Minutes of Meeting
August 1st, 2019 9:00 AM
Oregon Department of Transportation
3012 Island Avenue
La Grande, Oregon

Members and Alternates present:
Michelle Owen, Bill Harvey, Tim Patton, Aaron Palmquist, Linda Hall, Tom Fellows, Robb Corbett, Paul Anderes, Robert Strope, Doug Wright, Donna Beverage, Susan Roberts, Craig Willis, JD Tovey, Frank Anderson, Mavis Hart, Connie Guentert, Dan Lonai

Guests present:
Andrea Weckmueller-Behringer, Tom Wallace, Shae Talley

ODOT Staff:
Mike Barry, Craig Sipp, Sheri Folsom

Opening Meeting:
- Vice-Chairman Bill Harvey called the meeting to order
- Roll call of voting members – Quorum present
- Introductions: N/A
- Announcements: N/A

Public and/or Stakeholders Comments: If Any: N/A

Standing Items & Reports:
- Approval of the February 2019 Minutes Tom Fellows moved and Michelle Owen seconded; minutes unanimously approved.

- OTC/ODOT Updates – Craig Sipp
  - Regional Update:
    - Upon review of the STIP, changes were necessary. A rebalance effort went into place.
    - Focus on developing a better procedure in order to reduce the number of Consent Letters that go before OTC
    - Create a better method of reporting for necessary changes
    - Currently reviewing the 21-24 STIP.
    - There were 3 BUILD grants, Pendleton 209 Interchange was chosen by ODOT to submit to FHA; CTUIR is seeking a BUILD planning grant; John Day has also submitted for a BUILD grant
    - Director Matt Garrett retired and Paul Mather was selected as the interim Director
    - OTC hired the firm Korn-Ferry to select candidates. Two hundred applications received, they screened down to forty to interview. From that, three candidates will be chosen to be interviewed by the OTC. Once the selection has been
made, the applicant will need to be confirmed by the Senate, which should take place in September or October of 2019.

Question was raised by Commissioner Harvey concerning the Ladd Canyon Project. Craig Sipp gave the following project updates:

- **Ladd Canyon EB 3rd Lane**: Creating a 3rd lane will assist in keeping the Freeway open in the wintertime by allowing 1 lane to remain open during accidents. ODOT is replacing the bridge with a box concrete bridge. Brush creek will be relocated to the North side with a concrete chute and weir.
- **Minam Curve**: Project is behind schedule however will be completed in 2020. 300K yards of soil is being moved, this is the largest earth-moving project in decades. The erosion at the bottom of the hill is also being corrected.
- **Cabbage Hill**: The transition into 1 lane begins at the top of the hill due to the safety aspect of merging traffic. Power is being brought up the hill to provide additional illumination, signage, warning signs, and increased lighting in the chain up area.
- **Cable Barrier from The Dalles to Idaho border**: Ongoing project.

**OTC**

- ODOT Communication staff were the recipients of three awards; Region 5 won the Video Silver award for the Baker City Career Fair.
- July 1st, 2019 ODOT celebrated its 50th birthday as ODOT.
- Consent Calendar – There were none submitted for Region 5
- Connect Oregon Final Approval given to Treasure Valley Intermodal Facility. Millersburg was also approved, with conditions.

**Legislative Updates – Lindsey Baker**

- HB2017 - Some minor “housekeeping” wordsmithing
- HB2007 - Clear Air will affect ODOT Fleet
- HB2881 - Relates to the per-mile gas tax
- HB3452 - Hwy. 26 to be named Memorial POW/MIA Highway
- SB558 - Authorizes city to designate speed 5mpf slower than statutory speed with limitations

**Budget**

- 19-21 Budget was approved – ODOT received 54 additional positions
- Approval was received to combine STIF and STF

**Local Program & JTA Update – Mike Barry**

- Special City Allotment Program: 29 applications received and 28 were approved.
- Fund Exchanges: Invoices are coming in to be paid.
- JTA’S: Last invoice has been paid, last project in Region 5 completed.
- Local Program: 3 projects are active
North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT)

- 6th St in Umatilla has been awarded
- 8th St. Bridge is behind schedule but will be completed by November.
- Juntura Road – Keeping an eye on this project, using a new product.
  - ARTS: N/A
  - IOF: Projects moving along. Union Co Invoice has been paid. Baum Industrial Park is completed.

- Regional Solution Team (RST) Update – N/A

- 15-18 STIP Enhance Accounting Report - Craig Sipp
  - Beck Rd. has been officially canceled. Funds reallocated to Juntura project as well as $200k to Construction to apply to cost overruns on ongoing projects.
  - Moving forward with a new Agreement process in order to reduce overruns. Applicant will now cover these costs.

- 21-24 STIP Process Update - Craig Sipp
  - Formal public outreaches will take place this fall. Open Houses will be held as well as online. OTC will review and adopt by the end of 2019.

- Old Business:
  - STIF Application Update – N/A

- New Business:

Region 5 Transportation Safety Coordinator Update – Billie Jo

- Goal for the Transportation Safety Unit is to reduce traffic related fatalities & injuries on state and local roads by providing expertise on the behavioral and design elements of all transportation safety programs.
- Research shows that over 94% of all motor vehicle crashes in the US are due to operator error & human behavior.
- Goals: Decrease fatalities in Region 5 moving average of 36-28 or below by 12/31/25.
- The focus of Billie-Jo’s work is Public Outreach/Grants/Liaison with law enforcement
Transit Update – Frank Thomas

- Every qualified entity in Region 5 submitted STIF Formula Plans for the first funding cycle. Total activity of first cycle payments total almost $5,750,000.
- Projects of special note:
  - Highest priority discretionary application in Oregon was the Malheur Co Capital Vehicle Project
  - Grant Co High School Project
  - Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation; requested $1,035,268 the initial award was for $99,116, Post RTC Award $249,348. “Pays to stay involved!” Full request granted
- Governor’s proposed budget trimmed $10.1m for STF from General Fund
- HB5039 directs:
  - RPTD to integrate STF into STIF program
  - Transfer of $10.1m from STIF to STF
  - $10.1m transfer is front-loaded.
- Next Steps:
  - FY 2019 formula payments distributed last May
  - Q1 FY2020 formula payments are in motion
  - SOW under development for Discretionary, Intercommunity and Section 5311 (f)
    - Anticipated grant agreements rolling out in October 2019

Partner Updates – All

- County/Cities Roundtables: Aaron Palmquist recognized Craig Sipp for his spot on the radio. Craig added a thank you to Billie-Jo Deal for the coordination of the radio spotlight ads. Commissioner Roberts gave a brief update on the Wallowa Co. projects; there is a lot of construction going on this summer. Plan accordingly with your travel plans. They are in the process of hiring a new Road Master. Doug Wright reported that the N.Powder River Rd. project has begun. Several counties are reporting some difficulties in dealing with the DEQ. The DEQ is more adversary than a partnership. Craig Sipp discussed how we are engaging with the RST and working together. Michelle Owen stated their airport project would start on Monday.
- By-ways Update: N/A
LOC/AOC Update: LOC conference is in September and AOC will be held in November.

Transit Update: N/A

Bike/Ped Update: Bicyclists are using more gravel roads now. Mavis is now on two committees- Oregon Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Safe Routes too School. Please provide Mavis any information that you would like her to take to the meetings.

Freight Update: There is a lot of conversation concerning US395 route. There is a pilot program beginning to allow 53’ trailers to travel thru.

CTUIR Update: RTAP will be held in September.

MPO Update: WWVMPO is undertaking an update of its regional travel demand model, which will be used to guide investments in the 2045 Plan which is their 25 year plan. The region received a grant to undertake several “Complete Streets” related activities including walk audits, a Peer-2-Peer Exchange and a Design Workshop.

NEXT Meeting:
October 3rd, 2019
ODOT
Region 5HQ
3012 Island Ave.
La Grande OR 97850