

RVACT *Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation*

155 N. 1st Street • P.O. Box 3275 • Central Point, Oregon 97502 • 541-664-6674 • FAX 541-664-7927

Summary Meeting Minutes

DATE | TIME: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 | 9:00 – 12:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Online Meeting

The following attended:

VOTING MEMBERS		
DESIGNATED	Organization	Phone Number
Scott Fleury for Julie Akins	Ashland	552-2412
Mike Quilty	Central Point	664-7907
Ruth Jenks	Eagle Point	941-8537
Melia Biedscheid	Gold Hill	885-1525
Wade Elliot Valerie Lovelace	Grants Pass	450-6071
Jim Lewis	Jacksonville	899-7023
John Vial for Tim D’Alessandro	Medford	774-2009
Pam VanArsdale	Rogue River	660-4414
Eleanor Ponomareff	Talent	
Steve Lambert for Dave Dotterrer	Jackson County	774-6238
Mark Koberstien for Dan DeYoung	Josephine County	474-5221
Jerry Brienza	Aviation	776-7772
Brett Johnson	Cow Creek Band	
Art Anderson	ODOT	774-6353
Dan Davis	RVTD	944-8768
Rob Brandes	MRMPO	474-5460
Tonia Moro	RVMPO	664-7907

VOTING MEMBERS		
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS (Modal + Private)	Organization	Phone Number
Stephen Haydon	Bicyclists/Pedestrian	226-9044
Mark Gibson	Trucking	994-2018
Mike Montero, Chair	JxCo Private Sector	779-0771
Rob Lowe	JxCo Private Sector	690-7356
Justin Gerlitz, Vice Chair	JoCo Private Sector	244-2617
ALTERNATE VOTERS PRESENT		
Alternate Voters Present	Organization	Phone Number
Karl Welzenbach	RVMPO	
Lesley Orr	Bicyclists/Pedestrian	
INTERESTED PARTIES		
Name	Organization	Phone Number
Gary Leaming	ODOT	
Darrin Neavoll	ODOT	
Amanda Pietz	ODOT	
LeeAnn Ferguson	ODOT	
Kat Silva	ODOT	
Mike Baker	ODOT	
Jennifer Boardman	ODOT	
Sabrina Forward	ODOT/OTC	
Paris Edwards	ODOT	
Jenna Marmon	ODOT	
Tim Fletcher	ODOT	
Scott Selbe	Jacksonville	
Jeff Kihn		
John Limb		
Dan McFarling		
Mike Kuntz	Jackson County	
James Philip	Jackson County	
Julie Brown	RVTD/OTC	

[RVACT January 11, 2022 Agenda Packet](#)

1. Welcome / Roll Call / Confirm Quorum [Audio for Items 1-4](#)

9:00 a.m. | Chair Mike Montero called the meeting to order; roll was called, and a meeting quorum was confirmed.

2. Review Meeting Agenda

3. Public Input

No public comments were made during the allotted time.

Consent Calendar

4. Review/Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Valerie Lovelace moved to approve the September 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes as presented. Seconded by Jerry Brienza.

No further discussion.

Motion moved unanimously by voice vote.

Discussion Items

5. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Update by Amanda Pietz [Audio](#)

- The IIJA bill is a total of \$1 Trillion for infrastructure, with \$567 billion for transportation.
- There is currently over \$100 billion in competitive grant opportunities.
- Over the next five years there will be \$1 billion in Highways/Special Programs and \$200 million in Public Transportation.
- In mitigating climate change, \$52 million to expand availability of electric vehicle charging stations and \$82 million for a new Carbon Reduction Program to help achieve ODOT's climate commitments has been allocated.
- In Resilience, \$94 million for a new PROTECT Program to enhance the transportation system's resilience to disasters.
- In Bridges, more than a quarter billion dollars in additional direct investment for repairing and replacing aging bridges, this includes the local bridge program.
- In improving Safety, \$45 million in additional funding for the All Roads Transportation Safety (ARTS) Program.
- In Active Transportation, \$30 million in additional direct funding will be for bicycle and pedestrian programs.
- In Public Transportation, nearly \$200 million in additional funding for rural and urban communities.
- In Local Programs, \$200 million in additional funding for a wide variety of programs.
- There is around \$400 million in flexible funding that the OTC can allocate to different areas. The OTC is currently seeking comments.

Comment from John Vial: *The IIJA has a lot of funds that can be competed against; however, the smaller local governments are more than likely to get zero. Spending the Bridge and Pavement Preservation in a way that impacts these smaller local governments could help off-set that difference.*

Question from Eleanor Ponomareff: *One big thing that the City of Talent cares a lot about is issues of equity and climate change. To what extent has the OTC looked into how the data has shifted based on highway needs?*

Travel patterns pre-Covid and now have been tracked in volumes. In the first 3-6 months of the pandemic traffic volumes dropped. Following that, there has been an increase and the current volume is around to where it was pre-pandemic. The OTC is trying to create transportation demand management strategies.

Question from Mark Koberstien: *How are the different divisions of ODOT competing for the different funds? Will they try for funds?*

Some of the funding is directed to specific activities. There have been internal staff conversations about needs, and what ODOT can go after and the consequences of not going after them.

6. Safe Routes to Schools Program and Upcoming Funding by LeeAnn Ferguson [Audio](#)

- Safe Routes to Schools is a program that supports students and families getting to school safely.
- The program prioritizes underserved communities and facilitates high quality and effective programs implemented with transparency through partnerships and evaluation.
- With the current programs implemented there has been a 45% increase in kids walking and rolling to school and a 44% decrease of injuries.
- Over the next 2-year cycle of 2023-2024, there is \$26.25 million in construction grants to go the local communities, \$3 million in Rapid Response Grants that can go to high needs and quick projects, \$750,000 for Project Identification and planning assistance, and \$2 million in Education grants and services.
- March 18, 2022, the applications are due. July 31, 2022, applications for construction grants are due.

Question from Eleanor Ponomareff: *The different webinars are region specific; will they have different information or mostly the same?*

They will mostly be all the same information. The questions and comments may be more regionally specific, however.

Comment from Ruth Jenks: *Around 2 years ago Eagle Point applied for and received a grant for planning. With that, Eagle Point was able to create a formal Safe Routes to Public Schools requirements with consultants. As a small entity, this program was worth-while and painless.*

Comment from John Vial: *When this program was created the local match was legislatively required. It is encouraged to revisit that requirement, see where the grants are coming from and where they are going to. Some of the smaller jurisdictions may struggle to afford the local match.*

Around 37% of the funds allocated so far have gone to communities with populations under five-thousand. This does not, however, tell who is not apply due to the local match requirement.

Comment from Valerie Lovelace: *This is an example of an Active transportation that is in-line with health and building a younger generation of walkers and bikers. In terms of future investments in Active Transportation, this could be critical.*

Comment from Mark Koberstein: *There is concern with enforcement of the safety of the pathways for children.*

7. **Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Roadmap** by Kat Silva [Audio](#)

- The Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience (CCAR) Roadmap identifies actionable strategies for increasing ODOT's capacity to adapt to changing conditions.
- The main goals are to better understand projected impacts and identify and map where, when, and how infrastructure is most vulnerable to climate hazards.
- Every region across the state, every roadway on the priority routes was impacted by some sort of climate hazard, either historically or projected going forward.
- A multi-hazard risk criteria was created to highlight several corridors that are at a higher risk if an event is to accrue.

8. **Connect Oregon Grants Application Review** by Mike Baker [Audio](#)

- Connect Oregon is a program created by legislature and funded through lottery-based dollars. There has been a new tax added under HB2017 for new vehicle purchases that has been added to the program.
- Marine, Aviation, and Rail projects are included, Highway is excluded. Any project that is eligible for Gas Tax funds is not eligible for the Connect Oregon grants.
- The local match is now at 30%, and there are no longer any regional allocations. The funds compete on a statewide basis.

John Vial motioned to recommend the list as presented to the regional committee. Jim Lewis seconded. Further discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

9. **Local Construction Project Updates** by Gary Leaming [Audio](#)

- OR 99: Coleman Creek Culvert: the contractor is ready to begin in February.
- OR 62/Rogue Valley Expressway: Adding cameras and electronic signs.
- OR 140: Exit 35 to Blackwell Road: All utility work is done, waiting for dryer weather to continue.
- Southern Oregon Seismic Triage: Working on the Exit 58 bridges, next will be the four bridges East of White City.
- Foothill road Mega-Corridor: Scheduled to start construction in 2023.

10. **Region and OTC Updates** by Darrin Neavoll [Audio for Items 10-12](#)

- The Maintenance Crew have been working hard over the holiday weekends to keep the roads safe. They are doing a great job!

11. **Agenda Build/Future Meetings**

12. **Adjournment**

- **The March 2022, Josephine County RVACT meeting will be Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Location to be determined.**
- **The May 2022, Jackson County RVACT meeting will be Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Location to be determined.**