

**South East Area Commission on Transportation
Regional Partner with
South East Regional Alliance
*Grant, Harney, and Malheur Counties***

BOARD MINUTES

March 23, 2015 Burns, OR

Board Members:

Grant County:	Harney County:	Malheur County:	At Large Positions:
Boyd Britton Patrick Bentz	Steve Grasty Kenton Dick	Dan Joyce Linda Simmons Lynn Findley	Angie Jones

State/Regional Agencies:

Sean Maloney, ODOT (Project Leader) Monte Grove, ODOT Tom Strandberg, ODOT Bruce Johnson, ODOT	Isaac Dalke, Regional Solutions
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GEODC Staff

Judy Moore	
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Guests:

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

Approve the minutes of January 26, 2015 meeting, as distributed:

Motion: Lynn Findley

2nd: Kenton Dick

Motion Carried: Unanimously.

Bruce Johnson, ODOT Bridge Engineer: Seismic Plus- power point presentation



oregon_resilience_pla
n_executive_summary

The entire Seismic Plus report can be found on:

http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/BRIDGE/docs/2014_Seismic_Plus_Report.pdf

Bruce presented The Oregon Resilience Plan 2/1/13. There is a 35% chance of a 9.0 earthquake to hit Western Oregon in the next 50 years. The transportation system will be critical in the event of a big earthquake. The main concerns are the bridges on state highways and slopes in Western Oregon. The plan is for reducing risk and improving recovery for the next Cascadia Earthquake and Tsunami. Bridges on the local level will be more vulnerable.

Question: Will there be any damage in Eastern Oregon?

Answer: East of Highway 97 we believe you won't feel the earthquake so there wouldn't be any damage to infrastructure.

Question: What will the damage be on Highway 26 between Bend and Salem, and Highway 22?

Answer: Slightly to moderate damage.

If the bridge is built prior to 1990 it'll probably have extensive damage or collapse. If it was built after 1990 it'll probably be okay.

Question: You said you're doing a safety factor on the bridges too. What does that entail?

Answer: We have methods of using structural analysis to determine the capacity of the bridge.

Question: What is the likelihood we are going to have an earthquake with a 9.0 magnitude?

Answer: The last big earthquake was January 20th, 1700. Records were discovered in Japan of a Tsunami that hit there in 1700. The National Science Foundation hired OSU to do research on silt deposits in the ocean. Scientists also did an analysis on the silt deposits over the last 10,000 years and discovered large earthquakes occurred about every 300 years. Since the last one to occur in the Cascadia range was in 1700, it was concluded it could happen again soon.

The Oregon Department of Transportation is being proactive in preparing for a disaster that would affect everyone in the state.

Comment: The county road officials have started working on a program of an East-West partnership between counties in the event something like this happens.

Bruce Johnson, ODOT Bridge Engineer: Specialized Hauling, Bridge Impacts



SHV_posting.pdf

A special category of trucks has surfaced over the last 10 years that are causing some problems with bridges on the state highway system. The load capacity on a bridge goes by the weight of the truck. The trucking industry has figured out if you add more axels you can carry more weight. The purpose for the new bridge posting is to avoid bridge collapses.

Question: Are their mandates for putting a load on those axels where it appears there is no weight on them?

Answer: No. The motor carrier people are aware of the issue

Question: Can they accurately weigh each axel?

Answer: Yes they can. They don't carry as much weight as the regular sprung axel

Question: How does increasing the width of your tire to increase your weight bearing capacity, affect this?

Answer: It doesn't affect load weight much. We are more concerned with axel weight.

Comment: We aren't seeing a lot of those new trucks in Eastern Oregon.

These types of trucks are mostly seen where there is a lot of construction going on.

The Local Bridge program is accepting applications right now. If you have any bridges that would qualify for federal funding, now is the time to submit the applications.

Tom Fellows, Umatilla County Road Master: OACES Update- handout;



The County Road Officials were purposing a new formula for the county portion of the state highway fund. Taking 1/3 of total road mileage, 1/3 equal shares and 1/3 to registered vehicles. It was well received by OACES. It was supposed to go before the OACES Legislative committee for discussion but decided not to. They wanted to wait and see what the transportation package looked like. Some of the counties wanted to know the difference between center lane miles and driving lane miles. (See pdf above) For the most part it made little to no difference.

There is concern with the transportation package there will be an increase in gas taxes anywhere from 2 cents to 14 cents a gallon. In the original proposal the formula was based 4-6 cents a gallon increase. As a group we decided to put a 4 cent cap on it. Anything above that would revert back to the original formula.

If we get a transportation bill then we think the Legislative Committee will bring it forward and attach it to the bill. The SEACT has sent a letter to OACES supporting the new formula.

District Update and Local Projects; Sean Maloney –

- US20 Black Canyon to Harper will start guard railing in the next couple of weeks. Traffic impacts for a couple of months.
- I84 Nelson point to Lime is an asphalt pavement project, westbound lane from the Weatherby rest area to Ashgrove. It'll involve both lanes. Most of the work will be done at night but it'll still have some traffic impacts.
- Huntington to Farewell bend is a concrete patching project on I84.
- Sign upgrade project this summer. Replacing signs on US395 from the US20 junction up to John Day. It will go to bid April 23rd. We are using this project as a pilot project to submit bids electronically in the efforts of going paperless
- Burns signal improvement, replacing the signal on Highlander in front of the high school and communication upgrades at Egan and replacing the signal pole at Monroe & Broadway in addition we will be upgrading the signal communication and traffic detection. There will be a detour involved and working with the City of Burns. Bid opening is this Thursday on the 26th.
- The John Day sidewalk project is just going through the punch list.
- Region 5 ITS 2014 project is installing remote controlled drum signs, snow zone warning signs. ODOT has placed a total of 10 up in the Region. The foundations should be completed and the signs should be up in the next 6 weeks.
- Paving on US20 from Vale to Cairo Junction this summer.

Question: There seems to be a lot of new signs on the state routes in Harney County. Why is that?

Answer: ODOT picks corridors to replace signs. Over a couple of decades they'll get through all the corridors then start over again. A lot of the reasoning behind the increase in signs is from a change in federal regulations and the need to be in compliance.

Comment: Concerns about smaller contractors having the ability to submit bids electronically.

Response: ODOT has allowed electronic bids along with paper bids for the last five or six years. At the end of a project there are boxes of papers to file or store. The goal of this project is not have any papers to file. ODOT is starting with a small project and will actually pay the contractor to put the necessary automation in place.

2015-2018 Enhancement Schedule – Sean Maloney

Expecting the federal dollars next month and will be able to start working on projects shortly after that. Some projects won't start until next year.

2018-2021 STIP Schedule– Sean Maloney

- Pre-proposal letters have been sent. We've received response from Vale and John Day for potential projects. If you have any potential projects contact Sean or Craig Sipp to go through the initial process.
- Application process goes from June 1-Aug 1.
- ODOT is pre-screening the 150% list. ODOT will scope the projects in the winter of 2015-2016.
- By August 2016 we will submit our Enhancement and Fix it list to OTC

OTC Update – Monte Grove:

- The Commission met in February with ACT chairs to get input on the enhancement program and discussed funding. Co-Chair Boyd Britton was at the meeting and reported: The last STIP project worked good using the 150% list and going down the line from there. The level of funding is significantly down this time and it's going to depend on how much funding is available. Also discussed ways to increase efficiency and reduce redundancy.
- OTC is interested in the balance between how much is spent maintaining and fixing our system versus how much we spend on modernization. The OTC supports to maintain what we have before we add to it. They are still interested in enhance-it projects, but if revenue is down, they are more interested in maintaining what we have and downsizing the enhance-it program.
- The OTC met again in March. A report on the Immediate Opportunity Fund (IOF) Program was given. IOF fund is \$7 million every two years. They approved a Type B project in Sisters. A Type A project in Hermiston and they approved the Annual Policy Guidelines. The Types of projects are outlined as Type A is all about jobs, Type B is downtown revitalization projects, Type C is industrial lands and Type D is regional and significant industrial lands. Malheur County has a designated significant industrial land site and this funding can help get roads put in and get it to the point of industrial ready.
- OTC approved about 4 projects to use up the last of the Connect Oregon 5 funding that hadn't been allocated yet. None of those projects are in Region 5. They did not approve the St. Helen's berth project.
- Gearing up for construction starting in March.

Co-Chair Britton asked the SEACT group if they agree with the OTC's direction on the Fix-it and Enhance-it projects.

SEACT voting members are all in agreement.

Comments:

- ❖ Sharing services is a good idea but should be on a local decision making level.
- ❖ Support the Regional Significant Industrial Land in Malheur County.
- ❖ The OTC should be aware of the talks at meetings regarding new aggregate pits and the impact on Sage Grouse. As of yet, we don't see new aggregate pits going in.

City of Vale-Lynn Findley:

- City of Vale is dealing with some water/infrastructure issues. In order to qualify for a Community Development Block Grant from IFA, Vale has to conduct an income survey

to dispute HUD's determination of the low to moderate income level of the citizens. OSU students have been hired to help out with the survey.

- Vale has the only municipal pool in Malheur County. They received an outdoor parks n' rec grant to upgrade the pool this year.

Grant County Regional Airport-Patrick Bentz,

- Will start the master plan process around July 1st.
- Gearing up for what could be a big fire season.
- HB 2075 is a proposal to increase jet fuel and aviation tax to 4 cents a gallon. The money would go to the Department of Aviation to be used in 5 different areas but not to be used for their direct office of operations. Twenty percent will go towards rural commercial service.
- House Bill 3193 was introduced to tax leaded aviation fuel. FAA is in the middle of testing different fuels to replace leaded av gas. They should have it ready for production in 2018. If the Bill passes it will probably kill general aviation in the State of Oregon.

Transit Representative-Angie Jones

- Construction started this morning on the facility enhancement project. It'll be about a 12 week project.
- The John Day/Burns and John Day/Walla Walla routes have been running for 3 months. Trying to work with the VA Clinic in Burns to stay open past 1:00 on Thursdays, bus arrives at 1:30.
- All Veterans residing in Grant County can ride for free thanks to the Highly Rural Transportation Grant.
- Exploring different options to solve a transportation issue in Monument.

Burns Paiute Tribe-Kenton Dick:

- Working on a strategic plan involving areas from social services to economic development
- Received an EDA grant to put together a business plan involving casino, agriculture and small commercial businesses.
- A consultant group is helping us develop high priority projects with a goal of getting businesses set up either by the tribe or individually.
- Discussing the possibility of having an economic development office geared towards creating jobs and businesses for the tribe as well as the local communities. Opening doors for more participation from the City of Burns and Hines.
- Working on getting 256 acres into a trust for additional housing, assisted living quarters, and a wellness center. Possibly adding a fire station with 4-5 trucks.
- Also doing all the preliminary work on the roads that need to be put in.
- Would like to host the next SEACT meeting in Burns.

Linda Simmons:

- City of Ontario's E-Council has been on board for 2 months and there is a lot of work to do to help them.
- Having the industrial land designation is really going to help the Poverty 2 Prosperity group as well as move some other projects forward.

Harney County-Steve Grasty:

- The Burns Archive Center is now managed by Harney County.
- Looking into adding an American flag on road signs. Apparently, people don't shoot at signs if there is an American flag posted on it.

- Arguing with an insurance company over a bridge that a land owner accidentally burned. The insurance company wants the bridge depreciated.

Comment: Would like to have a separate meeting regarding the Southeast Regional Alliance.

Anderson-Perry and Associates-Andy Perry:

- The American Council of Engineering Companies of Oregon (ACEC) is working with State Representatives to make sure the Carbon Tax bill that passed doesn't take away from the infrastructure needs across the state.

Ferguson Engineering-Werner Arntz:

- Working on a master plan for the City of Hines's, they are looking at upgrading their 80 year old water system.
- Working on the Juntura cut off road for Harney County.

ODOT Public Relations-Tom Strandberg:

- News release for SEACT's vacant at-large positions, freight and bicycle advocate, have gone out. If no response, the next step would be to put in a paid add, if necessary.

Comment: Would like to see a variety come in from different counties so we can keep the SEACT members balanced between counties. We do have one application for the bike/ped position from Grant County but we would like to see 3 or 4 come in. If you can think of someone contact Sean. He can contact anybody who might be a possible applicant.

- We are working on setting up a video conference in November for the SEACT meeting.
- I'm working on a summer construction map reflecting construction projects in Oregon. This will be posted on the ODOT website in May. It includes emergency contacts.
- I'm also working on putting together a preservation project map. It'll show all the preservation highway projects in the region and it'll show the condition of the highway system in Region 5. It'll show some of the projects that are being developed and how they are going to help correct some of the issues.
- Sometime this year, I will be out in the area visiting with various Chamber of Commerce.
- I will be stopping in John Day to check out the new sidewalks and take photos to include in an ODOT newsletter

Regional Solutions Team-Update-Isaac Dalke:

- With the gubernatorial transition, the Gov. Brown is in support of Regional Solutions. Some of her priorities are: Education, Economic Development, and ethics reform.
- Gov. Brown was in Pendleton last Friday to learn about rural workforce housing needs. She met with the City of Pendleton, the county and the tribe. She announced \$1.5 million to help support the development of the UAV industry.
- OBDD budget hearing was last week. Greater Eastern Oregon Advisory committee members were there to express support to the budget. Includes: \$7 million patient capital for industrial land infrastructure, \$10 million in last mile and immediate opportunity of rural industrial sites and they are supporting the regional infrastructure fund which is where the funding for Grant County Biomass facility is coming from.
- The Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) grant is in along with a handful of support letters for the Juntura cut off road project.
- IFA has put in some money for an engineering study.
- Working with TVCC, BMCC and EOU on a region wide Career Technical Education strategy to try to get more funding. The strategy is intended to provide people with skills for high wage, high demand jobs.

Judy Moore, GEODC Staff Report:

- GEODC held their annual board meeting March 13th in Ontario.
- The position for a new Executive Director was advertised and the Executive Board is going through the interview process.
- Working on one CDBG project in Milton-Freewater and have plans to submit an RFP for the City of Hermiston's new Senior Center.

Business:

- Suggestions for guest speakers at the next meeting:
 - 1) Presentation on the Road Usage Tax Charge Program; you can sign up for the program on their website: www.myorego.org

Discussion on predators to Sage Grouse followed.

Announcement:

- ODOT and construction utility partners will be holding a Construction Utilities Career Day at the Baker City Maintenance Station on April 23rd. This is normally held every 2 years in La Grande. Notices have been sent out to high school and junior high kids. This gives them exposure to learn about careers opportunities related to construction and utilities.

Next meeting is on May 18th at the Outpost Pizza and Grill.

Meeting Adjourned 1:22pm

Respectfully submitted