

**Minutes of Meeting
May 4, 2023 9:00 AM
3012 Island Ave.
La Grande OR
Virtual MS Teams**

Members and Alternates present:

Joes Hayes, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Karen Pettigrew, Eric Imes, Aaron Palmquist, Commissioner Dan Dorran, Byron Smith, Ben Burgener, Tom Fellows, Commissioner Paul Anderes, Robert Strobe, Doug Wright, Kyle Carpenter, Commissioner Susan Roberts, Dani Schulte, Mavis Hartz, Bob Dixon

Guests present:

Lora Elliott, Brian McDowell, Kathleen Cathey, Bob Patterson, Kim Curley

ODOT Staff:

Sheri Folsom, Michelle Owen, Ken Patterson, Rich Lani, Grant Matlock, Angie Jones, Teresa Penninger

Opening Meeting:

- Commissioner Susan Roberts called the meeting to order
- Roll call of voting members – Quorum present
- Introductions: Guests introduced themselves
- Announcements: N/A
- November 2022 Minutes Approved.

Public and/or Stakeholders Comments: If Any: Spring Bartlett a member of the Panhandle for Passenger Rail group called in and gave information about the group and the work they are doing to get Amtrak back providing services in Eastern Oregon. She sent in an article from the Hells Canyon Journal that was published on 4/19/23. **Article is available upon request**

Standing Items & Reports:

OTC/Regional Updates – Ken Patterson

- OTC
 - ✓ OTC has gone through a transition, two members have stepped down. Replacements have been named, Alicia Chapman and Jeff Baker.
 - ✓ The new Chair position will be Commissioner Julie Brown, formally the Vice-Chair
 - ✓ The next OTC meeting will be held in Pendleton at Wildhorse Resort
 - ✓ Leah Horner was introduced as the new Deputy Director of Delivery and Operations
 - ✓ Climate Office has set up funding for carbon reduction with 35M
 - ✓ ODOT Tolling project has been set back by Executive Order from the Governor until 2026 in order to allow more time for public outreach and comments

North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT)

- ✓ OTC formalized the bicycle/pedestrian Rapid Response Program

➤ Regional Updates

- ✓ Additional 6% in budget reductions is being required which will impact Maintenance and the Level of Service they will be able to provide. On designated highways, the Fog line will not be repainted following Chip Seal projects. This is expected to save over \$700K
- ✓ ODOT has hired a consultant to review the current spending and to identify where adjustments or changes are needed
- ✓ Echo is experiencing flood issues, since the previous flood, the river channel has migrated south of Echo.
- ✓ ODOT Maintenance crews have transferred from their Winter schedule to their Summer schedule

24-27 STIP – Sean Maloney

- Expect approval from Federal Highway by October 31, 2023
- Allocation for the 27-30 STIP will be in January, Scoping starts in June 2024

Local Program Update: Michelle Owen

- Michelle Owen introduced herself as the new Local Area Liaison, she will be making the rounds to meet with cities and view the ongoing projects
- SCA – bulletin is coming out next week. Applications are due June 1 through July 31, 2023. Old projects must be closed out to be eligible for new funds
- IGA continues to have funding opportunities. Michelle will send them out as she receives information

RST Update – N/A

Transit Update – Angie Jones

- STIF plans are now with OTC
- 5310-5311 grants are in process for execution
- ODOT Public Transit is working closely with Coastal Sunset to assist them
- Additional information is now required on the quarterly reports

New Business

DMV Update – Sarah Lien, Eastern Region Manager

- The DMV is experiencing budget challenges and an increase in disruptive and threatening customers.
- Disruptions to services or office closures expected due to staffing challenges

North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT)

- The DMV is working on establishing on-line crash reporting, new DMV Field Office Lobby Management which will be available by the end of 2023 in all offices, Self Service Kiosks available in stores by September 2024, online knowledge testing expected to be completed by late of 2023
- There are more than over 20 transactions available online
- Third-party drive test examiners across the state. Most DMV offices are booked three months in advance
- Real ID deadline has been pushed out to 2025 by Federal Law

Mega Load – Rich Lani, ODOT District 12 Manager

- ODOT was approached by OXBO transport in December 2022 for a mega load transport to travel through Oregon Department of Transportation
- The boiler is enroute to Edmonton Canada starting at the Port of Morrow. The load will travel on highways at night to have less impact of public travel
- Two ODOT employees will be traveling with the transport
- OXBO will provide an Insurance Bond to cover any damage
- There is a 5 day required notice prior to the transport beginning and there will be a Media blast to provide information to the public
- ODOT is expecting this transport movement to assist with identifying a high/wide/heavy route for future loads

Emergency Relief Program Events – Grant Matlock, ODOT Project Manager

- Grant Matlock reviewed the Federal Emergency Relief Programs, their purpose and intent, the difference between Natural Disasters and Catastrophic Failures.
- The programs are not intended to cover all repairs, relieving heavy maintenance responsibility, non Federal-aid highways or snow removal
- Eligible expenses fall under two categories: Emergency repairs and Permanent repairs
- Ineligible items
- NEPA and environmental requirements

Full presentation available upon request

ACT Workplan

- Sub-Committee was created to review the ACT workplan and complete.
 - ✓ Commissioner Dan Dorrان
 - ✓ Commissioner Jeff Wenholz
 - ✓ Commissioner Paul Anderes
 - ✓ Eric Imes
 - ✓ Aaron Palmquist

Meeting adjourned 12:00pm

Next NEACT meeting July 6, 2023