

South East Area Commission on Transportation

Grant, Harney, and Malheur Counties

BOARD MINUTES
March 28, 2022
VIA TEAMS Meeting

Board Members:

Grant County:
Tory Stinnet
Haley Walker
Nick Green

Harney County:
Pete Runnels
Kirby Latham
Judy Erwin
Dan Brown
Manuel Mose

Malheur County:
Dan Cummings
Jim Maret

At Large Positions:
Angie Jones, Transit
Adam Brown, Bike/Ped

State/Regional Agencies:

Sean Maloney, ODOT
Craig Sipp, ODOT
Ken Patterson, ODOT
Michelle Tragesser, ODOT
Alan Thompson, ODOT, Presenter
Ray Bottenberg, ODOT, Presenter

Feather Sams-Huesties, Business Or

GEODC Staff

Judy Vicek, SEACT Support Staff

Guests:

Todd Fuller, City of Vale
Justin Walker, Keller & Associates
Ryan Palmer, Grant County
David Van Atta, Keller & Associates

Kathleen Cathey, Senator Wyden's Office
Leslie Thompson, Argus Observer

The meeting was called to order by Sean Maloney. Self-introductions; Quorum present.

Dan Cummings made motion to approve minutes of January 24, 2022.

Jim Maret 2nd the motion
Motion Carried Unanimously

Public and/or Stakeholder Comments:

- None received

Guest Speaker: Oregon Community Paths Grant Program, Alan Thompson, Formula Programs Manager, ODOT

Power Point:

- Biennial competitive grant program started in 2020
- 21 projects funded in 2021 totaling \$15.1 million

- Federally & State funded
- Federal funds available for 2022 & 2024
- Pre-Applications accepted 8-1-22 to 9-15-2022, Applications 11-1-22 to 1-31-2023, Project Awards 7-2023, Project Executions 10-2023

Guest Speaker: Bridge Emergency Vehicle Loading, Ray Bottenberg, Interim State Bridge Engineer, ODOT:

Power Point:

- No bridges in SEACT area are in danger

OTC & Region Updates:

OTC Update– Craig Sipp, ODOT

- OTC is focusing on the IIJA funding. Last meeting March 10. Comments on funding & projects on wildlife crossings.
- State of WA legislation is working on the Interstate Bridge program up to \$1 Billion.
- Recruiting for a New Assistant Director for the Equity & Inclusion program
- Focusing on small businesses, supporting workforce, tools & resources and community engagement
- Received update on the mentor/protégé program with a focus on how to increase small business participation & contractor capacity.
- Update on agency budget 2023-2025 biennium. Looking at the different sources of revenues and the trends for costs of fuel & other expenses
- Next year we will be in a full legislature session. ODOT will be presenting & supporting the following:
 - supporting small businesses & public contracting.
 - mandatory road usage charging.
 - the OR-GO program.
 - Interstate bridge replacement & funding
 - CDL training, license & vehicle regulations
 - expand the criteria for SRTS program, from 1 mile to 2 mile and including grades 9-12
 - local planning around the protection of material sources in order to deliver projects within the local planning process
 - possibly increasing DMV's fees for cost of doing business
- Update on Interstate Bridge, well into the environmental & NEPA process & planning phase. Cost is estimated at \$3.2- \$8 Billion. If both Oregon & Washington contribute \$1Billion that leaves a shortage.
- HB2017 mandated to start a tolling program for Oregon. Tolling in the Portland area will be implemented in the next few years. This will also help pay for the interstate bridge. Talking with other DOT's on how they do their tolling. More than likely tolls will be done electronically.
- Update on IIJA and how they will apply the discretionary funding. There is approximately \$412 million available that OTC can determine how it is spent.

Region Update:

- New District 12 Maintenance Manager, Rich Lani
- Heading into Spring, travel is up & road crews are out; ODOT will have safety talks with crews and put out public service announcements

Small Cities Allotment/Local Projects – Michelle Tragessor, ODOT

- For cities with a population under 5,000
- SCA applications will be open June 1 – July 31st
- Site Evaluation and scoring is Aug-Sept
- Committee review & final selection in October

- Grant Awards in November

Current Construction Projects – Sean Maloney, ODOT

- US20 Warm Springs Rd to Harper Junction a large paving job & working on 5-6 bridges at the same time. Has been awarded & will start in April
- Snake River/Ontario Bridge Construction, E Idaho Ave into Fruitland. Resurfacing Project starting the 1st week in April
- John Day sidewalk improvement project from 6th Avenue to the High School. Scheduled to start April
- I84 Pleasant Valley to Lime- maintenance pavement project- to start sometime mid-summer. Was awarded to the same contractor, High Desert, that's doing the US20 Warm Springs to Harper Junction, so start date is yet to be determined
- I84 Meacham to Kamela paving finishing up in the fall this year
- I84 Upper Perry to Richland interchange, replacing the bridge rail & various deck repairs five bridges between La Grande & Baker City. Completion by November 2022
- I84 Ladd Canyon to N. Powder repaving in the slow lanes-Working at night time

24-27 STIP Development – Ken Patterson, ODOT

- In the process of finalizing projects at the state level
- Early spring 2022 the list will be narrowed down to 100% & then passed on to OTC. There will be opportunity for feedback between now & next summer.
- The total number of projects is declining due to cost of delivery & materials but the list of projects hasn't changed

Regional Solutions – Ken Patterson, RST member, ODOT:

- Ken introduced Feather Sam-Huesties, Business Development Officer with Business Oregon covering the SEACT area
- Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) in Pendleton is testing with drones flying medical samples from Yellowhawk Medical Clinic on the CTUIR Reservation to Interpath Lab in Pendleton. Contracts are in place to develop that concept & technology and little further.
- Reconstruction of the Wallowa Lake Dam, currently working on developing strategies for fish passage
- Umatilla County flood that occurred in Feb 2020, brought an awareness to the county for the need to be resilient. Umatilla County will be hiring personnel to handle natural disasters and planning the recovery effort should it happen again
- Wind Farm development on the Nolan Hills area outside of Echo. A bridge was damaged in the flood of 2020 that caused constraints in getting materials to the project site. RST is in the process of putting together an immediate opportunity fund grant between Business Oregon, ODOT & the County
- ARPA Projects:
 - Vale has a project at their wastewater treatment facility, increasing the pumping capacity to meet a 20 year flow demands
 - Nyssa has a project to expand their water system to connect to the ReLoad Facility which will consist of installing 2 miles of waterline and the repair or replacement of 2 existing wells
 - Crane School District project is designing a community water wastewater system

Tribes/City/County Updates:

City of Ontario – Adam Brown:

- Working with ODOT on the Oregon Community Path project for the North/South Trail. Close to selecting the consultant for the project.
- Applied for a Technical Assistant Grant through the National Park Service for the Tator Tot Trail, which will cover 3 miles on the Snake River

- The public announcement for the work on the Snake River Bridge over to Fruitland has received a lot of engagement of over 53,000 comments on Facebook.
- Six years Ontario ODOT awarded funds for the SE5th Avenue Pedestrian Improvements. In final design & hope to go out to bid this summer. The scope was expanded from the original length due to some left over funding.

City of Hines – Kirby Latham:

- The city is using ARPA funds to upgrade a main lift station
- Received a Technical Assistance grant from Business Oregon to do a wastewater system plan. Anderson Perry will hopefully get started on it this summer
- Looking forward to applying for several grants through Oregon Parks and Rec & the Safe Routes to School
- A citywide fuel tax was implemented a few years ago. After a year, the projected revenue surpassed what was expected. Purchased a street sweeper with funds & will be able to take care of little things.
- The last SCA grant will be completed this summer

Transit – Angie Jones:

- Struggling with staffing/driver shortage
- CDO requirements is an ongoing issue. Hoping ODOT's Public Transit Division can help out with it and it sounds like they are still working on trainings that might be available
- Mask mandates continue to be a hot issue with all the buses and has become a hostile situation in some cases. Drivers are instructed to remind passengers, but not making them enforce it. Hoping that the mandate goes away April 18th.
- Oregon Transit Association in cooperation with ODOT's Public Transit division has a 2 day virtual conference starting tomorrow
- The National Rural Transportation Advisory committee will be meeting in May. If there are any public transit related issues that you would like to bring to the attention at the national level, please let Angie know.

Malheur County - Dan Cummings:

- Nothing to report

City of Burns - Dan Brown:

- Working on requests for bids for the remainder of the HB2017 funds and the SCA. Should be close to \$1.3 million project

City of Nyssa – Jim Maret:

- Received a Parks Master Plan grant last year, it's been completed & now looking at applying for larger grants to do 2 parks within the city
- Working on the water lines with ARPA funds as Feather spoke about
- Applied and received a Wastewater Master Plan grant which was completed and will try to work through the next step anticipating growth
- Curb ramps are completed and with that Nyssa got a couple of lighted crosswalks for the school
- Final stages a CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Grant
- Always working on housing

Burns Paiute Tribe – Manuel Mose:

- Applied for a grant with SRTS
- Working with Harney County to develop a more clear & lighted bike path between the Triangle Park & the Reservation
- Looking at applying for grants to develop a walking path around the fire break

City of John Day – Nick Green:

- There are six street improvement projects most of them will be finishing up this year if they are not already completed
- 395 South sidewalks, that'll go into construction this year
- Separate contractor repairing 4th avenue damaged in the 2019 flood. The route up to the Grant County Airport will be closed for about 3 months while the road is completely rebuilt
- In 2009, the City Council adopted a complete street network plan that called for completing multiple roads along the North side of the river. They are now in construction. Three miles of new streets are being rough graded & having water & utilities put in. This is a multi-year project with costs going into 2024. The streets will also service the Wastewater Treatment plant that will be breaking ground this year.
- Finished the Hill Family Park. Consisted of a street extension of Canton & a new bike/ped bridge over the John Day River and that connects to another project, which is the Right River Front Trail System.
- Three masterplan developments that was approved last year are all going under construction or already in construction. It includes 3 neighborhoods, 40 residential home lots, 3 new cul-de-sacs & a connector street. Twelve homes will go into construction in July.
- Last day as John Day City Manager is June 16th

Grant County – Tory Stinnett:

- Received a Technical Assistance Grant from DLCD for a housing needs analysis for seven cities. It's a little unique as it's a project collaboration with the cities, but each city will have an individual needs assessed
- Working with Angie Jones to create a new logo & update People Movers website
- CDBG Housing Rehab is just getting under way
- Working with Long Creek on a bathroom project by city park

Business:

Connect Oregon Joint Act Priorities-Sean Maloney:

- Sean did a Connect Oregon review
- Adam Brown will represent SEACT on the state review. Projects will get ranked at the state level in April
- Sean summarized each ranking done by SEACT & NEACT
- The ranking & recommendations will be forwarded onto Connect Oregon

COAR Grant Update – Haley Walker:

- Region 5 scored high for the Priority 1 grants
 - Ontario scored #1
 - Hermiston scored #2
 - Grant County Regional Airport scored #3
 - Burns Airport scored #4
 - Baker scored #5
 - Lexington scored #7
- Eastern Oregon Regional Airport in Pendleton scored at the bottom of Priority 1 but it is anticipated all Priority 1 projects will be funded. These are for FAA grant matches
- Priority #2 projects are for airports that are part of the resiliency in case of the Cascadia event. We do not have any airports in the SEACT or Region 5 identified in that priority.
- Priority #3 is aviation related economic development and typically very few if any are funded. There is one airport in the SEACT area, Miller Memorial Airpark that applied & scored in the middle of the list.

- It is unknown what the dollar amount will be for the projects because several project are on the list for Connect Oregon funding. Also, funding from other sources has rolled over so there will be more money available. It is anticipated that several projects in the Priority 3 will be funded this year as opposed to the previous years.

Membership Review:

- Grant County, 3 vacant positions
- Malheur County, 2 vacant positions
- Harney County is fully staffed
- At Large- Freight Rep and Bike/Ped vacant

Future Guest Speakers:

New Roundabout on Cairo Junction - Presentation on Roundabouts

Other Business:

Ken Patterson commented:

The discretionary grants through IIJA require letters of support or letters of recommendation. The process has changed this year. Instead of getting the letters from the OTC Chairman, Craig will be reviewing & putting them together. Please send letters of recommendation or support to Ken and he will review them prior to Craig seeing them. If you have any questions around the grant programs please feel free to reach out to Ken.

Question asked on when we will start meeting in person again. Craig mentioned the NEACT's next meeting will be in person but will also offer a call in. Chairman Runnels suggested we meet in person at the Ontario District Office with the option of a phoning in.

Jim Maret motioned to adjourn the meeting
Adam Brown 2nd the motion
MCU

Next meeting:

May 23, 2022

Meeting Adjourned 12:18 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Vicek