

NW Oregon Area Commission on Transportation

May 4, 2006

Sunset Empire Transit Center

Astoria, OR

The meeting was called to order by Lylla Gaebel, Chair. The following members and guests attended:

Ed Armstrong – Tillamook Co Citizen-at-Large	Don McDaniel – Port of Astoria
Robyn Bassett – City of Vernonia	Ray McFarlane – City of Rockaway Beach
Rita Bernhard – Columbia County Commission	Tim Potter – ODOT Region 2
Clark Berry – Washington County	Paul Pulliam – Port of St Helens
Val Folkema – Port of Garibaldi	Ron Puzey – City of Clatskanie
Dean Fuller – Region 2 District Manager	Shawn Reiersgaard – Tillamook Co Citizen-at-Large
Valerie Grigg Devis – ODOT Region 2	Elsie Rivenes – Guest
Randy Hamlin – City of Rainier	Julie Rodwell – ODOT Connect Oregon
Jim Heikkila – Clatsop Citizen-at-Large	Aaron Suko – Tillamook County
Dick Hellberg – City of Warrenton	Dave True – Clatskanie Public Works
Senator Johnson – Oregon Legislature	Russ Warr – City of Astoria
Shirley Kalkhoven – City of Nehalem	Lonny Welter – Columbia County
David Kim – Region 1	Tim Wilson – ODOT Region 1
Mark Labhart – Tillamook County Commission	1
Ron Larsen – Port of Astoria	
Keith Locke – City of St Helens	

Excused: Jim Hunt, Mark Gervasi, Don Otterman

1. Welcome and Introductions: Members and guests introduced themselves. Mark Ellsworth sent his regrets being unable to make the meeting. Welcome to new members, Russ Warr – City of Astoria, Ed Armstrong -- Mary handed an updated Board roster.
2. NWACT Minutes/Updates:
 - Approval of March 2, 2006 Minutes – Approved unanimously (DMcD, ML).
 - Public Comment – None
 - Legislative Comment – With the prioritizations on Connect Oregon, looking forward to having some projects to show the Legislature. Be able to promote the process that was followed as well as the productive projects. Bottom line is work it out and get it done.
 - Region 1 Updates – Will be starting Staley's Junction project this month, right in the middle of the Glencoe Interchange project – environmental assessment and access management. Project is in the draft 2008 – 11 STIP. David Kim is the interim Region 1 Manager.
 - Region 2 Updates – Tim Potter introduced Dean Fuller, Region 2 new District Manager who is replacing Mike Spaeth. Tim will be staying on until at least July 1st until new Region Manager is hired.
3. 2008 – 2011 STIP Update

Dolphin Rd/Hwy 101 Interchange – Full intersection could be implemented without the project needing to go onto the 2008 – 11 STIP, so at this time Clatsop County is not asking that the Dolphin Rd interchange be added to Region 2's draft proposed list of projects.

Tim and Shirley attending a meeting on the Manzanita intersection options. One option has been dropped; most likely solution will be smoothing out the curve and changing some of the access. The project is on the C STIP because it can be combined with the current culvert work being done.

Members voted unanimously to support the draft Region 2 2008 –2011 STIP list which includes the Manzanita/Hwy 101 intersection, Hwy 6/Hwy 101 interchange, and the Camp Rilea/Surf Pines/Hwy 101 passing lanes. (ML, DMc)

4. ConnectOregon Applications

Proposed matrix for scoring Region 2 projects includes a couple of criteria NWACT does have.

Questions raised by NWACT members: Is how much of the cost of the project that can be borne by the applicant themselves the same as the percentage of match to request?. What is the definition of readiness? Be able to start immediately should they receive funding, have all of match in hand, all planning and budget are done. Important to have projects moving forward to demonstrate need for future rounds of funding by the Legislature.

Comments on the selection criteria are due by May 19th from each Region. A state-wide Consensus Committee which will look at the recommendations from all the regions has been formed, Lylla will serve on that committee. Region 1 is almost done, Region 2's Super Act meeting is scheduled for May 16th.

The NWACT Executive Committee did a preliminary sort of the seven applications submitted from NW Oregon, as to how many of the Freight Advisory Committee criteria were met by each project.

Seven applications have been sent in, with technical review of the applications done by March 17th. ACTs will need to have their feedback on the applications done by early May, with the region-wide recommendations due the Consensus Committee by May 19th.

- Port of Astoria/Newport Air Service– Don McDaniel declared his role on the Port of Astoria Commission, and he did not participate in the vote on this project. Project will purchase an airplane, no FAA hinderance project. Match will come from a direct cost savings through the Port of Astoria's sales of fuel to the airline, and prepaid ticket sales. Historically, have been able to demonstrate ridership. Application states that the equipment is leased, not purchased. NWACT members did not find the project met the Freight Advisory Committee criteria.
- Port of Tillamook Bay Rail – Way it is written, the project is essentially a maintenance project that includes some upgrading as the improvements will mean that the track can handle the heavier cars now being used by short line railroads. Connects rail and truck modes of transportation at the points that trucks offload to the rail at the Port of Tillamook Bay and in Garibaldi. NWACT members concurred that the project met all 7 of the Freight Advisory Committee criteria.
- Port of Tillamook Bay Airport Intermodal Freight Infrastructure – NWACT members agreed that the project met 5 Freight Advisory Committee criteria – Reduces transportation costs, two or more modes, improves the utilization and efficiency of the transportation system, has at least a 20% match, and is construction ready.
- City of Tillamook Combined Transit and Visitor Center – NWACT members agreed that the project met 5 Freight Advisory Committee criteria – Two or more modes, improves the utilization and efficiency of the transportation system, has at least a 20% match, and is construction ready. An additional point was given for serving distressed communities, for a total of 5 points.
- Port of St Helens/Port Westward Rail – Paul Pulliam declared his role as Chair of the Port of St Helens Commission, and did not participate in the vote on this project. The project is ready to proceed. NWACT members concurred that the project met all 7 of the Freight Advisory Committee criteria.
- Teevin Terminal – Rainier – Question – How does the project rank compared to Port Westward project? Response: One supplements the other, both are needed. Connects marine, rail and truck traffic. Job creation is actually multi-region in both Columbia and Clatsop counties. Bringing in private funding to build the majority of their expansion and facility improvements. NWACT members concurred that the project met all 7 of the Freight Advisory Committee criteria.
- Multi-Region – The NWACT declined to rank the projects, not having enough technical knowledge to fairly evaluate them.
- Projects with State-wide Significance – Teeven and Port Westward both have state-wide significance.

NWACT members then ranked the Region 1 and Region 2 projects: Region 1: 1) Teevan Terminal Mooring; 2) Port of St Helens – Port Westward Rail Project; 3) Port of Tillamook Bay Track and Trestle Replacement. Region 2: 1) Tillamook County Transit Center; 2) Port of Tillamook Bay Track and Trestle Replacement; 3) Tillamook Airport Multimodal Freight Transfer Facility; 4) Astoria Airport Scheduled Air Service.

5. New Business

- Maintaining Mobility on Oregon’s highways – Tim Potter gave a presentation on the activities ODOT is undertaking to improve mobility. Activities will involve a lot of bridge work on I-5 from Wilsonville to south of Eugene. Summer travel will be affected.
- Workplan – Safety program – How ODOT ranks specific locations, and what sites in NWACT region are listed. Would like a discussion on how to get new sites onto the list. Potential topics for July NWACT meeting: Presentation on the Transportation Planning Rule, Transportation Enhancement update, Scenic Byways and Bike-Ped applications, Bob Russell – from the Freight Advisory Committee. Give NWACT a chance to send in support for projects. Makes a difference to have support. Sept: SPIS (Safety Program), November – Transportation Growth Management.
- Next meeting bylaw change. Lylla will be establishing a Nominating Committee for next year’s officer slate. NWACT members not interested in being an Officer and available to serve on a Nominating Committee should contact Lylla.

Recorded: Mary McArthur, Staff

Lylla Gaebel,-Chair