

# MINUTES

**Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation  
February 24th, 2005  
Benton Center—LBCC, Corvallis**

**Members Present:** Earl Wilson, City of Scio; Stan Lathrom, City of Tangent; Bob Elliott, City of Lebanon; Ralph Reid Jr., City of Albany; Don Lindly, Lincoln County; Mike Lavery, City of Depoe Bay; Herman Welch, City of Waldport; Joel Evans, City of Yachats; Bill Bain, City of Newport; Cody Gray, Port of Toledo; Tim McQueary, City of Sweet Home; Wes Ryan, City of Lincoln City; Mal Miner, Benton County Private Sector Representative; Ken Schaudt, City of Philomath; Vivian Payne, ODOT Area 4; Roger Nyquist, Linn County; Betty Griffiths, City of Corvallis.

**Alternates Present:** Jim Reuf, City of Lebanon.

**Ex Officio Present:** Ali Bonakdar, Corvallis Area MPO

**Guests:** Art Schlack, Association of Oregon Counties; Larry McKinley, ODOT; Marty Martinez, Bureau of Indian Affairs, NW Region Office.

**Staff Present:** Scott Wilson, OCWCOG; Mark Volmert, OCWCOG; Cynthia Solie, OCWCOG; Carl Switzer, Corvallis Area MPO; John deTar, ODOT; Kindra Martinenko, OCWCOG.

Meeting opened at 5:05 p.m. by Don Lindly, Chair, with a quorum present.

## **I. Introductions**

## **II. Public Comment**

No public comments were submitted.

## **III. Approve Minutes from 12/09/04 Meeting—Don Lindly Motion by Wes Ryan to approve minutes as submitted.**

Ralph Reid Jr. seconded the motion.

**Minutes approved unanimously, as submitted.**

## **IV. Transportation Funding Legislation—Art Schlack, Association of Oregon Counties**

Mr. Art Schlack provided an overview of proposed legislation for increased transportation funding. The legislation places strong emphasis on multimodal transportation (rail, ports, airports, and public transit) while strengthening the existing transportation systems throughout the State.

Senate Bill 71 authorizes issuance of lottery bonds for transportation projects and specifies uses of moneys. At least 10% of the \$100 million would go to each of the four categories of multimodal transit.

Cody Gray asked how much interest would be paid on \$100 million dollars. Schlack said that is still a question left unanswered. There will be 20 year bonds probably at a 1 to 10 ratio, so around \$9-10 million in debt service. Schlack said that this bill allows funding to be sourced through grants.

Senate Bill 777 establishes Multimodal Transportation Fund to make loans to public bodies and private entities for transportation projects. The bill authorizes issuance of \$200 million in lottery bonds for the fund. The bill requires that moneys from interest on loans and repayment of principal of loans be deposited into the Oregon Transportation Infrastructure Fund.

Schlack said that roads are not eligible for funding through 777. Funding is sourced exclusively through loans, there are no grants.

LC 2055 Would impose a fee for issuance of first Oregon certificate of title and allocates the revenue among the Department of Transportation, counties, and cities. The fee for issuance of a first Oregon certificate of title to a vehicle registered would be raised to \$100.

Funds would be allocated proportionately with ODOT, cities and counties each receiving one-third of the funds. Funds generated would be around \$35 million - \$40 million dollars annually.

Mr. Schlack that both the AOC and LOC were concerned about how cities and counties work together on transportation financing and other issues. As a result, a couple of bills were proposed:

- House Bill 2164: Would add both a city representative and county representative to the OTC.
- House Bill 2165: Would place the local officials advisory committee (LOAC) into statute. Currently the committee consists of elected and some appointed transportation officials that advise ODOT and the OTC on transportation related issues. The thought is, if it is placed within the statute, it will have a higher stature in the minds of everyone and will become the best medium for dealing with city and county transportation issues.

#### **V. Selection of Executive Committee Members—Don Lindly**

CWACT members from each County caucused individually to select a representative from each County for the CWACT Executive Committee. The representatives selected were:

- Linn County: Ralph Reid Jr., City of Albany

- Benton County: Betty Griffiths, City of Corvallis
- Lincoln County: Wes Ryan, City of Lincoln City

## **VI. Region 2 Process for Setting STIP Priorities—Wes Ryan**

Wes Ryan updated the Committee on a process that Region 2 is developing to select the Region's STIP priorities. The underlying problem for CWACT members is that there is a lack of time to properly address the issues around setting STIP priorities. The ACTs are trying to come up with a better timeline and process for addressing STIP issues.

- Change the timeline so that ACTs have more time to deal with the STIP.
- Have more time to coordinate with MPOs and counties to build a more cohesive plan.
- Create a better funding mechanism so that ACTs know up front what they are doing and where they can spend the money.

The biggest change around the STIP process was that the first time the ACTs met, they didn't know what amount of funding was available, and then when they met again, they had a number.

Vivian Payne, ODOT Area 4 Manager, agreed that there is a greater understanding from ODOT's perspective that there is not enough funding for everyone, but there is a desire to have everyone bring some amount of funding to his or her local jurisdictions. She mentioned the Seaside project issue (the project has been put on hold because a Judge ordered that the IGA for the project be voted on by the citizens of Seaside). If the citizens vote to reject the IGA between the City and ODOT, the project will be dropped. Jeff Scheick would like to develop a strategy to keep the funds in the Region instead of redistributed to projects in other Regions. Region 2 staff will develop some proposals that Scheick will discuss with the ACT Chairs and Vice-Chairs. It will be the responsibility of the ACT Chairs to present those ideas to the ACTs for consideration.

Regarding the Region 2 Prioritization process, Don Lindly stated that the ACTs would begin in June and July to establish some priorities. August-October would be spent scoping the projects. Between January to March there will be an opportunity for the ACTs to get together and learn about each other's priorities. A draft regional proposal would be released in March, it would come back to the ACTs in May. The regional priorities would then go to ODOT and the OTC.

Vivian asked if the CWACT wanted to spend more time refining the current process by creating a sub-committee, rather than bring a large group together.

Roger Nyquist commented that there needs to be a decision on the general funding principal, such as whether the funds will be split four ways or on a per capita basis or a combination. Also, there needs to be a decision on what rules of order will be followed.

## **VII. OTC Meeting in April—Scott Wilson**

The Committee discussed topics that might be reported when Don Lindly makes a scheduled presentation to the OTC. Members discussed the following topics that might be included:

- Multimodal issues and potential for our region
- Mill City to Newport Bike/Rail project
- The overloading of interchanges and intersections in Albany (I-5 Interchange issue and its impact on Linn County's economy)

There was a discussion over what could or could not be presented to the OTC.

Cynthia Solie suggested that staff look at past issues that are recurring issues from previous meeting minutes.

Herman Welch suggested that staff keep some sort of “score card” for tracking progress of projects so that members can jog their memory. Scott said he would look at priorities from four years ago and see where the CWACT stands now on these priorities.

Ralph Reid suggested that every time a project in CWACT's region is completed, that the CWACT inform the OTC.

## **VIII. CWACT Work plan—Scott Wilson**

Wilson gave an overview of proposed work plan activities for 2005. He asked CWACT members to offer any suggestions:

Wes Ryan suggested that there should be a presentation about transportation modeling.

Cynthia suggested that it might be useful to have time on agendas to highlight key projects, historical information on projects, etc. to have a little bit more useful information to work with. Ralph Reid said that he was concerned with this idea because just discussing the history would take a lot of time and not be useful to the group.

Betty Griffiths commented that a focus on area transportation strategy and understanding the interconnectivity between different cities' issues/problems is important in developing priorities.

Meeting dates: Meetings are scheduled to be held every other month on the fourth Thursday. There will be an effort to hold more meetings outside of the COG offices this year.

## **VIII. Area 4 Manager's Report—Vivian Payne, ODOT**

Vivian provided several informational packets on various ODOT activities/programs. She also noted that if you are contacted by your Congressional delegates with regard to earmark requests, Pioneer-Eddyville is still ODOT's #1 priority for this region.

**IX: Vanpool Funding—Mark Volmert**

Mark Volmert gave an overview of the history of Valley VanPool and described a grant request that is being prepared. That request is for grant funds to provide support to Valley VanPool vans to lower the cost to riders. The application is being prepared by the City of Salem, a Valley VanPool partner. Volmert asked the CWACT to support that application if it is amended to address grant management and vanpool governance items.

**Motion by Mike Lavery moved to support the grant with the requested amendments.**

Motion seconded by Wes Ryan.

**Motion approved unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned by Don Lindly at 7:35 pm.

Recorded by Kindra Martinenko