



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Department of Transportation
Highway Division

August 12, 2011

RE: Changes to ODOT's Maintenance District boundaries for the Northwestern Counties

Dear Northwest Oregon Stakeholders:

Like many public agencies, ODOT is identifying ways to resize our organization to match anticipated revenue decreases over the next decade. In addition, as part of a continuing effort to improve customer service and satisfaction, ODOT recently underwent a level of service assessment in Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook counties. This effort, combined with the funding reductions, has allowed ODOT to explore operational efficiencies that maintain or improve customer service while reducing costs to match projected future revenues.

As part of this process, we have identified efficiencies that eliminate one of our 16 maintenance districts statewide by expanding the geographic area of two other existing districts. The physical work of repairing roads and bridges, responding to incidents and winter storm events and other maintenance and operations activities will continue. The elimination of a district office will allow ODOT to reduce administrative costs associated with managing and maintaining an office.

ODOT's Region 1 (headquartered in Portland) includes the Portland/Metro area and includes Columbia, Washington, Clackamas, Multnomah, and Hood River Counties. Region 1 Maintenance and Operations is currently served by three districts (2A, 2B, 2C). District 2A is Region 1's most western maintenance district consisting of four maintenance stations and covers most of Columbia and Washington counties. ODOT's Region 2 (headquartered in Salem) covers the Willamette Valley and coast and is comprised of Lane, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Polk, Marion, Yamhill, Tillamook, and Clatsop Counties. District 1 is Region 2's northern most district consisting of two maintenance stations and covers Clatsop and Tillamook Counties.

During the level of service assessment, it became apparent that operations and maintenance service levels were not always consistent on the same coastal corridors (US 30, US 26, OR 202, OR 6) which is served by two maintenance districts. These inconsistencies transition several coastal mountain passes and especially during winter operations, place ODOT in the position of not always meeting a consistent level of service for users of the system.

To improve coordination on these important coastal routes, ODOT has made the decision to place highway operations and maintenance responsibilities for Columbia, Clatsop, Tillamook and Western Washington Counties under the management of one district, Region 2/District 1 headquartered in Astoria. This change will place the Clatskanie and Manning Maintenance stations under the management of District 1 in Region 2. The remainder of District 2A (Sylvan and Baldock) will be combined with District 2B and remain in Region 1. The ODOT maintenance crews in Columbia and Western Washington County will continue to serve you, however, they will report to Astoria instead of Portland.

We are proceeding with combining the districts maintenance and operations functions. However, we realize that moving other business functions, such as project delivery and planning, will need your input to help us determine what those effects might be. Maintaining these relationships is important to both of us.

With the changes to ODOT's maintenance district boundaries in place, ODOT District 1 Highway Operations and Maintenance, the Northwest Area Commission on Transportation, the Governor's Regional Solutions Team, and the Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District, will all share relatively the same geographical boundaries. The only piece not sharing the same geographical boundaries at this point is ODOT project delivery. Currently, Clatsop and Tillamook Counties project delivery is managed by the Region 2/Area 1 office in Astoria, and Columbia and Western Washington Counties project delivery is managed by the Metro West office at Region 1 in Portland. You may not be aware, but due to workload constraints in Region 1, Region 2 is currently delivering two projects in Columbia County at this time, the Banzer Bridge replacement project on OR 202 outside of Jewel, and the U.S. 30 improvements in downtown Clatskanie.

It is ODOT's recommendation that project delivery boundaries be realigned to be consistent with the maintenance (district) boundaries. This recommendation would place project delivery responsibilities for Columbia, Clatsop, Tillamook and Western Washington Counties under Region 2/Area 1 in Astoria, which would also align with the NWACT and Governor's Regional Solutions Team responsibilities of Area 1.

More information about the maintenance re-districting and the proposed changes to the regional boundaries will be shared at the September 1st NWACT meeting in Rockaway Beach. We are confident these changes to the maintenance districts will bring greater efficiencies and consistency in customer service to the Northwestern Oregon counties. We are interested in hearing your concerns and questions with ODOT's proposal for project delivery and planning business lines. We have also established a website <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION2/re-districting.shtml> with additional maps, contact information and will update information as it becomes available.

If you have questions or comments regarding the proposed project delivery boundary realignment, please do not hesitate to call Area Managers Larry McKinley (503) 325-7222 or David Kim (503) 731-4998.

Sincerely,



Jason Tell
Region 1 Manager
Oregon Department of Transportation
123 NW Flanders
Portland, Oregon 97209
503-731-8256
Jason.A.Tell@odot.state.or.us



Eryca McCartin
Region 2 Manager
Oregon Department of Transportation
455 Airport Road SE, Building B
Salem, Oregon 97301
503-986-2631
Eryca.S.Mccartin@odot.state.or.us