

# South East Area Commission on Transportation

## Regional Partner with

## South East Regional Alliance

### *Grant, Harney, and Malheur Counties*

#### BOARD MINUTES

November 24, 2014, John Day, OR

#### **Board Members:**

Grant County:	Harney County:	Malheur County:	At Large Positions:
Boyd Britton Patrick Bentz Peggy Gray	Kenton Dick Randy Fulton	Lynn Findley Ken Freese Roberta Vanderwall	Angie Jones Mike Cosgrove

#### **State/Regional Agencies:**

Sean Maloney, ODOT (Project Leader) Craig Sipp, ODOT Tom Strandberg, ODOT Mike Berry, ODOT	
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#### **GEODC Staff**

Judy Moore Stephanie Helfrecht	
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#### **Guests:**

Tom Fellows, Umatilla County Werner Arntz, Ferguson Engineering Andy Perry, Anderson Perry	
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The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Boyd Britton. Self-introductions were made; Quorum present.

**Move/ second/pass—Jones/Freese —approved the minutes of Sept 22, 2014 meeting, as distributed. Minutes were approved unanimously.**

#### **Guest Speaker: Tom Fellows, Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors**

- OACES committee recently met to discuss existing funding distribution for the statewide county road system and a possible revision to the existing formula. See attached handout.



State Hwy Fund  
Distribution.pdf...

**Question:** Cities are in need funding too, will this affect them?

**Answer:** The purposed formula doesn't affect the cities or the state. However, counties, cities and state need to be unified.

Mike Cosgrove made a motion to send a letter of support to Emily Ackland at OACES. Roberta Vanderwall 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion held. Motion carried unanimously. ODOT will create a letter for Co-Chair Steve Grasty to sign.

**Matthew Harris, ODOT, Oregon Transportation Infrastructure Bank (OTIB)**

**As of 10/31/14:**

- Three projects have been committed for \$11,037,016
- Three pending applications for \$4,160,900
- Available for new/additional applications \$4,349,271

**Question:** Will there be more funding available in the future?

**Answer:** Typically ODOT gets 1-2 million dollars a year to keep this program going. If there are projects out there it helps in the discussion. But yes, typically there is some level of funding.

**Question:** What projects would be a good fit?

**Answer:** Projects you are getting federal funding for. A little bit of transit projects, road, highway projects, some utility work if it's part of a road construction and matching funds for grants.

If you are interested in submitting a project, please do so as soon as possible. Project Proposal and Balance Sheet attached.



Balance Sheet  
2014-10-31.pdf



OTIB Project  
Proposal.doc

**Guest Speaker: Jeff Wise, ODOT, All Roads Transportation Safety Program (ARTS)**

ARTS is a safety program to address safety needs on all public roads in Oregon. Concentrating efforts to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes by working with local road jurisdictions. ODOT will bring awareness of safety on all roads. The program will be data driven to identify possible locations to achieve the greatest benefit.

**Question:** Where do you get the data from?

**Answer:** The state is working on something more accurate but for now it's coming from the DMV.

**Question:** Are bicycle and pedestrian accidents included?

**Answer:** Yes

ODOT specifically pulls from the DMV but for areas that are problems ODOT will pull police records.

**Question:** If a major accident happens on a state highway within a city who's responsible?

**Answer:** ODOT has jurisdiction over the road.

**Comment:** Concerned some bike/ped accidents are not getting reported through the current data collection process.

**Regional Updates:**

**Mike Berry, ODOT, Small Cities Allotment**

- Working on negotiations with the consultant for 2 bridge projects in Harney County
- SCA received 23 applications, 5 awards of \$50,000 each. See attached list.



RS SCA  
Awards.pdf

**Sean Maloney, ODOT, District Update and Local Projects:**

- US395 curve project south of Seneca is completed except for the punch list.
- John Day sidewalk project is in progress.
- Drum signs, snow zone signs, ODOT will be installing 8 in the region, 3 are in Malheur county.
- The design phase for the overlay project from Jonesboro to Harper will go out for bid in the spring.
- Overlay project from Nelson Pt to Lime is going out for bid in the spring, will include both lanes.
- Sign upgrades on US395 – US20 will go out for bid this winter.
- Bid opening next Spring for transition to all roads rumble strips in Umatilla and Morrow Counties
- Bid opening this winter for the Burns signal improvements which will includes signal replacement at Broadway/Monroe and at Highlander/Monroe, and signal upgrades at Egan/Monroe.
- Bid opening this winter for patching the bad sections in the West bound lane from Farewell Bend to Huntington.

OTC will be approving the 2015-2018 STIP projects at their December meeting. The funding should be available in the spring of 2015.

**Comment:** Be careful of where rumble strips go in regards to where cyclists ride. The current regulations they are to be 4ft from the rumble strip to the edge of the shoulder.

**Question:** How do the rumble strips affect the maintenance of the road?

**Answer:** Rumble strips should last the life of the pavement 10-12 years. You can chip seal over them once or twice

**Craig Sipp, ODOT, 2018-2021 STIP Schedule:**

The process will be similar to the 2015-2018 STIP with a few changes. There will be a pre-proposal phase January-May. Start thinking about the type of projects you want to submit and contact your Project Leader. There will be more time allowed for scoping projects. The only unknown is the funding. ODOT is anticipating the same amount as last time, \$15.5 million, but Legislature will be determining that in their next session. See attached handout for the timeline.



18-21 STIP  
Finance Schedule

**Question:** What is the status on the Columbia River Crossing?

**Answer:** It's cancelled. Funding is reallocated.

**Craig Sipp, ODOT, OTC/ODOT Updates:**

- OTC met in Corvallis in October for its annual workshop. SEACT Co-Chair Steve Grasty attended along with NEACT Chair Mike Hayward.
- Cadillac will be introducing a new drive-itself vehicle in 2017. A presentation by Ron Singh, ODOT Geometronics Manager, addressed this upcoming technology and how ODOT will accommodate this new trend.
- Panel discussion on the Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation (CWACT) and approved its bylaws and biennial report.
- Completion of phase 2 of the I-84 La Grande to Kamela Exit construction project. Phase 3 will begin in 2015 which will include a third lane going up Spring Creek Grade.
- Robin Phillips, ODOT Transit Coordinator, has taken a new position in Washington D.C. Joni Bramlett, Region 4 Transit Coordinator will be the interim until Robin's position is filled. Joni is located in Bend at ODOT District 4 Headquarters; her number is 541-388-6185.

**Craig Sipp, Regional Solutions Team Update:**

- The Regional Solutions Advisory Committee has selected projects to be considered by the Governor for funding. Projects were selected from Northeast Oregon Economic Development District, and Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation's District. Two projects were selected in the GEODC district. In the north end of the region they are looking at funding the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the NE Oregon Water Association's irrigation project in the Umatilla basin. For the south end they opted to fund a project to enhance opportunities around Juniper utilization in the form of a bio-mass breakdown facility. For the NOEDD region they are considering the EOU Career Tech Education Center.
- RST is continuing to work on other projects in the region
- Pendleton UAV will have a separate proposal to the Governor.

**City/County Reports:**

**Randy Fulton, City of Burns,**

- Pacific Foods will start renovating the French Glen Mill works building 188,000sq ft. next June for a meat processing plant.
- Currently working with Wisewood to install hog fuel heating systems in some of the public buildings.

**Roberta Vanderwall, Nyssa,**

- Recent completion of some ODOT projects, a BIG Thank You to ODOT for completing the projects, the crew was great to work with.
- The STIP project for Nyssa was cancelled.  
**Craig S.:** ODOT will take those funds and build it back in to future projects. The Nyssa project will remain on the list but as a placeholder.
- Received a CDBG for a \$6.2 million water treatment project. The project is in both Idaho and Oregon and we are working to try to comply with both states.

**Kenton Dick, Burns Paiute Tribe:**

- Currently working on getting a piece of property from fee to trust where the Wellness Center will be located in the future.
- Tribal Council is working with a contractor to write a 20 year strategy plan

- Formed an Allotment Association to look at potential other economic development projects depending on the land.
- Advertised for an Economic Development planner.
- Improving access roads and enhance the transit services.
- Continue working on housing issues
- Looking into a water improvement project.

**Peggy Gray, John Day:**

- Downtown sidewalk project is moving along due to be completed soon if the weather holds.
- Breaking ground in March for the Fire Station. Currently looking for a contractor.

**Lynn Finley, Vale:**

- The Water Master Plan is nearly completed.
- An income survey is in the works to be eligible for a CDBG grant for water improvements
- Malheur County approved a \$7,500 match for an IFA grant to pay for the engineering cost for the Juntura Rd cut off. Regional Solutions Team has helped with this project.
- Calico Resources, a gold mine south of Ontario is in the process of getting all the permits in place. Maybe another 12-18 months.
- Attended the ODOT Road Use Tax meeting in Ontario. It was a very good meeting and would like to see it presented to the ACT's.

**Angie Jones, Transit Representative:**

- Working on how the Hwy Rural Transportation Grant funds will be disbursed. Planned to have a route one day a week from John Day to Walla Walla and from John Day to Burns. Hoping to do the John Day to Burns route twice a week.

**Patrick Bentz, Grant County Regional Airport:**

- Next Spring will be working on the Airport Masterplan using Connect OR V dollars.

**Mike Cosgrove, Bike/Ped Rep:**

- Continuing to work on safety factors with the bike/ped programs.
- Cycling on roads is at capacity so looking at expanding to the forest service roads for trails.

**Other Business:**

**Tom Strandberg, ODOT:**

- Winter Roadway Guide is available for distribution. Please take some with you when you leave.

**Judy Moore, GEODC Staff Report:**

- The Executive Director position has not been filled yet.
- We completed our 2014 CEDS and it's currently in the 30 day review period. You can go onto GEODC's website to review and make comments.

**Old Business:**

- We need to amend the SEACT Charter to add a freight representative to as an at large position. Mike C. moved/Ken F. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried unanimously.

- It was suggested to contact Debra Dunn for a recommendation.
- The SEACT meeting schedule was discussed. May 25 a normal meeting date is Memorial Day. Sean will change the date and revise the schedule.

**Next meeting is January 26, 2015, at 10am (PST) 11:00am (MT) ODOT Office, Ontario, OR.**

Additional Discussions:

- ODOT and the rest of the state is worried about a major earthquake
- Funding is always an issue-encouraged everyone to talk to local representatives
- Discussion held on a 10 cent local gas tax. Funding stream needs to change.

Meeting Adjourned 1:45pm PST