

SOUTH WEST AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION (SWACT)

Meeting Minutes November 04, 2022 Teleconference

❖ Roll Call ❖

Chair Nikki Messenger called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. Roll was called and a quorum confirmed. (15 voting members present. V = voting member for this meeting. Quorum = 11 (50% of filled [currently 22] membership positions.)

Commission Members and Alternates in Attendance (alphabetical)

Baglien, Don	Douglas County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Baron, Tony	City of Brookings (Alternate)	V
Bernhardt, Kathryn	Transit (Primary)	V
Boyer, Brant	Douglas County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Cheas, Cheryl	Douglas County Stakeholder (Alternate)	V
Christensen, Richard	Curry County (Alternate)	V
Dolgonas, Dick	Bicycle and Pedestrian (Primary)	V
Dunham, Ralph	Coos County Stakeholder (Alternate)	
Dunning, Michael	Port (Primary)	V
Elliott, Brian	Douglas County City-At-Large (Primary)	V
	Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua &	
Gray, Garrett	Siuslaw Indians (Primary)	V
Hossley, Jim	City of Coos Bay (Primary)	V
Hunter, Chris	ODOT (Primary)	V
Jensen, Matthew	Coquille Indian Tribe (Primary)	V
Johnson, Brett	Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians (Primary)	V
Kent, Scott	Port (Alternate)	
Kutch, Ron	Coos County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Malmberg, Clayton	Curry County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Messenger, Nikki	City of Roseburg (Primary)	V
Neavoll, Darrin	ODOT (Alternate)	
Poole, Art	Coos County Stakeholder (Alternate)	
Pryce, Loree	Bicycle and Pedestrian (Alternate)	
Rainville, Lonnie	Douglas County City-At-Large (Primary)	V

ODOT Staff in Attendance

1. Boardman, Jennifer	Region 3 Transit Coordinator
2. Boren, John	Freight Program Manager
3. Brouwer, Travis	Assistant Dir. - Revenue, Finance & Compliance
4. Cornutt, Lisa	Region 3 Principal Planner
5. DeWald, Teresa	Region 3 Local Agency Liaison
6. Latham, Dan	Region 3 Public Information Officer
7. Leaming, Gary	Region 3 Public Information Officer
8. McDaniel -Wilson, Christi	State Traffic Safety Engineer
9. Pederson, Glen	Interim District 7 Manager
10. Perry, Lisa	Oregon Transportation Commission Admin
11. Thompson, Sarah	Region 3 Executive Analyst

Guests in Attendance

1. Cole, Jordan

AOC

❖ Public Input ❖

None

❖ Approval of Minutes ❖

- **Motion made and seconded to approve the July 08, 2022 SWACT Minutes. (Dick Dolgonas/Brant Boyer)**
- Discussion: None.
- *Motion carried.*

❖ Membership Updates ❖

Chris Hunter informed the group that the Oregon Department of Aviation has reached out to request a representative from the ACT to sit on the Critical Oregon Airport Relief (COAR) grant committee. In the past Theresa Cook has been our representative. She is not in attendance at this meeting, however, Chris has been in contact with her and she is willing to sit on this committee again.

Motion made and seconded to appoint Theresa Cook to the COAR grant committee as the SWACT Representative. (Brant Boyer/Dick Dolgonas) No discussion. Motion carried.

❖ Local Agency Funding ❖

Presentation: Travis Brouwer gave an overview of the current ODOT projected budget shortfall and how this will impact the fund exchange program. Going forward, the fund exchange program is not sustainable. ODOT is looking to preserve fund exchange for as many projects and local agencies as possible, while significantly reducing the amount exchanged. ODOT is proposing to set aside \$20 million in state money to exchange. Cities, counties and small MPO's could all take about \$250,000 of their allocations in state dollars. Half of recipients receive less than that amount so they would get their full allocation in state funds. Those who receive larger allocations could take the remaining in either HB2017 bridge funding for bridge maintenance, projects, or match or in federal dollars.

Discussion: Nikki Messenger is interested in whether any thought went into reaching out to agencies with bridge projects to leave that funding and dedicate that money to other agencies. Travis will take this idea back to the team. Tony Baron – would like to know how this funding impacts the Small City Allotment program. This is separate funding that doesn't impact the SCA. Ralph Dunham – given that 100% of fund exchange is utilized on construction projects, what is the likelihood that this program will last another 2 years? Travis shared that they don't think it will. That is where this messaging comes in. They want to be transparent and honest about the impacts to the funding and preserve as much as possible for as long as possible. Dick Dolgonas – asked whether federal dollars can be used for operations and maintenance, and also what can be done through the legislature to improve this problem. Travis state only certain federal monies can be used for operations and maintenance and those eligible dollars will be shifted over. As for the legislature, Travis indicated ODOT will be doing four things in 2023; request to increase DMV fees, move to a pay-by-mile tax, request to shift funding from HB2017 to operations and maintenance and request the legislature approve an increase in transportation spending. Nikki

Messenger – asked if there is a role the ACT’s can play with legislators? Travis indicated they couldn’t ask anyone to lobby on their behalf, however, he hopes this presentation gives the tools needed for local agencies to contact their local legislators. Nikki feels the ACT should take action to show that local agencies here are not certified and this will have a massive impact. Clayton Malmberg – indicated that with the pay-by-mile tax, rural counties will have to be viewed carefully due to the longer distances that have to be driven to access services. This may become an equity issue. Travis shared that data analysis shows that rural drivers drive more miles and drive less efficient and older vehicles. This will be taken into consideration.

❖ Crash Trend Analysis ❖

Presentation: Christi McDaniel -Wilson gave a presentation on crash fatality trends in the region and how ODOT is working to address the challenges by utilizing the smart systems approach. The goal is to have zero fatalities in Oregon by the year 2035.

Discussion: Dick Dolgonas – the number of fatalities in this report doesn’t include crashes from alcohol/drugs, so how do we avoid or solve that issue? Christi stated that in Oregon, law enforcement numbers are low, however, it still provides an effect. If ODOT puts treatments out, the expectation is that the severity will be lowered. She also stated they are working on tracking crash trends by mode of traffic. Loree Pryce – saw in another state there was green paint striped on the state highway to differentiate bike/ped traffic from vehicles. She would like to know if ODOT has a State plan or a plan to make one for bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Christi stated the Statewide Ped/Bike Safety Implementation Plan is on the website. There are grant opportunities available and she encourages the local agencies to apply for funding.

❖ Oregon Freight Plan ❖

Presentation: John Boren informed the commission that FHWA is requiring a state freight plan due in December of 2022. The National Freight Program Goals are to invest in infrastructure that strengthens economic competitiveness, reduce congestion, reduce the costs of freight transportation, improve reliability, and increase productivity. Movement of freight is expected to grow in all directions. Intrastate tonnage flows continue to account for the majority of total commodity flows for Oregon. The ACT is being asked to provide input with the biggest issues, any concerns, or what ODOT should address in the freight plan or implementation.

Discussion: Brant Boyer – indicated that it doesn’t make sense with all the congestion in Portland that they would remove a lane. Nikki Messenger – didn’t see anything in the plan regarding the Port of Coos Bay project. John indicated that the plan is general and doesn’t specifically call out projects.

❖ STIF Discretionary Applications ❖

Presentation: Jennifer Boardman gave an overview of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Discretionary grant program. There are currently \$58 million in grant requests while only \$28.5 million is available for the program. In this area, there are four transit agencies that have submitted applications. UPTD submitted an application for \$950,000 for IT system software upgrades and CCAT submitted three applications totaling \$284,000 for continued route service. Applications will be brought forth to the commission in January for review and comments.

Discussion: None

❖ Region 3 Updates ❖

Presentation: Darrin Neavoll gave a summary to the commission members of updates in Region 3. Congratulations were given to UPTD for award of two grants for EV buses, chargers and a bus facility, CCAT for a grant award for service area vehicles and to Curry County for a grant award for new transit vehicles. Darrin informed the group that the Scottsburg Bridge dedication occurred. There is still a little bit of dirt work to come back and complete in the spring. The Region is finalizing the draft 2024-2027 STIP list and will bring back to this commission in January or March. As Travis shared, the agency is struggling with state funding. In the region, exercises have been completed to show the impacts of a 5% and 10% reduction in funding. Impacts of this would be reduced staff and lower levels of service. On the flip side of that, there are a couple of federal funding opportunities that have come out recently. Region 3 submitted pre-applications for the Great Streets program for a project in Sutherlin and a planning project in Gold Beach. The Region also applied for earmark funding for Harbor sidewalk infill.

OTC meeting is November 17th –

1. Julie Brown selected as new Vice-Chair
2. Senator Lee Beyer was appointed to the vacancy, will start in January
3. During a special meeting in September, OTC requested ODOT design a pilot project around community workforce agreements for each region.
 - a. Region 3 will be using this method on the Gold Beach Bridge project.
 - b. The aim is to enhance training and opportunities between contractors and laborers.
4. Update on the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program
5. Update from the Urban Mobility office on Rose Quarter and OReGO
6. Update from the Climate office

On November 16th all ACT chairs will meet with the OTC and ODOT leadership to receive updates and have dialogue going into 2023.

Discussion: None

❖ NOA's and Adjournment ❖

1. Loree Pryce requested an update on the Port of Coos Bay project at the next meeting, if possible.
2. Chris Hunter requested information from the ACT members on topics they would like to see on an agenda in the coming year. These items do not have to be ODOT specific.
3. Chris Hunter indicated that due to major interest, we will try to schedule one or two in-person meetings in the coming year, with the first being in March or May.
4. Nikki asked if homeless camp cleanup costs are tracked. Chris stated they are tracked statewide and are showing in our budget reduction exercises as one of the first cuts.

Nikki Messenger adjourned the meeting at 11:53 am.

Next SWACT Meeting: Friday, January 13, 2023, at 10 am. Meeting will be virtual.