

RVACT *Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation*

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To: Members, Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation

From: Pat Foley, RVCOG

Re: Summary of March 14, 2006, RVACT Meeting, Grants Pass City Council Chambers, Grants Pass, OR

Date: March 20, 2006

Members and Alternates in Attendance: Arthur Anderson and John Vial, ODOT; John Morrison, Ashland; Kay Harrison, Central Point; Russell Groves, Eagle Point; Royal Gasso, Gold Hill; Jim Raffenburg, Josephine County; Alex Georgevich, Medford; Marian Telerski, Talent; Ken Johnson, Rogue River; Laurel Samson, Grants Pass; Ernest Garb, RVTD; Reeve Hennion, Stacey Kellenbeck, Mike Montero, Alan DeBoer, James Lowe, Richard Smith and Jeff Hunter, private sector representatives from Jackson and Josephine Counties.

Members Absent: Butte Falls; Cave Junction; Phoenix; Jacksonville; Jackson County; Shady Cove; Craig Stone and David Straus Jackson Co. and Josephine Co. private sector representatives.

Staff: Mike Baker, Paul Mather, Pat Fisher and Gary Leaming, ODOT; Pat Foley, RVCOG.

Other: David Patterson; Dan Moore, RVCOG.

1. Roll Call

Co-Chair Jeff Hunter asked all participants to introduce themselves. A quorum was present.

2. Approval of Minutes

Members requested no corrections to the minutes of the January 10, 2006 meeting. Marian Telerski moved to accept the minutes as written. Alan DeBoer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Input

There was no public input.

4. Modernization Projects Prioritization

Mike Montero announced he would abstain from voting on prioritization of projects because of a potential conflict of interest.

The RVMPO Policy Committee and JJTC submitted their prioritized 2008-2011 STIP Modernization Project recommendations to the RVACT.

RVMPPO projects in order of priority:

1. OR 62 @ Coker Butte Realignment (Medford)
2. I-5: Exit 14 Bridge Widening
I-5: Exit 19 Bridge Widening
3. OR 99: Rapp to Creel (Talent)
4. OR 238 Unit 2 (ODOT/Jackson County)
5. OR 99 @ Hersey/Wimer (Ashland)

JJTC projects in order of priority:

1. US 199 Expressway Upgrade (Grants Pass)
2. OR 62 at Coker Butte Realignment (Medford)
3. I-5: Exit 14 Bridge Widening
4. I-5: Exit 19 Bridge Widening
5. OR 99: Rapp to Creel (Talent)
6. Grants Pass South 'Y' Environmental Assessment
7. OR 238 Unit 2 (ODOT/Jackson County)
8. I-5 Truck Climbing Lanes North of Grants Pass
9. OR 99 at Hersey / Wimer (Ashland)
10. I-5: Merlin Interchange (Exit 61)
11. US 199 Siss' Gap
12. OR 238 at Water Gap Road Realignment
13. OR 99: Fruitdale Creek to Rocky Point Bikeway

Art Anderson said there is \$14M available for these projects. In order to attain the 70% / 30% equity level between Jackson and Josephine counties, the lists were combined to show the prioritization as follows:

1.	US 199 Expressway Upgrade	\$4,500,000
2.	OR 62 at Coker Butte Realignment	\$5,900,000
3/4.	I-5: Exits 14 & 19 Bridge Widening	\$3,000,000
5.	GP South 'Y' EA	<u>\$ 600,000</u>
	Total funding	\$14,000,000

Discussion and comments:

Laurel Sampson said the JJTC did not look at equity as a part of the prioritization. They strictly looked at the technical merit of each project.

Mike Montero asked if \$600,000 would be sufficient to complete the GP South 'Y' EA. Art said other funds may be needed from another source.

There was a discussion on the number of lanes included in the Exit 14 and 19 Bridge projects. ODOT will do a traffic study to determine the number of lanes and signals required as part of the OTIA III cracked bridge replacement program.

Alan DeBoer asked for an explanation of what is planned, and the reasoning, for the Coker Butte realignment. Alex Georgevich replied this is part of a long-term project to improve traffic

circulation and to reduce the reliance on Delta Waters. Alan stated that he was opposed to removing the signal at Cardinal Way.

John Morrison questioned the removal of the Rapp to Creel (Talent) Project from an overall prioritized list. Art said that this project is next on the prioritized list. After discussion it was agreed that if there are remaining funds they would go toward the Talent project. If the Talent project is not funded in this cycle, it will be necessary for the project to go through the application process again.

Art Anderson made a motion to approve the prioritization of projects forwarded by the MPO and JTTC: 1. Hwy 199, 2. Coker Butte, 3. Bridge widening at Exits 14 & 19 4. South 'Y' EA and any remaining funds to go to Talent's Rapp to Creel project. A vote was taken: 17 Yes, 1 No.

5. Connect Oregon Presentation

A presentation of a Connect Oregon project was given to the commission to evaluate whether the project meets the eligibility criteria and to determine if RVACT supports the proposal.

The 'Buildings for Small Air Freight Providers' presentation was made by David Patterson. This project calls for the construction of two separate 10,000 square foot buildings on leased land at the Rogue Valley Airport to handle additional small freight providers. The operation will give a discount to small freight handlers. This project is ready for construction and is consistent with the Airport Master Plan. This project is requesting a grant of \$800,000 and a loan of \$1,000,000. The private investor is contributing 20%.

Many concerns and questions were addressed. The commission did not hold a vote to recommend this project as it will be one of the projects to be considered at the Southwest ACT / RVACT prioritization meeting on April 11th. The commission suggested that the presenter submit additional information at the April 11th meeting which includes explanations of the following:

- What was the process to determine who the County land was leased to?
- Were other freight providers given the opportunity to lease the land, i.e. FedEx?
- How long will the discount to handlers last? What are the guarantees?
- What guarantee is there that these buildings will continue to be used by freight handlers and not eventually be used as private hangars?
- If the airport supports this project, why aren't they here to support it?
- How was the need for this type of facility determined?

6. Local Construction Projects

Gary Leaming gave an update on local transportation projects.

1. Highway 199 EA
ODOT has received a lot of comments regarding the frontage road in the east section of the project. A joint CAC/PDT meeting will be held in April.
2. 6th and 7th Streets (Grants Pass)
There will be a three week closure of 7th Street starting on April 3rd.
3. South Medford Interchange

Bid for construction is being released on March 16th.

4. Fern Valley Interchange
This project has two alternatives. There has been a lot of concern expressed by business owners along Highway 99. An Open House was recently held to address these concerns.
5. Seven Oaks Interchange
A contract has been awarded to replace the bridge and to modify the configuration of the interchange. Construction is scheduled to begin later this spring.
6. I-5 Bear Creek Bridges
Work is being done on rails and shoulders. All lanes of traffic on I-5 will be open during spring break.
7. Talent – Colver Rd-Rapp Rd and Wagner Creek Bridge
Curbs, gutters, bike lanes and storm drains are being installed.
8. North Medford Interchange
Landscaping and pipe work in progress.
9. Highway 62 Corridor
There are currently four alternative concepts under review.
10. Rogue River Bridge
Work has been delayed due to damage caused during the recent flood.

7. Break

8. Transportation Enhancement Tutorial

Pat Fisher, ODOT Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program Manager, explained that the TE program provides federal funds for projects that strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental value of Oregon's transportation system. Pat reviewed the project selection process. The application process is now open. A Notice of Intent is due by March 23rd and a complete application packet is due June 30th. ODOT will be reviewing the applications from July to September. From October to December there will be a public comment period in conjunction with the STIP process. During this timeframe ACTs and MPOs will submit input on their local priorities. Pat then explained the point scoring system.

Discussion and comments:

During the last TE selection process local projects were not prioritized. Pat was asked, "If a project is ranked, does it have a better chance of being selected?" Pat said that there are times when ranking could add points. The commission decided they would consider prioritizing the local projects at the next RVACT meeting.

9. Amendment to Oregon Highway Plan

Art Anderson gave an update on OTC's approval of an amendment (Action 2A.4) to the OHP regarding contributions to major highway improvements. This amendment separates the earlier action into two sections. By doing this, there is a distinction between the public and private sector. In the past there was no guidance on how to negotiate with the private sector to leverage funds. He cited Home Depot (Fern Valley Interchange project) as an example.

10. Josephine County RVACT Chair

The Josephine County RVACT Chair's two year cycle has ended. Richard Smith made a motion to re-elect Jeff Hunter as Josephine County's RVACT Chair. Alex Georgevich seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of having Jeff serve the next two years as JOCO RVACT Chair.

11. Agenda Build/Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting will be held at the ODOT Conference Room, 100 Antelope Road, White City on May 9th.

Agenda items will include:

- Address JJTC's suggestion to disband
- Discuss prioritization of Transportation Enhancement projects
- Connect Oregon project prioritization results
- Address voting procedures for roll call votes

Jeff Hunter adjourned the meeting at 11:35 AM.