

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, May 11, 2021 | 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

LOCATION: Online Meeting

The following attended:

VOTING MEMBERS		
DESIGNATED	Organization	Phone Number
Tom Humphrey for Hank Williams	Central Point	
Melia Biedscheid	Gold Hill	
Valerie Lovelace	Grants Pass	450-6071
Jim Lewis	Jacksonville	
Kelly Madding for Tim D’Alessandro	Medford	
Pam VanArsdale	Rogue River	
John Vial for Dave Dotterer	Jackson County	774-6238
Art Anderson	ODOT	774-6353
Paige West for Dan Davis	RVTD	944-8768
Rob Brandes	MRMPO	474-5460
Mike Quilty	RVMPO	664-7907
VOTING MEMBERS		
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS (Modal + Private)	Organization	Phone Number
Mark Gibson	Trucking	944-2018
Mike Montero, Chair	JxCo Private Sector	779-0771
Rob Lowe	JxCo Private Sector	840-7104
Justin Gerlitz, Vice Chair	JoCo Private Sector	244-2617
Mark Koberstein	JoCo Private Sector	

ALTERNATE VOTERS PRESENT

Alternate Voters Present	Organization	Phone Number
Wade Elliot	Grants Pass	
Karl Welzenbach	RVMPO	

INTERESTED PARTIES

Name	Organization	Phone Number
Mike Baker	Jackson County	
Alex Georgevitch	Grants Pass	
Darin Neavoll	ODOT	
Gary Leaming	ODOT	
Jenna Marmon	ODOT	
Sarah Thompson	ODOT	
Lisa Cornutt	ODOT	
Susan Peithman	ODOT	
May McGowan	ODOT	
Kayla Hootsman	ODOT	
Karl MacNair	Medford	
Trevor Sleeman	ODOT	
Molly McCathy	Staff of Legislation	
Dahna Black	Staff of Legislation	
Brianna Connally	Staff of Legislation	
Liam Vlaming		
Anja Malawi Brandon		
Walt McAllister		

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

9:01 a.m. | Chair Mike Montero called the meeting to order; roll was called, and a meeting quorum was confirmed.

2. Review Meeting Agenda

No comments made.

3. Public Input

No public comments were made during the allotted time.

Consent Calendar:

Discussion Items

4. Review/Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Valerie Lovelace moved to approve the March 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes as presented. Seconded by Jim Lewis.

No further discussion.

Motion moved unanimously by voice vote.

5. Enhance Discretionary Program by Lisa Cornutt [Audio](#)

- Oregon Transportation Commission has approved \$65 million for a Statewide Competitive Transportation Program. This program will make operational improvements to state highways.
- The projects must either relate to congestion relief, freight mobility, or both. They must be on a state highway or facility.
- Additional benefits include Safety, Equity, Climate, Multimodal Accessibility. Projects including these will have a more likely hood of being picked.
- A minimum of 30% will be going to rural areas outside of MPO boundaries.
- ODOT will share the submitted projects in July or September.

Question from Art Anderson: *Can you talk more about what the members of the ACT can do to offer input?*

We are not looking for a priority list. But, if a member has opinions on any projects, thinks any project is important, or have any projects that are not on the list that should be, that will be taken into consideration.

Comment from Melia Biedscheid: There is no mass transit in Gold Hill due to the bridges in and out being too narrow. These bridges are apart of the highway system. Perhaps a conversation could be had after the meeting to discuss the possibility of this being added to the list.

Question from John Vial: *Where did the list shown come from?*

Mike Baker pulled these projects from the previous earmarks that are eligible for this program.

Question from Rob Lowe: *The list showed Hwy 199 Stage 3, is there a spot for The Y?*

Planning type projects are eligible; however, the OTC had said they are not as likely to be picked as construction projects.

6. 2024-27 Bike/Ped Strategic Program by Susan Peithman [Audio](#)

- In October, the OTC approved the 21-23 Strategic Action Plan with three main priorities: equity, modern transportation system, and sufficient and reliable funding.
- In December of 2020, there was \$255 million allocated for Public and Active Transportation. This is a large increase from the previous STIP.
- Over the past year, the Public Transportation Division was given feed back from Advisory Committees and stakeholders, looked at needs from modal plans and Strategic Action Plan priorities, looked at relative availability of other funding options, and found the capacity to deliver.
- A new program called the Pedestrian/Bike Strategic is focused on the state system using federal funds. The state system for Bike/Ped is about 45% completion work in urban areas. The focus will be on putting in sidewalks and road crossings.
- ODOT is also starting another Safe Routes to School Infrastructure. This will be using Federal funds to increase the amount of state funding available to local agencies.
- The intended outcomes of what is new is to head towards better strategic Ped/Bike investments, improve equitable access to transportation, and address disproportionate negative impacts to low income and BIPOC communities.
- ODOT is using the Statewide Active Transportation Needs Inventory (ATNI). This considers things like crash history, level of traffic stress (for bicycles only), assess to transit, and much more.
- ODOT will use the ATNI to prioritize highest need locations with an emphasis on equity, local priority, access to transit, and schools. They will be leveraging opportunities with Fix-It and ADA programs at high scoring ATNI locations and previously scoped SRTS projects to stretch funding further.
- It is ensured that at least \$10 Million worth of projects are within 1-mile of a school and serve a primary purpose of improving safety on school routes.

Question from Tom Humphrey: *What kind of impact did the ADA lawsuit have with the ATNI?*

It has been a challenge as an agency. One challenge the first year is trying to marry the projects of the curb ramps and other projects that can be worked on at the same time. This question would be better answered with the ADA group of ODOT.

Question from Valerie Lovelace: *Where can the ATNI list be found? Many would love to see the local projects.*

The ANTI is only the needs on the State system. It is only really a point on a map that correlates to a problem and possible solution. A link can be sent out to those who would like to see the map.

Question from Rob Brandes: *There was a presentation done awhile ago, one thing spoken about was there would be more pilot programs for these curb ramps, now it seems like we are going back to more expensive ramps. Any information for why this is?*

There was a new program manager for the ADA and so there is some changes with that. One focus is currently getting the curb ramp costs down. There have been many different options proposed, but none have been set yet.

7. **Transportation Safety Action Plan** by Mary McGowan [Audio](#)

- The Transportation Safety Action Plan (TSAP) unifies transportation safety planning by providing long-term goals, policies, and strategies, as well as near-term actions to eliminate deaths and life-changing injuries.
- The 2021 update will be a limited and focused update. This includes emerging safety issues for all modes.
- There were many things learned from the stakeholder. Such as an increase in impaired driving is anticipated, transportation must be provided equitable, and much more.
- Fatalities increased by 34% and serious injuries increased by 21%.
- TSAP Vision: Oregon envisions no deaths or life-changing injuries on Oregon's transportation system by 2035.
- February through July 2021 will be the development of the Draft 2021 TSAP, with May through July having a Public Review and Public Hearing. In September, the 2021 TSAP will be adopted.

8. **Update on Oregon Transportation Legislation** by Kayla Hootsman [Audio](#)

- May 14th will be the Second Chamber Work Session Posting Deadline. All policy bills that will move through the Legislation process needs to be posted.
- On May 12th ODOT's budget will be up for work session. By the end of May there should be a clearer idea of final numbers.
- House bill 2137 contains a lot of provisions to help speed up things at DMV. This was signed by the Governor and parts are being implemented right away, one being the Citation Moratorium, this is for those unable to get things with the DMV renewed. House bill 2137 also got rid of Out-of-State knowledge tests if they have already taken a knowledge test in another state.
- May 20th will be the Seismic Resiliency presentation by ODOT.
- House bill 2139 would solidify a pilot program that would help provide grant funding for Veterans in rural areas. There has been a lot of support at this point in time.

9. **Update on Federal Transportation Bills/Funding** by Trevor Sleeman [Audio](#)

- The FAST Act re-authorization is due. This is needed to be re-authorized every 5-6 years. Technically, this has already had a one-year extension, so congress will either add another extension or re-authorize by September 30. If they do not, there will be a highway trust fund shut down.
- Congress passes the 12 Annual Appropriation bills every year. Both the house and senate has agreed to bring back "Earmarks" with the new bill.
- The President's American Jobs Plan could bring half a trillion in funding to infrastructure in transportation. There will be more negotiation later this week but no final date yet.

Question from Mike Montero: *There was talk that Earmarks would not be brought back, is this true?*

Unfortunately, the DC staff that would be able to talk about this had to leave this meeting. Contact information will be left for all three and any questions can be sent and will be answered to the best of all abilities.

Question from Valerie Lovelace: *There are rumors that Senator Vince is looking to not be apart of the Earmark process?*

Yes, this is true. There will be another look at this next year. It is possible to send the Earmark requests to the other representatives, either the House or the Senate. A link to the website to submit the requests can be shared if requested.

10. Local Construction Project Update by Gary Leaming [Audio](#)

- There will be six new variable message/speed signs south of Ashland. This is the third year for the project and will continue into next year. Another part of this project is sections from the California boarder to Ashland will be repaved.
- U.S. 199 South Y to Applegate River Bridge is getting new pavement and curb ramps done. This is going to be nightwork, and a rework of the traffic control plan is underway for safety of the workers and drivers.
- U.S. 199 Safety Corridor has eight fatalities last year. A few years ago, ODOT began a Summer Safety Campaign, coming into the “100 Deadliest Days of Summer” parts of that campaign will be resurrected. One possibility is to have headlights required the entire 7 miles.
- Seismic Tirage on I-5 Glendale Bridge is being reenforced. After this, the bridges at Exit 58.
- Southern Oregon is continuing work on the ADA Projects. Currently ODOT is working in Gold Hill improving the curb ramps. Later this summer White City and Eagle Point will begin their work.
- OR 140 Bear Creek Bridge to 5th Street is repaving and adding signs, with improvements to the Whetstone Bridge.
- OR 140 Exit 35 to Blackwell Road will have utility work to begin the project. The project has plans to begin next year.
- OR 99 South Medford to Phoenix, Coleman Creek Culvert will be replaced. Utilities has a decent amount of work to do before the contractor can begin. Contract work is planned to begin in fall.
- OR 99 Glenwood Road to Coleman Creek has a 2024 construction timeline. The current plan is to keep this five lanes and add bike lanes with buffer.

11. Region and OTC Updates by Darrin Neavoll [Audio for Items 11-15](#)

- Rogue Valley and Medford are working on the illegal camps. ODOT is beginning to be more aggressive as the pandemic is ending.
- U.S. 199 has seen many crashes, and a focus on safety is being started.
- ODOT’s budget, with current cuts, has reduced the future deficit from \$700 million to \$200 million. There will more than likely be another cut in the next biennium.
- The Alameda Fire area had 179 thousand tons of ash and debris has been removed. 20 crews are working on mobile home and business sites. We are currently ahead of schedule!
- OTC’s next meeting will be May 13th. The ACT re-engagement will be discussed, along with many other topics.

12. Insurance Coverage Forms

13. Agenda Build/Future Meetings

- Bringing back the Enhance Discretionary Program Discussion

14. Adjournment

- **The July 2021, Jackson County RVACT meeting will be Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. online.**
- **The September 2021, Josephine County RVACT meeting will be Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. online.**