Representing Counties:
Clatsop County Commission
Columbia County Commission
Tillamook County Commission
Washington County Commission

Representing Cities:
City of Astoria
City of Banks
City of Bay City
City of Cannon Beach
City of Columbia City
City of Clatskanie
City of Garibaldi
City of Gaston
City of Gearhart
City of Manzanita
City of Nehalem
City of North Plains
City of Rainier
City of Rockaway Beach
City of Scappoose
City of Seaside
City of St Helens
City of Tillamook
City of Vernonia
City of Warrenton
City of Wheeler

Representing Ports:
Port of Astoria
Port of Garibaldi
Port of Nehalem
Port of St Helens
Port of Tillamook Bay

Representing Transit Districts:
Columbia County Transportation
Sunset Empire Transit
Tillamook County Transportation

Representing ODOT:
ODOT Region 1 -- NW Area
ODOT Region 2 -- NW Area

Representing Others:
NW Oregon Regional Partnership
Transportation Stakeholders
Citizens-At-Large

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2007—2008 Biennial Report
(May 2009)

From NWACT Chair Shirley Kalkhoven:
2007—2008 was an eventful year for our Area Commission on Transportation. In addition to our scheduled Work Plan, NW Oregon’s transportation system was significantly affected by the December 2007 severe wind and rain storm—the worst in 10 years. We are pleased to report that we accomplished a lot over the last two years, accomplishments that will improve and enhance our region’s transportation for years to come:

- **2010—2013 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP):**
  Priorities were established, increasing the efficiency and safety of the four major transportation corridors serving NW Oregon: State highways 6, 26, 30 and 101.

- **2008-2011 STIP:** Due to expected funding shortfalls, project priorities were revisited and savings identified.

- **ConnectOregon II:** Of 11 applications submitted from NW Oregon, 5 projects were approved for funding.

- **Transportation Growth Management:** The cities of Banks, Bay City and Rockaway Beach are developing planning studies central to growing their local downtown economies.

- **Transportation Refinement Plans:** TRP’s were completed for the Greater Astoria/Warrenton areas, Cloverdale, Oceanside and Netarts. Transportation Plans have been initiated with the City of Seaside and Miles Crossing/Jeffer's Garden.

- **Immediate Opportunity Fund:** Completion of the Port Westward Access Road will have substantial return on investment for the Clatskanie area.

- **Neah-Kah-Nie Mt Historic Wall Reconstruction:** A successful Scenic Byway grant application process has secured a little over $1 million to design and make repairs to the Neah-Kah-Nie Mt historic rock wall. One of the most scenic viewpoints along Hwy 101, the wall must be painstakingly taken apart and rebuilt.

- **Coordinated Transit Plans for Special Needs Populations:** For the first time, the Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook county transit plans were developed in conjunction with each other, and coordinated through Col-Pac, the entity also staffing NWACT.

- **ODOT Local Government Transportation Programs:** Training was received on the types of funding available and how to get projects through the Federal funding process.

- **NWACT Public Outreach:** NWACT continues to expand its public information efforts, publishing a newsletter following each Commission meeting, and seeking input through on-line surveys.

Looking ahead to the 2009—2011 biennium, we expect NWACT to continue to stay active and engaged in NW Oregon’s transportation future. NW Oregon depends on an effective transportation system. One of our primary goals for the upcoming year will be seeking and implementing innovative solutions to enhancing our transportation infrastructure.
2007—2008 Northwest Oregon Area Commission on Transportation Highlights

2010—2013 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) DRAFT

In May, 2007, NWACT began discussions on project criteria for 2009—2013 STIP projects and forming subcommittees for each county represented by the ACT. The following month, ODOT’s proposed State-wide criteria and Oregon Highway Plan goals were reviewed, and NWACT criteria further refined: System-wide congestion, economic and community development, safety, community partnership, and Connect Oregon. A call for projects meeting the proposed State-wide and NWACT criterion was published and all NWACT jurisdictions were mailed application information and packets.

During Summer of 2007, each county sub-committee met to review and rank the Development (D-STIP) and Construction (C-STIP) proposed projects. Ten projects were reviewed by the four county sub-committees. As two ODOT regions are included in NWACT, Columbia and western Washington counties also met jointly to recommend the highest priority projects for Region 1, as did the Clatsop and Tillamook county sub-committees to prioritize the projects for Region 2. At the September 2007 NWACT meeting, the sub-committees presented their recommended priorities, which were approved by the Commission.

Following scoping by ODOT technical staff, NWACT narrowed down the recommended project priorities to six projects:

D STIP—Projects *
Region 1: (Columbia/Washington County D-STIP Projects)
- Columbia County—Hwy 30/Swedetown Bridge
- Western Washington County—Hwy 26/Glencoe Interchange

C STIP—Projects **
Region 1: (Columbia/Washington County C-STIP Projects)
1. Western Washington County—Hwy 26/Staley’s Junction Interchange

Region 2: (Clatsop/Tillamook County C-STIP Projects)
1. Hwy 101 Glenwood Park Turning Lane
2. Hwy 101 Clatsop Lane—Manzanita Left Turn Lane Pockets
3. Hwy 101 Twin Rocks—Tillamook Passing Lanes

Unranked Projects—Those not meeting State-wide Criteria
Region 2: (Clatsop/Tillamook County C-STIP Projects)
- US 101 Sunset Dr—Nehalem Rd Passing Lane
- US 101 @ Blaine Intersection Improvements (Beaver)
- US 101 @ Cedar St Intersection Improvements (Barview)
- Seaside Ave “U” Bridge—Did not meet criteria

In September and October 2008, the public was invited to review the projects at Open House meetings held in Columbia, Clatsop, Tillamook and western Washington counties.

* D STIP—Projects involving design, costing, further scoping, and/or planning prior to construction
** C STIP—Projects ready for construction
ConnectOregon II

Applications for projects were due in November 2007 for funding consideration. NWACT sent out communications on the program to all jurisdictions, encouraging transit, rail, marine and businesses with multi-modal freight projects to apply. A regional briefing was held in Astoria to go through the application process.

Of the 11 applications received, 10 made it through technical review. NWACT provided an opportunity for NW Oregon applicants to present their projects and answer questions at the March 2008 meeting. Following the presentations, NWACT ranked seven of the projects as highest priority:

**Region 1**
1) Portland and Western Rail improvements  
2) Port of St Helens Wye project  
3) Columbia County Transit Facility

**Region 2**
1) Port of Astoria Pier 2 Upgrade;  
2) Coastal Air Service;  
3) SETD—Sundial bus/maintenance/rail;  
4) City of Astoria 17th St Dock;  
5) Port of Tillamook Bay Air Freight Terminal;  
6) Port of Tillamook Bay Rail Bridge/Tunnel;  
7) Columbia River Bar Pilots helicopter

The Oregon Transportation Commission approved five of the projects from the NWACT region:
- Region 1—P&W rail project, Columbia Co Transit Facility, Port of St Helens Wye  
- Region 2—Port of Astoria Pier 2 renovations, Newport/Astoria airservice

**Other 2007—2008 Activities**

**December 2007 and January 2009 Storm Recovery**—NW Oregon’s transportation system was significantly impacted by the last two severe storm events. Following the 2007 storm, access to the coast on Hwys 6, 26 and 30 was closed for two days. The January 2009 storm added to the extensive fallen tree damage. However, the recovery work is also proving to be successful at “storm-proofing” parts of the system. Through an Oregon Solutions program, new tide gates were installed in 2008 in Tillamook County. While the January 2009 severe snow storm resulted in run-off flooding, the high water lasted only hours instead of days, minimizing damage and transportation interruptions.

**Education/Public Information**

A priority for NWACT has been providing information on transportation issues and ODOT programs to commission members, their constituencies and the general public. Every commission meeting includes ODOT Regions 1 and 2 updates, a legislative update, and time for public comment. In addition, as time permits, ODOT program staff is invited to present and answer questions on different planning and funding programs. Over the last two years, NWACT has heard presentations on:
- Funding Oregon’s Transportation System  
- Designated Freight Routes/Truck Routes  
- ODOT Response to Emergency Situations  
- Portland and Western Rail Corridor Study  
- Transportation Growth Management Program  
- Transportation Enhancement Program  
- Transportation Refinement Plans  
- Highway Trust Fund  
- Federal Earmarks/Appropriations  
- OCZMA—Future Transportation Needs of Coastal Communities/History of Hwy 101
Public Outreach
In 2008, NWACT increased its public outreach activities, becoming more pro-active in communicating with stakeholders and soliciting feedback on the region’s transportation needs and issues:

- **NWACT Newsletter**—An electronic newsletter was sent out summarizing NWACT meetings, and listing out key Briefing Points for NWACT members to use when talking to their constituents. These briefing points are agreed upon at the end of each meeting. Under consideration is adding a Guest Column and Public Feedback Column. Also, the Newsletter will describe projects being funded in the NW region.

- **On-Line Survey**—To get feedback on how to better communicate with the public, NWACT will be sending out an on-line survey, seeking input on the top transportation issues facing the region’s communities, how to best reach stakeholders, and what information is important to communicate.

- **Oregon Transportation Commission Meeting in Astoria**—In March 2008, NWACT members met with the Oregon Transportation Commission and discussed the key transportation needs and opportunities in NW Oregon: Highway, rail, transit and air. Enhancing freight transportation was also noted as a priority.

**2009—2010 Workplan**
Key activities planned include:
- Go Oregon 2009 Stimulus Projects
- 2010—2013 STIP
- Transportation Growth Management Projects
- Transportation System Enhancement Projects
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects
- NW Oregon Public Outreach: Newsletter, survey, presentation materials
- Transportation System Plans

**Governance**
Since receiving permanent charter status from the Oregon Transportation Commission in 2005, NWACT has maintained a generally consistent course of governance:
- NWACT Officers: Chair, Shirley Kalkhoven, Vice-Chair—Ron Bline, and 2nd Vice Chair—Rita Bernhard
- Bylaws have not required any amendments in the last two years
- Meetings continue to be held bi-monthly, and are now held on the same day as the local economic development district—Col-Pac—since many members sit on both boards.

**Attachments**
- Board List
- Newsletters

**NWACT Website**—Information on all NWACT activities can be found at NWOregon.org