

None.

❖ Approval of Minutes ❖

- **Motion made and seconded to approve the November 12, 2021 SWACT Minutes. (Charmaine Vitek/Kathy Bernhardt)**
- Discussion: None.
- *Motion carried.*

❖ Membership Updates ❖

Positions to approve: New SWACT Vice - Chair for three year term beginning January 2022.

- **John Sweet made a motion to close nominations. Motion seconded by Jim Hossley.**
- Discussion: Last meeting, Brant Boyer was nominated by Rick Skinner for vice-chair.
- *Motion carried*

- **Motion made and seconded to appoint Brant Boyer to the position of Vice – Chair for 01/2022 – 12/2023.**
- Discussion: None
- *Motion carried.*

Position changes to approve: None

New members: None

❖ Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ❖

Presentation: Karyn Criswell, ODOT Public Transportation Division Administrator, gave a presentation on the implications for Oregon in regards to new funding coming down the pipeline. This funding includes \$1 billion in additional funding over the next five years for highways and special programs and \$200 million additional for public transportation. Special programs include bridges, mitigating climate change, seismic resilience, safety and active transportation. Funding will also include flexible funding that the OTC will be asked to allocate at its January meeting. The SWACT was asked the following three questions and asked to provide input for Karyn to take back to assist in development of funding scenarios for the OTC.

1. Given the investments already made in the STIP and the federal infrastructure bill, how should the OTC allocate flexible funding to best advance the OTC/ODOT Strategic Action Plan and the state's transportation goals?
2. Do the priorities expressed in 2020 – particularly strong support for public and active transportation and Fix-It remain? Or have these priorities changed in some ways?
3. What are the specific priorities for investment of funds in public and active transportation?

Discussion: Ron Kutch: Active transportation is good, but if are bridges fall down we are in a world of hurt. Recommend prioritizing funding for preservation of bridges, culverts and roads
Nikki Messenger: Fix-it is important to us, we don't want to get further behind on all systems; it impacts economic development if people can't safety get where they are trying to go. This is particularly important in rural areas. Brant Boyer: Would like to see additional work put into culverts. Dick Dolgonas: Protect investments we have already made; otherwise it costs more to replace them down the road. Consider how micro mobility options fit into the statewide system.

Loree Pryce: When making bridge upgrades, ensure you are pairing improvements to pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Ralph Dunham: Also look at and ensure EV charging infrastructure can support vehicle electrification that is coming. Nikki Messenger: Local agencies will need more help from ODOT to deliver local projects. ODOT is inadequately staffed already; how are you preparing to be adequately resourced to deliver this work?

❖ Safe Routes to School ❖

Presentation: Jenna Marmon, ODOT Region 3 Active Transportation Liaison, gave an overview of what the Safe Routes to School program is, what projects are eligible and announced funding available for the two types of SRTS programs. For Safe Routes to School Education there is generally \$1 million allocated annually. This amount increases to \$1.3 million for the 2024 – 2027 STIP cycle. For the SRTS Construction program, generally there is \$10 million allocated annually. This amount will increase to \$15 million in 2023. Applications are currently open for both programs with a deadline of March 18, 2022. Part two of the construction application will run May – July with review and approval August – December. Feedback was requested from the ACT in the form of the following questions.

1. Do you have any thoughts for the advisory committee as they head towards recommending another round of SRTS funds in 2022?
2. What do you need from staff in order to help spread the word about the next solicitation?
3. Are there any events or meetings coming up at which we should offer a presentation?
4. Do you have any wisdom to share to make future solicitations better?

Sarah will email the project information and these questions out the group after the meeting so they can provide input.

Discussion: Dick Dolgonas stated his praise for the program and how they are already doing very good things with partnering in the school systems in Douglas County. Nikki Messenger indicated the match requirement is a barrier to small communities that want to utilize the program.

❖ Connect Oregon ❖

Presentation: Mike Baker informed the group that we are on Round 8 of Connect Oregon funding. Applications have been submitted from all over the state. Region 3 has 12 applicants, 6 in each ACT region. A list of those projects was reviewed with the commission, listed in the order as ranked by the modal and economic committees. The commission has been tasked with submitting a ranking document for the Super ACT, which will be made up of representatives nominated from each ACT.

Discussion: Discussion ensued on whether projects with higher match rates should be ranked higher. The commission was informed that the RVACT, which met earlier this week, moved to submit the document as is, and let the Super ACT do a deeper review, analysis and prioritization.

- **Motion was made and seconded to submit the list as stands to the Super ACT. (John Sweet/Rick Skinner)**
- Discussion: This commission feels there isn't enough information to make a ranking recommendation.
- **Motion carried.**

The commission was then tasked with voting on SWACT representation of the Super ACT. A memo was sent out prior to the meeting with the ODOT recommendations on representation. John Sweet would like to see a representative from Coos County willing to participate. Janell Howard is willing to represent aviation. All other members will be consistent with the ODOT recommended.

- **Motion was made and seconded to nominate Nikki Messenger, John Sweet, Janell Howard and Charmaine Vitek to the Super ACT committee, with Brant Boyer as alternate.**
- Discussion: None
- *Motion carried.*

❖ Region 3 Updates ❖

Presentation: Darrin Neavoll gave a summary to the commission members of updates in Region 3. For Covid-19 updates, the state has decided to delay opening of buildings to the public again, due to rise in cases. Darrin gave a shout-out to all of the local agencies working with ODOT staff on the latest round of winter storms. ODOT will be possibly be exploring some emergency event reimbursement funds. Local liaisons will be reaching to the local agencies to assess for damages. ODOT will be exploring emergency reimbursement for 3 – 4 slides on OR138E in the fire area, as well as one slide in Port Orford on the ocean side that is taking guardrail. Darrin informed the group that during this storm, an employee on the Ashland crew died from a fall off a ladder. We request that you keep our crew and his family in your thoughts. In regards to fire recovery, we are just about finished. Still continuing with tree removal on OR138. OTC updates: new commissioner out of the Eugene area, will be attending her first meeting this month, state budget is tight, some Maintenance and Operations funding will be in the scenarios due to this, OTC will receive updates on the tolling project and the Rose Quarter, which has seen a controversial increase in costs with the latest alternative that was selected and new transportation planning rule is being presented at the State Legislature level which is being presented to the OTC this month. The four scenarios being presented to the OTC this month on the IJJA funds was brought up on the screen and Darrin walked through it with the commission. Darrin informed the group that the program, Great Streets, that Karyn discussed in her presentation is included in all four scenarios, as is local climate planning.

Discussion: Dick Dolgonas requested copies of the four scenarios after the meeting.

❖ NOA's and Adjournment ❖

None.

Nikki Messenger adjourned the meeting at 12:02 pm.

Next SWACT Meeting: Friday, March 11, 2022, at 10 am. Meeting type (in-person, teleconference, or hybrid) will be determined at a later date.