

**SOUTH CENTRAL OREGON AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Date: April 16, 2007

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: 317 S. 7th St., Room 228, Klamath Falls, OR 97601 & 513 Center St., Lakeview, OR 97630
Teleconference

Board Members Present:

X John Elliott	X Brad Winters	<input type="checkbox"/> Al Switzer	<input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Ball	X Ray Simms
<input type="checkbox"/> Fred Smith	X Frank Villagrana	<input type="checkbox"/> Trey Senn	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Brown	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ken Kestner	<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Shoun	<input type="checkbox"/> Paisley Rep - Rosie Bagley	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Cobb	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gary Zieg	<input type="checkbox"/> Rhonda Lyon	<input type="checkbox"/> Betty Tyree		
<input type="checkbox"/> Caro Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/> John Widenoja	<input type="checkbox"/> Fields Flynn	<input type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Bailey	
<input type="checkbox"/> Manni Molina	X Ernie Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/> Allan Foreman	<input type="checkbox"/> Teresa Carroll	

Staff:

<input type="checkbox"/> Deanna Redd	<input type="checkbox"/> Shilo Ogilvie	X Christina Ingram	X Betty Riley
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Public:

None

Meeting Called to Order at: 10:04 **by:** John Elliott, Chair

Introductions – Roll Call:

Review and Approve Minutes:

Board to Review and approve the minutes of the last meeting

Moved: Ernie Palmer, Second: Ray Simms, to approve and accept the minutes of the last meeting as presented.

Ayes: All Nays: None

Motion Carried

Area Manager's Report:

mp = Mile Post

ROW = Right of Way

- Chemult Train Station – Setting up a meeting with Amtrak and UPRR – possible private property/private land location for the station – that way it could have a community center too. There would possibly be funds available for streetscaping in the future – There are restrictions on distance from the platform – Commissioner Elliott would like to be notified to be able to attend this meeting
- Beatty Curves – ODOT has the go ahead – they want to get the archaeological started.
- Silver Creek Bridge project should be starting in mid-May.
- Paving projects at the North Fork of Little Butte Creek is out to bid- apparent low bid is Klamath Pacific - that is from N. Lakeshore Dr. in to town (junction with Hwy 66)
- Maddock corner to Drews Gap is out to bid May 10th.
- If you have traveled north on Hwy 97 to Hwy 58 that bridge project has started. It was one that was found to need work in OTIA III

Area Member Reports:

- Transit – Ernie Palmer – Connect OR II is moving forward – they are talking of changing the formula to give each Region \$10 Million with the balance to be given to Statewide significance projects – Ernie took that to mean that the Portland / Willamette area – it will mean about 50% of the budgeted funds. Board wanted to know where legislators stand on this – Brad to follow up – Gilman is the Vice Chair of Transportation – Ernie felt that rather than changing the formula – funds a region can't use should be freed up. Frank Villagrana felt it could work in our favor if we found a project of statewide significance.
- Lake County – Ray – regarding the chevrons for Dick (sp) Creek Curve – they are supposed to be up – Mike and Butch to follow up.
- Lake County – Brad – asked the status of the “T” and “F” St. chevrons – Mike explained that they would prefer to use arrows – it is felt that the chevrons would be damaged by cars trying to negotiate around them – ODOT needs to order the arrows.

Project Update – Modoc Point – Shady Pine:

Large project improving Hwy 97 around Klamath Lake – Refer to the attached map for specifics: Unit A on the map is the area where Butch can widen without impacting the Union Pacific Railroad, or increasing rock fall. – He plans to phase in this project for the best success – the other units are where he can work with the rail road to get property.

What do we want from the ACT: Butch Hansen & Betty Riley

Discussion

- To give more proactive, regional focused reports
- Ways for members to have more input, not just hearing reports.
- Not sure we have enough of our members at this meeting to make any decisions – we do have enough to sketch out ideas
- The ACT can look at airports, rail, - can Lake County use money for rail
- Brad thinks that the ACT has been proactive in the past – he doesn't want the ACT to look at projects just to look at them –
- Butch has frustration because he is in “serial project meetings” – he would like to see things condensed – raise community participation to the ACT, not individual meetings – looking to integrate Cities/Towns/Counties systems with ODOT's
- Butch comes to the ACT meetings and says what ODOT is doing – he is not hearing what the City and County projects are and how they connect.
- Brad can bring in what is happening in the communities, but he thinks that will be a lot of talking.
- Butch would like to see Area Members Reports like the Area Managers Report.
- Brad thinks that we could have the County and City Road Department Managers come in once a year to give a report on upcoming projects.
- Brad feels an important function of the ACT for him to have the opportunity to have ODOT's ear to work on State Highway issues in his county.
- Chairman Elliott started the process off with two updates of Klamath County projects that cross state highways. He doesn't feel that once a year is sufficient to hear from the Counties and he asked the Board if they felt we should have a five year regional plan.

STIP Updates:

Safety net is up in arms because of funding.

Lake County is downsizing to 16 – 18 employees to manage 709 miles of road, about 340 miles are paved – their reserve is not as high as Klamath's.

Integrate between Cities/Towns with County and State work:

Discussion:

- Mike feels this is a good opportunity to discuss issues – the ACT has a good vision for Highway 140 and we are working toward that. The ACT doesn't have a good vision of Highway 97 – what is the vision for Bear Flat from Hwy 97 to Hwy 31? – We have a great bike trail (OC&E) – We have two scenic byways, how do they connect?
- Board felt that maybe once a year we could have the bicycle advisory committee meet with the ACT.
- How are we doing with involving our smaller communities?
- Paisley came to the ACT with sidewalk concerns.
- Bonanza and Chiloquin regularly work with the ODOT staff
- Ray Simms pointed out that all of the member communities have long lists of things they want, the problem is the priority of limited funding – he felt our efforts need to focus on how to effect funding – if we don't have a comprehensive strategy and focus to put before our legislators, we don't get that funding.
- Chairman Elliott would like a “White Paper” position paper on where the ACT thinks this is going – Given that there is not enough funding, what would we like to offer our communities?
- See it as similar to the Economic Development Strategy – it is component of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) – transportation is a critical component.
- Frank pointed out that we had discussion of regions strengths and weaknesses at our last meeting, we should use that as a starting point.
- We need to send that information to the full ACT Board – then are we going to include other groups? – pedestrian, bike, rail – not just ODOT – we need to look at having a representative from Burlington Northern & Santa Fe (BNSF) and Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR)
- Brad thinks including other groups is fine – he feels that as an Executive Committee, the members need to commit to regular meetings, and if other groups are included, longer meetings – He feels that we have a good resource in Al to the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) and other groups.
- The Board felt that we need to step back and re-evaluate what our needs are – we have communication
- Butch wanted to know if the Board would be interested in having one of the ODOT Federal Legislative Lobbyists come to a meeting – there was no consensus, the board broke into individual discussions

Public Comment:

None

Moved: Ernie Palmer, Second: Ray Simms, to adjourn the meeting

Adjourned: 10:55 by: Chairman Elliott

Next Meeting: Lake County, Time & Location TBA