

South East Area Commission on Transportation *Grant, Harney, and Malheur Counties*

BOARD MINUTES
May 22, 2023
Hybrid meeting VIA TEAMS Meeting or
ODOT, District 14 Office
Ontario, Or

Board Members Present:

Grant County:	Harney County:	Malheur County:	At Large Positions:
Haley Walker	Manuel Mose	Commissioner Dan Joyce	
	Kirby Latham	Jim Maret	
	Rick Paul	Mike McLaughlin	

State/Regional Agencies:

Sean Maloney, Region 5 Area Mgr. ODOT
Ken Patterson, Region Manager ODOT
Sheri Folsom, Executive Support Specialist
Angie Jones, Transit, ODOT
Michelle Owen ODOT LAL

Guests:

Andy Perry
Feather Sams-Huesties
Andy Lindsey
Sarah Lien ODOT DMV
Grant Matlock ODOT
Vicki Moles ODOT
Paul Woodworth ODOT
Justin Walker
Courtney Crowell

Judge Joyce called the meeting to order. Self-introductions

Public and/or Stakeholder Comments:

- None received

Guest Speaker: DMV Updates – Sarah Lien

- Working on: On line crash reporting, new field office lobby management, self-service kiosks in stores and online knowledge testing
- Current challenges consist of budget/staffing shortages as well as an increase in disruptive and threatening customers
- There are now over 20 transactions that can be done online
- Third party drive test examiners across the state, most DMV offices are booked out three months so this option is helping to reduce the wait time. At this time, there are no third-party examiners in Grant or Harney Counties
- There may be disruptions to services or open office hours due to staffing

- Currently there is only one employee at the John Day office and Ontario is down two employees. Recruitment is difficult

Guest Speaker: ODOT, Mega Load – Paul Woodworth D14 Manager

- ODOT was approached by Oxbo transport in December of 2022 for a mega load to travel through Oregon. It is expecting to take 8 days and will travel thru Pendleton/Mt. Vernon/John Day/Burns
- Oxbo is required to submit a Traffic Control plan stamped by an Engineer
- The boiler is enroute to Edmonton Canada starting at the Port of Umatilla. The load will travel on highways during the night in order to have less impact on the traveling public
- ODOT will have two employees traveling with them
- 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 as well as the movements will be listed on TripCheck
- ODOT is expecting this transport movement to assist with identifying a high/wide/heavy route for future loads
- Primary concerns are the safety and operational impacts to communities and damage to our infrastructure. Some signals will need to be dismantled and then replaced due to the height of the transport, and the impact to general traffic

Guest Speaker: Emergency Relief Program Events – Grant Matlock, ODOT Project Mgr

- 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 include Heavy maintenance, pavement damage caused by traffic, pre-existing conditions, damage to applicant owned material and preventative work prior to a disaster

Please see link below for full details



ER Presentation.pdf

24-27 STIP Development – Sean Maloney, ODOT

- Work will begin in October 2023 on the 24-27 STIP project list. Allocations will be received in January 2025 and scoping will begin in July of 2024

OTC & Region Updates – Ken Patterson:

OTC

- OTC has gone through a transition, two members have stepped down. Replacements have been named, Alicia Chapman and Jeff Baker
- Commissioner Julie Brown, formally the Vice-Chair will take over as Chair
- The next OTC meeting will be held in Pendleton at the Wildhorse Resort on July 17th
- 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. There is some concern over the impact of increased travel on secondary roads and thru neighborhoods for those who wish to avoid the Tolling
- OTC formalized the bicycle/pedestrian Rapid Response Program

Region

- 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 the Winter schedule to the Summer schedule

Small Cities Allotment/Local Projects – ODOT

- 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
- IGS continues to have funding opportunities. Michelle will send them out as she receives information

Regional Solutions – Courtney Warner-Powell, RST:

- The RST team remains the same, Randy Jones, DEQ, has retired but is staying on thru the transition. Governor Kotek visited counties in Region 5 with focus on housing, city of Echo and rail safety project. She will return to finish up the remaining counties.
- IOF project in Umatilla with Nolan bridge will have a ribbon cutting soon.

Tribe/City/County Updates:

- LRTP – working on getting back in compliance. Plans are in the making for a bike Buck-A-Roo for children. Working on SRTS as well. Projects being looked at; minor flooding, culverts that are in need of cleaning, sandbagging as a preemptive measure

Transit – Angie Jones:

- OTC met on May 11th and approved all of the STIF plans, no changes were made. They also approved all but two of the STIF Discretionary grants that were submitted.
- The Piate tribe is working to get a good transit plan active
- Oregon is partnering with Washington for a State Conference in Vancouver Wa in August

City Updates:

- Jim Maret reported they are working on improving the city park. They received a \$750K grant through Oregon Parks and Recreation to revamp the entire park.
- One park will be renamed the Corporal Joe Johnson Park in honor of the police officer who was killed in the line of duty. The ceremony will be held on June 13th at 6pm
- Water line to facility has been completed and currently working on the waste water lines

Construction Updates:

- There are 29 projects in Region 5
- The I-84 emergency erosion on Cabbage hill has been completed
- US20 Warm Springs/Harper completion target July 2023
- John Day stripping project started, completion by mid June
- I-84 Benson Creek to Moores Hollow with some bridge work, due to slight delay, work will begin towards the end of summer
- Burns US20 aka Cairo round-a-bout will be starting by end of summer and due to be completed by summer of 2024
- OR205 Steens Highway widening paving and stripping will start in June and be completed in August
- 3 Mile Hill landslide EB has a contractor on-board. This is an emergency project and will start in June with completion in September. Mostly off road with low impact to traffic

Next meeting:

July 24 2023

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheri Folsom