the criteria on a trial basis, to test out the workability of the scoring.

- NWACT 2008 – 2011 STIP Sub-Committee Recommendations. Projects reviewed by the four county sub-committees, and combined Clatsop/Tillamook and Columbia/Washington counties sub-committees were presented to NWACT. Following that overview, the following ranking recommendations were provided:

Columbia/Washington D STIP Project Recommendations

- (1) Columbia County/Hwy 30 – Turn lane at Tide Creek Rd
- (2) Vernonia – Miles Bridge Replacement
- (3) St Helens – Gable Rd Reconstruction and Modernization Project
- (4) Clatskanie – Hwy 30 Passing Lanes
- (5) Hwy 26 – Eastbound passing lanes

Columbia/Washington C STIP Project Recommendations

- (1) Hwy 26 – Glencoe Interchange
- (2) City of St Helens – Hwy 30/Millard Rd Signal and R/R Crossing

Clatsop/Tillamook D STIP Project Recommendations

- (1) City of Tillamook Hwy 101 and Hwy 6 Intersection
- (2) US 101/Dolphin Rd Intersection and Parkway Link (Warrenton)
- (3) Camp Rilea – Surf Pines Road Passing Lane (Hwy 101, north of Gearhart)

Clatsop/Tillamook C STIP Project Recommendations

- (1) Manzanita/Hwy 101 Realignment
- (2) Hebo (US 101 & OR 22)

NWACT members unanimously accepted the sub-committees recommendations and forwarded the recommendations out for 45-day public review and comment. At the November 3rd meeting, NWACT will formally adopt 2008 – 2011 STIP ranking recommendations to forward to the Oregon Transportation Commission. Project proponents were asked to prepare talking points for use during presentation of NWACT's recommendations to the OTC.

4. New Business

Members discussed adding the following items to NWACT's workplan:

- Oregon Transportation Plan update
- Connect Oregon presentation
- Invitation to Stuart Foster, Chair – Oregon Transportation Commission to discuss funding of development-driven transportation improvements
- Technical Sub-Committee to review and provide draft updates to NWACT's STIP criteria
- US 101 Briefing Report (Valerie and Terry Cole)
- Transportation Planning Rule

Membership – Mary will send out a list of members and their attendance to the County Commissions

5. Next Meeting

Given the recent natural disasters and the impacts on fuel, NWACT members agreed to start meeting every other month as a conservation measure, with the agreement that meetings will be scheduled to go from 1:30 – 4:00 pm. Thus, no October meeting was scheduled. The next regular NWACT meeting will be November 3rd in Astoria. Key agenda items will include:

- 2008 – 2011 STIP Recommendations
- NWACT Officer Nominations

Recorded: Mary McArthur, Staff

Lylla Gaebel, Chair