

South East Area Commission on Transportation *Grant, Harney, and Malheur Counties*

BOARD MINUTES
May 23, 2022
ODOT District 14 Office, Ontario, OR
VIA TEAMS Meeting

Board Members:

Grant County:	Harney County:	Malheur County:	At Large Positions:
Tory Stinnett	Pete Runnels	Dan Cummings	Angie Jones, Transit
Haley Walker	Kirby Latham	Jim Maret	
Jim Hamsher	Dan Brown	Dan Cummings	
		Dan Joyce	

State/Regional Agencies:

Sean Maloney, Area Manager ODOT	Billie Jo Nickens, Traffic Safety Manager
Craig Sipp, Region Manager ODOT	ODOT, Presenter
Ken Patterson, ODOT	Ray Bottenberg, ODOT, Presenter
Michelle Tragesser, ODOT	Kevin Haas, ODOT, Presenter
Vicki Moles, Region 5 Community Affairs Spec	Feather Sams-Huesties, RDO, Business Or
	Sharon Smith, OTC

GEODC Staff

Judy Vicek, SEACT Support Staff

Guests:

Vicki Moles, Region 5 ODOT	Andy Perry, Anderson Perry & Assoc.
Justin Walker, Keller & Associates	Kim Curly, Commute Options
David Van Atta,	Peter Murphy

Co-Chair Pete Runnels called the meeting to order. Self-introductions; Quorum present.

Angie Jones noted correction under her report on the March 23 minutes.
Dan Cummings made motion to approve minutes of March 23, 2022 with one noted correction
Jim Hamsher 2nd the motion
Motion Carried Unanimously

Public and/or Stakeholder Comments:

- None received

Guest Speaker: Bridge Protection & Life Extension, Ray Battenburg, Interim State Bridge Engineer, ODOT

Power Point

Guest Speaker: Region 5 Communications, Billie-Jo Nickens, ODOT:

- Safety Messages delivered via Radio & FaceBook using ODOT employees & safety partners
- Annual budget just under \$16,000 used for 15 spots per week per station

Guest Speaker: Why Roundabouts, Kevin Haas, ODOT:

Power Point

- Truck friendly designs
- Signals are not a good solution for rural high speed areas
- Cairo Junction Roundabout, ODOT YouTube video. Project starts in 2023 & finishes in 2024
- Suggestion to share the YouTube video with the public & city council meetings

OTC & Region Updates:

IIJA/OTC Update– Craig Sipp, ODOT

- ODOT project Whiskey Creek on 244 between La Grande & Ukiah received a National Environmental Award. This project was restoration work & culvert replacement opening 16 miles of fish habitat
- OTC has been working on the funding opportunities & how to spend the \$412 million IIJA funds. They went through a public engagement process with testimonies & feedback. Funds were set aside from the top for programs that needed to be addressed. Those include, ADA requirements, Maintenance Operations, Local Climate Planning, Match for Local Grants (\$40 million), business & workforce development
The rest of the IIJA funds will be divided by:
 - Fix it- preservation of system, \$75 million
 - Enhance-transit/bike/ped, \$50 million
 - Great Street New-doing work within our small communities, \$50 million over the next 4 years.
 - SRTS- \$30 million
 - Innovative Mobility New pilot, \$10 million
- Eight projects submitted for Connect Oregon from Region 5, five was funded, three rail & two air. Two projects from the SEACT area
- Interstate Bridge an \$8-12 Billion project. Tentative scope of work but still in design. Not completely funded. Washington committed to \$1 Billion, Oregon will match the \$1 Billion
- May is Safety Month. Craig talked how crews are working in regards to safety

Region Update:

- Craig is official retiring in May, he plans on working for another 1-3 months until his position is filled

Small Cities Allotment/Local Projects – Michelle Tragessor, ODOT

- 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
- Michelle asked there is any interest in workshops for emergency grants, grant writing, or bridge grants. Suggestion; STIF plan brainstorming

Current Construction Projects – Sean Maloney, ODOT

- US21 Springs Rd to Harper Junction a large paving job & working on 5-6 bridges at the same time. Has been awarded & currently under construction
- Snake River/Ontario Bridge Construction, E Idaho Ave into Fruitland. Resurfacing Project currently under construction
- John Day sidewalk improvement project from 6th Avenue to the High School. Scheduled to start today. This is a one year project

- I84 Pleasant Valley to Lime- maintenance pavement project- to start sometime mid-late summer.
- I84 Boardman to Hilgard culver repair is complete
- I84 Meacham to Kamela, stage 2 under construction finishing up 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, project completion scheduled for November 2022

24-27 STIP Development – Ken Patterson, ODOT

- Draft form has been presented, however, IIJA money is being added to some of the projects
- The Malheur & Harney County Signals will get more money
- A little bit of IIJA funding will go into the round-about project
- More money going into off system local bridges-No match is required with IIJA funding
- In the 24-27 STIF new projects coming on line:
 - The Cottle Lane Bridge, Wallowa County- total replacement
 - North College Street, Union
 - Thornhollow Bridge, Umatilla County
 - Holbrook Lane, Baker County
- Start watching for the announcements for bridge programs in June 2023.

Regional Solutions – Ken Patterson/Feather Sam-Huesties:

- Dawn Hurt, DLCD is the new rep on RST
- Randy Jones reported that Grassy Mountain Mine is making progress on their permits
- Treasure Valley Reload has seen activity
- Nolan Road IOF
- RST assisted with the Connect Or results
- Working with partners on the Sawmill in Prairie City, waiting on approval to use their smaller boiler just to get started while working on a larger permitting issue with DEQ
- RST recognizes smaller communities need resources for grant writing
- Economic Development Districts are being awarded \$40,000 from the Rural Capacity Fund for purposes of grant writing training

Tribe/City/County Updates:

City of Ontario – Dan Cummings:

- Safe Route To Schools project is out for bid
- The SE 5th sidewalk project is under design
- The plans are approved for the SE10th St & SE 6th Avenue that aligns Claude Rd. This will eliminate the Claude Rd and the gravel road intersection and will just have 10th street.
- ODOT is working on the North South path connection from the State Park to the Lions Park
- Just received word of receiving the National Parks Service grant to plan the River Trail

City of Nyssa – Jim Maret:

- A water line for the Transit Reload went out for bid with bid opening June 2
- The city did Parks Master Plan last year & now applied for a large Parks Grant. After you apply you get invited to present, which is the next step for this grant
- A Wastewater Master Plan was completed last year and now we are looking for money for the project to expand the wastewater facility
- Thank ODOT for the Safe Route to Schools grant that made a big difference

City of Hines – Kirby Latham:

- In between projects right now
- Winding down the water project this summer
- Anderson Perry is doing a wastewater facility plan. Using a portion of the ARPA funds for that
- The city is using ARPA funds to upgrade a main lift station and the electrical at the lagoon pumps
- Applied for a Safe Routes to Schools grant for this year. The focus will be the Hines Middle School, but will include the High School & the elementary.
- Applying for a National Parks grant for a planning grant for the parks
- The last SCA grant will be completed by late summer/early fall

City of Burns - Dan Brown:

- Working on an \$8.2 million water distribution system. Applied for \$6.6 million for grant funding.
- Still have the \$1.3 million Street Improvement projects
- We have \$1.2 million for the remainder of the HB2017 funds that have to be spent by the end of this year
- The project for the SCA grant is out for bid
- Budget committee met in one session and approved a \$16.3 million budget
- Applying for grants to hire 3 additional police officers
- Working with DLCDC on overlays outside the UGB
- A new police chief has been on the job for 5 weeks and we have 3 new police vehicles
- Renovation on the Washington Park bathroom is almost completed
- Airport is busy- Sent out an RFP for an airport engineer
- Commission an SDC study. A lot of fees & rates in the City will be increasing as of July 1st
- Applying for a TGM grant to update our Safety Plan
- Looking at updating the 2001 TSP & Wastewater facility plan

Grant County – Tory Stinnett:

- Currently out for bid for a consultant to do a housing needs analysis for seven incorporated cities.

Transit – Angie Jones:

- Started updating the Coordinated Transportation Plan for Harney County and Malheur County is in the process of getting theirs updated as well
- Working on budget
- New website will be rolling out for People Movers

Business:

COAR Grant Update – Haley Walker:

- COAR grants agreements are in process with those receiving awards

Demographic Survey-Sean Maloney:

- A demographic survey was sent out a few weeks ago. It will only take a few minutes to complete it. We will send it out again, if you have not completed it, please do so.

Membership Review:

- This meeting is a hybrid meeting in Ontario. Does the committee want to:
 - Have each meeting be online & not in person?
 - Go back to offering it full time in person?
 - Have it hybrid (both in person & online)?
 - If we decide to offer it as hybrid, do we want to go back into the meeting rotation?
The next meeting is scheduled as a hybrid meeting in Burns
- Jim nominated Todd Fuller, City Manager of Vale for a position on SEACT. Todd has been sent an application for the Bike/Ped At Large position. He has not returned the application. Jim will talk to him
- Grant County, recommendation to fill Nick's position, Corum Ketchum. The County appointed someone else but didn't know who that was
- Malheur County, 2 vacant positions, Judge Joyce is working on filling the 2 positions
- Harney County is fully staffed
- At Large- Freight Rep and Bike/Ped vacant

Future Guest Speakers:

- Presentation on striping crews coordinating with the counties
- Follow up on the foam to asphalt pilot project. Andy Lindsey from Anderson Perry was a part of the project. Interested on how it's holding up and costs
- Traffic Counts

Next meeting:

July 25, 2022

Meeting Adjourned 1:47 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Vicek