
NORTHEAST AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION
Baker, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa Counties

May 1, 2025
9 a.m. – Noon
Via TEAMS Meeting
971-277-1965 - ID 716 690 720#
ODOT Region HQ
La Grande, OR

NEACT Board Meeting Agenda/Minutes

- Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Introduction of Guests
 - Approval of Minutes
 - ✓ Motion made and seconded. Approved.
 - Public Comments
 - None
 - **Presentations**
 - **Capital Investment Plan** – Kayla Hootsman, ODOT
 - ❖ The CIP came out of the strategic review, creating a mid-term plan that will serve between the long-range plans and short-term investments
 - ❖ The benefit of the CIP includes creating accountability and assisting us to understand the long-term impacts of short-term decisions. Transitions ODOT to a more disciplined project selection process, and improves project estimates

Full presentation available upon request

 - **Access Management** – David Boyd, ODOT
 - ❖ The goal of the Access Management is to protect our highway system
 - ❖ ODOT reviews for consistency with the Oregon Transportation Plan, Oregon Highway Plan, TSP, Facility Plans, Local Code and Access Management

Full presentation available upon request
- **Regional Updates**
 - Region Updates – Ken Patterson, Region 5, ODOT
 - ❖ Ontario Construction crew has a new manager, Bryan Strasser was promoted to this position in May. He was previously the RECP mostly working with the ADA projects.
 - ❖ Budget Issues-ODOT is currently on a hiring freeze with the exception of Maintenance positions. The Legislature has until June 30th to pass a funding plan.

- ❖ ODOT is working with local law enforcement to work on picking up litter. Powder Valley Correctional inmates have been working between La Grande and Baker City.
 - ❖ ODOT has received a Federal Grant to fund five (5) positions in Region 5 for the High School to Highway program.
 - ❖ Region 5 ADA projects are on schedule to be completed by 2027.
 - ❖ A number of broadband projects are in the works, requests are coming in to put lines down along the freeway.
 - ❖ Winter maintenance has switched over to their summer hours
 - ❖ ODOT is tracking fewer legislative bills this year, approximately 400 which is down from the original 800.
- Local Projects – Michelle Owen, ODOT
 - SCA allotments have sixteen applications filed with another two expected.
 - CDA is going to bid
 - Local Bridge – three of the 27-30 STIP projects have been scoped and selected by the committee.
 - OCP and SRTS grants are in process.
 - 27-30 STIP Updates – Sean P. Maloney, Area Mgr, ODOT
 - There has not been much change from the last report. There are three active ADA projects and six construction projects.
 - City/County/Tribal/Transit Updates –
City/County/Tribal/Transit/RST/Bike/Ped/Freight Representatives

CTUIR - Dani

- Hired a new Transit manager, Shawn Brown. The Transportation Planner position closed on Friday. The SRTS project is finishing up and the Transportation Safety plan has been adopted.

Transit - Angie

- The Baker/Union/Wallowa (BUW) Travel Shed Study is in process. A solid group has been established for project management and community input.
- PTD is in process of putting out a funding solicitation to restore the I-84 bus service between Boise and The Dalles. This will be grant funded and anticipated for a one-year contract while a more permanent solution is developed.
- Angie and two other PTD staff met via TEAMS with a group from the League of Women Voters to discuss public transportation in NE Oregon and the plans for the I-84 route. The group reports that transportation is one of their top six priorities.
- STIF Formula goes to the OTC for approval, then contracts will be drafted and sent to the Qualified Entities for signature.
- Multiple training opportunities have been sent out to transit providers and their oversight agencies for the coming months.

Bike/Ped - Mavis

- More specifics around E bikes being discussed. Mavis states that more sweeping is needed from ODOT. The Baker City Classic is coming up in mid-June.

Cities/Counties

- City of Pendleton continues to extend their roads on the SE area of town. They have a couple of sewer projects to start this spring.
- Umatilla County will start their chip seal projects soon.

RST

- Harney County flooding has been devastating, working on recovery. The RST is working with ODOT on the reload project, potentially selling the reload land to a private owner. A number of wastewater projects have been requested. Hwy 20 project kick off in Juntura later in June. Working with the DMV on driver tests, more information will be available at the next meeting.

➤ Adjourn NEACT Meeting @ 12:00p.m.

Next meeting will be June 26, 2025.