

**SOUTH WEST AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION
(SWACT)
MEETING MINUTES
Coquille, Oregon
July 14, 2006
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Steering Committee Members and Alternates in Attendance

Baker, Mike	Planner 3, ODOT
Brown, Ralph	Commissioner, Curry County
Callery, Martin	Citizen
Doran, Gary	Citizen
Ireland, Chuck	Citizen
McClellan, Jim	Citizen
Owens, Bev	Interim Commissioner, Coos County
Schmidt, Bud	Citizen
Usselman, Mark	South West Area Manager, ODOT
Van Slyke, Dan	Commissioner, Douglas County
Whitty, John	Citizen
Whitty, Matt	Public Works Director, City of North Bend

Guests and Staff in Attendance

Denn, Jeanette	Support, ODOT
Hansen, Michael	Roseburg Chamber of Commerce
Meacham, Jeff	Labor Union Local 1400
Thompson, Mark	Region Traffic Manager, ODOT
Train, Donna	Port of Umpqua
Wall, Kathy	Port of Umpqua

Steering Committee Members and Alternates not in Attendance

Baglien, Don	Citizen
Cubic, Aaron	City Administrator, City of Myrtle Creek
Gordon, Dave	City Counselor, City of Brookings
Doty, Steve	Operations Manager, City of Coos Bay
Eskelson, Carl	Citizen
Kelley, Bruce	Citizen
LaBonte', Lucie	Commissioner, Curry County
Nasburg, Andy	Citizen
Paul, Robb	Public Works Director, Douglas County
Schamehorn, Mary	Citizen
Swanson, Eric	Citizen
Van Elsberg, Larry	Roadmaster, Coos County
Wolfe, Joe	Citizen

Meeting Summary

Roll Call: 12 members present, quorum present

Public Input: **Dan Van Slyke:** Mike and I had the opportunity to attend a subcommittee meeting with the Roseburg Chamber of Commerce on transportation issues. County, City, and State were all working together on presenting a vision for the next ten years on how to coordinate future road projects. Great meeting with a good presentation and it had a great basis. Mark Usselman said that it was a good start for the Roseburg area to get together the community. Mike Baker said it is bringing the groups together that the Federal Highway Administration looks for when funding projects. Without that it becomes a lot more difficult to get funding.

Martin Callery: I would like to make the offer since I Chair the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee, if you guys would like to come talk to our group tell us what you are doing we would be happy to reciprocate and send a couple of guys over to your meeting. As John is aware, John serves on the Transportation Committee as a member, we have been the sounding board and on many cases the advocate for a lot of projects that have happened. We really look beyond just what is happening in Coos Bay/North Bend/Charleston. We look at the system and if there is something happening in Douglas County that we believe is going to benefit our area then we will advocate for that.

Last Meeting Minutes: Approved

OPERATIONS, SAFETY, PAVING PROJECTS 2010-11 – Mike Baker

- List of projects for bridge, paving, operations, safety, and slide projects. Some of these projects are in 2008/09. Particularly on the bridge side. These are projects that come out of management systems. Mike discussed the project list. Bridge projects are on US 101, I-5, OR 138, and OR 42. These projects are for bridge replacements, deck overlays, and repairs. Paving projects are mostly on US 101 or on I-5. This includes grind/inlay. The operations projects are to keep the system going and include culverts, signals, striping, guardrail, etc. Will be adding a new variable message sign on I-5 just south of the Douglas County Fairgrounds southbound. Will also be installing a number of traffic cameras. Most of those are out on the coast. Also doing a number of signal upgrades. Signal upgrades are in Coos Bay/North Bend, Brookings, and Gold Beach. There are safety projects with buckets for guardrail, permanent striping, and climbing lanes. Looking at getting truck climbing lanes on I-5 on Sexton and Stage Summits. Slide projects might show up in several STIP years due to the fact that you actually have to drill and find out what is the real problem.

MEMBERSHIP – All

- There is one vacant voting member position on the 38/42 group and one voting member position on the 101 South group. Need to have subcommittee meetings to nominate and appoint committee members. Also, committee members coordinate their alternates.

INTERSTATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY – Mike Baker

This year marks the 50th year of the Interstate Highway System in the country. The anniversary date is when the Federal Highway Act was signed on June 29, 1956. A number of States are doing different events to celebrate. Mike Baker presented a history of the interstate system as first envisioned by Dwight Eisenhower. The interstate was completed in Oregon on October 18, 1966. Interesting enough, at the Cow Creek Safety Rest Area near Canyonville is where they dedicated the interstate for Oregon.

What is happening 50 years later? Bridges are being replaced and we are looking at lane additions. Looking toward the future, how are we going to pay for the system and how are we going to protect the system. These are some big questions in front of us.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS – Mark Thompson

- There are several requests throughout the state every year for traffic signals and that has promoted a brochure that the state has put out (Traffic Signals Myth and Reality). There is a need to safely and efficiently move traffic. Traffic signals are complicated and high tech. Advantages of signals are: they decide right of way, increase the capacity of an intersection, reduce the frequency and severity of crashes, provide for continuous movement of traffic, and interrupt heavy traffic. Disadvantages of traffic signals are: increased congestion, excessive delay, excessive disobedience, frequency of some types of collisions, and increased use of less adequate streets. ODOT installs and operates traffic signals in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. This is a national publication to provide uniform standards. Average cost for a permanent traffic signal is \$300,000. Maintenance cost is about \$4,000 per year.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – Mark Usselman

- Lots of work going on. Repairing several slides between Port Orford and Gold Beach and another between Gold Beach and Brookings. Those have both been awarded to contractors. Work will probably start in the next several weeks. Work in Brookings is all done. Work on freeway continues to happen. Shady and Sutherlin projects are wrapping up. Have more work happening along the I-5 corridor. Winston project is coming along well.

OTC UPDATE – Mark Usselman

- Four members from each of the ACTs held a meeting to discuss ConnectOregon projects to recommend to OTC. They provided a prioritized list of projects to the OTC. They had \$15m to allocate in our Region. There was a \$25m pot statewide that we competed for. Coos Bay Rail Bridge was the top project. OTC will look at them next week. There were five projects recommended for our area.

NOAs

- ODOT is in the process of doing a study to straighten out the curves on Hwy 42 at the county line.