

NW Oregon Area Commission on Transportation

November 3, 2005

Oregon Employment Department
Astoria, OR

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

Robyn Bassett – City of Vernonia	Heather Ornelas – Tillamook Transportation
Clark Berry – Washington County	Don Otterman – North Plains
Terry Cole – ODOT Region 2	Steve Perone – CH2MH
Lylla Gaebel – Clatsop County Commission	Ron Puzey – City of Clatskanie
Bob Gannaway – SETD/CEDCT	Shawn Reiersgaard – Tillamook Co Creamery Assn
Mark Gervasi – City of Tillamook	Carole Richardson – ODOT Region 2
Valerie Grigg Devis – ODOT Region 2	Julie Rodwell – ODOT <i>Connect</i> Oregon
Jon Hanken – City of Scappoose	Kim Shade – Port of St Helens
Sally Harrison – City of Vernonia	Carmen Swigart – City of Cannon Beach
Dick Hellberg – City of Warrenton	Aaron Suko – Tillamook County
Blair Henningsgaard – City of Astoria	Dave True – City of Clatskanie
Shirley Kalkhoven – City of Nehalem	Ed Wegner – Clatsop County
Karen Kent – Col Pac EDD	Lonny Welter – Columbia County
Don McDaniel – Port of Astoria	Tim Wilson – ODOT Region 1
Ray McFarlane – City of Rockaway Beach	John Yoakum – Seaside Signal
Charlotte Mendenhall – Sunset Empire Transit	

Excused: Rita Bernhard, Jim Heikkila, Jim Hunt, Mark Labhart, Rosemary Lohrke, Kathleen Newton, Paul Pulliam, Charlie Sciscione

1. Welcome and Introductions: Members and guests introduced themselves.
2. NWACT Minutes/Updates:
 - Approval of September 1, 2005 Minutes – Approved unanimously.
 - Public Comment – None
 - Legislative Comment – None
 - ODOT Updates
 - Region 1 – Staley’s Junction will be having its first public meeting in November. NWACT members commended ODOT on the great job on Staley’s Junction.
 - Region 2 – In Astoria, the signalization project is almost complete; pedestrian crossings will be added through the bike-ped program. Lewis and Clark projects are complete.
 - New Director recruitment process – Lylla sat on a stakeholder committee hearing candidates. NWACT was the only ACT represented on the committee. The Oregon Transportation Commission will be making its recommendation to the Governor by November 8th, with hopefully a final appointment made by the end of the year.
 - Region 2 Large Project Meeting – Shirley and Lylla attended the Region-wide meeting looking at developing a priority list of large projects. NWACT only had a couple of projects, while the other ACTs had larger lists. The group worked well together and agreed to combine several interchange projects in the Albany area into one set, resulting in 4 different projects along I-5 within Region 2 on one list. The other list selected large projects other than I-5 ones from through Region 2 and NWACT’s two projects – City of Tillamook Hwy 101/Hwy 6 project and the Dolphin Rd Interchange made that list. The Newberg Dundee Bypass has been preliminarily taken off the list as talks are underway with a private developer to undertake the project. NWACT’s two projects made the priority list.

- Lori Sundstrom, ODOT Chief of Staff, will be leaving to join Bruce Warner over at PDC.

3. 2008 – 2011 STIP Recommendations

A couple of changes to the list. The Hebo project on Region 2's C-STIP will need to be removed because after doing some additional scoping of the project, it became clear that additional capacity to Hwy 101 would not be added, a required modernization criteria. Turning lanes are already in place and do not need to be added. While the pedestrian and other improvements are needed, they should be funded out of alternative funding resources. NWACT will support efforts to find other funding for the project. Also, the Dolphin Road project should read interchange not intersection. The Miles Bridge project in Vernonia is a realignment project rather than a bridge replacement.

From NWACT member Jim Hunt, via email: I don't object to any of the projects, but I do still want to see the name and scope of the 4-lane Hwy 101 widening project extend into Gearhart. The list still shows it ending at Surf Pines, but since ODOT reduced the width to two lanes from Surf Pines into Gearhart two years ago, the new project needs to be modified to reflect current needs.

No public comments were received during the 45 day comment period. NWACT members voted to unanimously accept the STIP recommendations, moving Hebo to the unfunded list and making the two project wording changes and to forward the recommendations to the Oregon Transportation Commission. (HO, SK)

Tim handed out a Citizen's Primer to the STIP?

4. ConnectOregon Presentation

Julie Rodwell – ODOT Freight Mobility Manager provided the presentation. Because of the targeted nature of the program, eg, non-highway transportation projects, the multiple nature of the projects (eg, not just one mode of transportation), and the need to get projects underway, will not be a standardized scoring for projects. Readiness to proceed will be critical since these projects are not required to be in a STIP or TSP, they can even be private sector projects. If it is clear the project can't start right after contracting, another project may be brought up the list. Most important role for ACTs is to let potential applicants know of funding opportunity – larger businesses, transit, rail, marine organizations such as ports. For railroads, trucks are their largest customers. (Include website) \$15 million per region. Funding may also be in the form of loans.

ODOT is working on public outreach throughout State, as well as rule-making and emergency legislation to enact. Can use any funds (federal, state or local) as match, as long as it isn't State gas tax money that can only go toward highways. Application process will likely open up at the end of November, with applications due in mid-January. The OTC will hold a public hearing on the projects recommended for funding in May, with final approval in June. Important to stay on tight schedule so that projects are underway when the Legislature meets in 2007 and potentially provides another \$100 million bonding.

Heather – Would like to see NWACT be apprised of projects that will be applying for Connect Oregon funds. And, if there is support for projects, to send in letters.

Public comment over Nov 21st on the rulemaking.

5. Hwy 101 Briefing

Terry Cole provided the presentation, including a demo of the Internet-based application. Have produced a conditions report outlining current conditions on Hwy 101, which over time will be GIS-based and available over the Internet early next year. Includes series of maps showing different kinds of conditions over the highway, aerial photos, STIP projects, preservation projects, traffic counts (operational information, crash history, paving conditions, intersections, etc), and with mapping software, the information is available for users to build their own maps, pulling information pertinent to what they need.

Crash and volume data will be updated more frequently, possible annually. Information less likely to change, eg, GIS, geometric modeling, will be changed less frequently. Most recent crash data will be 2004 because it comes out annually. Traffic data for intersections collected either in 2004 or 2005. If traffic data were kept current it will help with measuring congestion factors of potential improvement projects. This modeling data will be directly linked to ODOT's reporting data. Looking at getting this on-line right after the first of the year.

6. New Business

- Nominations – Move to continue the current slate: Lylla – Chair, Shirley – Vice Chair, Rita – Second Vice-Chair. No other names nominated. Vote on the officer slate will occur in January, nomination slate will remain open until then. Important to maintain experience when go to Salem for region-wide meetings.
- Teleconferenced meetings – Emailing you lose interaction. For a group this large, difficult to do a teleconferenced meeting. OK to do for critical, time sensitive issues where people can make it to a meeting.
- Technical Advisory Committee – Include Public Works representatives from as many counties and cities as possible and ODOT planning staff and have them work on specific projects such as NWACT's STIP criteria, assist ODOT in updating the Transportation Enhancement project applications, *ConnectOregon* projects within the NWACT region, etc. Discussion – Not sure a standing sub-committee is needed. Preferred is to form ad hoc committees on an as needed basis, eg, the Transit Sub-Committee.
- Meeting Schedule – ODOT will be holding a public meeting on the Oregon Transportation Plan in Astoria in February and would like to combine it with a NWACT meeting. Scenic Byways applications are due December 30th (check ODOT website). Recommended that NWACT continues to maintain an every other month schedule. February – If interested in OTP, will get info out to NWACT members. 1:30 – 4:00 pm.
- January Meeting Schedule – Update on the Transportation Planning Rule, election of officers. March meeting may be time to have the new ODOT Director attend.

Recorded: Karen Kent and Mary McArthur, Staff

Lylla Gaebel, Chair