

# **SOUTH WEST AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION (SWACT)**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**July 08, 2022**

**Teleconference**

### **❖ Roll Call ❖**

Chair Nikki Messenger called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. Roll was called and a quorum confirmed. (18 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)**

Kress, Tom	Douglas County (Primary)	V
Baglien, Don	Douglas County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Baron, Tony	City of Brookings (Alternate)	V
Bernhardt, Kathryn	Transit (Primary)	V
Cheas, Cheryl	Douglas County Stakeholder (Alternate)	V
Dolgonas, Dick	Bicycle and Pedestrian (Primary)	V
Dunham, Ralph	Coos County Stakeholder (Alternate)	
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
Kutch, Ron	Coos County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Ledbetter, Steve	Douglas County City-At-Large (Alternate)	V
Malmberg, Clayton	Curry County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Messenger, Nikki	City of Roseburg (Primary)	V
Neavoll, Darrin	ODOT (Alternate)	
Paasch, Chris	Curry County (Primary)	V
Poole, Art	Coos County Stakeholder (Alternate)	
Pryce, Loree	Bicycle and Pedestrian (Alternate)	
Sweet, John	Coos County (Primary)	V

### **ODOT Staff in Attendance**

1. Brown, Julie	Oregon Transportation Commission
2. Cornutt, Lisa	Region 3 Principal Planner
3. DeWald, Teresa	Region 3 Local Agency Liaison
4. Pederson, Glen	Interim District 7 Manager
5. Prior, Gareth	ODOT Toll Policy Manager
6. Thompson, Sarah	Region 3 Executive Analyst
7. Wilcox, Robin	ODOT Great Streets Program Manager

### **Guests in Attendance**

1. Comery, Paul	WSP Global Inc.
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2. Grisham, Cole
3. Heacock, Joshua
4. Jordan, Brooke
5. Kent, Scott
6. Pagano, Anthony
7. Palmatier, Sadie

Federal Highway Administration  
Douglas County  
WSP Global Inc.  
Port of Umpqua Port Manager  
City of Gold Beach  
WSP Global Inc.

❖ **Public Input** ❖

None

❖ **Approval of Minutes** ❖

- **Motion made and seconded to approve the May 13, 2022 SWACT Minutes. (Dick Dolgonas/Kathy Bernhardt)**
- Discussion: None.
- *Motion carried.*

❖ **Membership Updates** ❖

Chris Hunter informed the group that Charmaine Vitek has retired from the Port of Umpqua, leaving the primary port position vacant. Michael Dunning, the current alternate, is willing to step into the primary role. Scott Kent, on this call, is the new port manager and is interested in participating as well.

**Motion made and seconded to appoint Michael Dunning to the Primary Port Representative and Scott Kent to the Alternate Port Representative. (John Sweet/Ron Kutch) No discussion. Motion carried.**

❖ **Tolling** ❖

**Presentation:** Gareth Prior from the Urban Mobility office gave a status update of where we are today with the Oregon Toll program, specifically reporting on the Draft Low Income Toll Report which outlines options to establish toll benefits for drivers experiencing low incomes. This report is being delivered to the Oregon Transportation Commission in September. More work is needed to identify implementation and operation costs associated with the options for consideration. Prior to tolls beginning in 2024, the OTC and ODOT will establish a low income benefit program.

**Discussion:** Ron Kutch: Would like to know how the cash option works, what the limit is on fees and charges and what happens if people cross without paying. The cash based option is through local retailers that will have pre-loaded cards. Colorado recently started this type with pre-loaded cards for a monthly pass with either a set number or unlimited rides. As far as people not paying, this will have to go through penalty and rulemaking. There is nothing on this yet. Dick Dolgonas: Is glad to see the congestion pricing piece. Is also curious about the income limits – is it one income test statewide? Yes, the income limits will align with the federal standard. Chris Paasch: Urged them to implement ways to make it easier on the elderly that aren't computer savvy to be able to utilize the system. Is also curious if this could be deployed by license plate instead of transponders? Gareth insisted that outreach will be substantial to ensure

low income are enrolled. A bill in mail system will be the fallback option. Nikki Messenger: How is freight being rated? They are trying to balance with the weight-mile tax. Rate structures will be evaluated in the fall. They would like to integrate statewide and would require transponder system. Loree Pryce: Have you considered ride share? Recently the OTC allocated \$20 million to the Innovative Mobility Program statewide and in the Portland/Metro area. John Sweet: What is the impact from this to the middle class? People of all classes drive at all times. More work needs to be done to ensure we aren't over incentivizing the program.

### ❖ Federal Lands Access Program Statewide Needs ❖

**Presentation:** Cole Grisham with Federal Highway Administration gave an overview of the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP), the study underway to identify unmet access needs to Federal Lands in Oregon, and gave information on how this group can participate going forward.

**Discussion:** Clayton Malmberg: Asked when the needs inventory workshops will be held and can members of the ACT attend? Yes, ACT members are highly urged to attend. The meetings are tentatively going to be scheduled in late fall/early winter. Cheryl Cheas: Asked if there is a transit piece in this funding? Yes, transit agencies are eligible to apply for this funding. Nikki Messenger: Asked how timelines are added to the needs in reference to useful life and wear and tear. The needs assessment is pulling from current TSP's, prioritization is yet to be determined. Chris Hunter: Will future applications have to be in line with the needs assessment for eligibility? No, this does not replace the call for project process, it just allows for better prioritization. Nikki Messenger: Cautions that TSP's are pretty constrained due to not receiving enough funding for all projects needed and will probably not cover Federal Land access.

### ❖ Great Streets ❖

**Presentation:** Robin Wilcox gave a presentation regarding the Great Streets program. The OTC allocated \$50 million from the discretionary IJA funding for this program for corridor projects on highways that also serve as main streets and urban arterials. The focus is on improvements to pedestrian crossings, transit stops, lighting, signals, pavement and other infrastructure. Region pre-applications will be due in November, with project proposals due in March of 2023. The OTC will approval the final 100% project list in the fall of 2023.

**Discussion:** Chris Hunter: Informed the ACT that as the Region starts having conversations around projects, we will be reaching out the local agencies. Nikki Messenger: Is this a one and done program? This program is only funded in the 2024-2027 STIP as a proof of concept. The hope is that it will go well and can continue to be funded. Clayton Malmberg: Is this for fully funded projects or is match required? This depends on the needs and capability of the agency. An equitable approach is being taken. Dick Dolgonas: Advocates that the State fund as much as possible now then in future allocations it would be easier to ask for local match.

### ❖ Region 3 Updates ❖

**Presentation:** Darrin Neavoll gave a summary to the commission members of updates in Region 3. The Region is finalizing the draft 2024 – 2027 100% list and will bring it to the ACT in September. There are State funding issues coming our way. Projections of current spending show a \$700 million deficit by 2029. This will result in the fund exchange program being minimized. Connect Oregon process is now over. Feedback is being requested from leadership on the process used.

OTC meeting is next week; a few highlights –

1. The new Assistant Director for Social Equity will be announced
2. Update on the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program
3. Update from the Urban Mobility office on Rose Quarter and OReGO
4. Progress update on the Strategic Action Plan
5. Presentation on the National Electric Vehicle Inventory
6. Update on the ADA Compliance Program – We are currently behind target and have a lack of funding.
7. Allocation of redistribution will be presented
8. Community Workforce Agreements discussion

**Discussion:** Nikki Messenger: If fund exchange gets reduced and ODOT has to deliver everything, will this save the agency anything? It will have unintended consequences on staffing and projects. Ron Kutch: has been following the Interstate Bridge project, having lived in Portland previously. The Coast Guard is saying the bridge isn't high enough. Do we know if they signed off on it previously? Darrin isn't sure.

### ❖ NOA's and Adjournment ❖

Julie Brown commented on the Community Workforce Agreements saying that she is pausing and requesting additional information due to union involvement. Senate Bill 420 passed to create a task force to come up with this.

Loree Pryce thanked ODOT and LOC for the small city allotment minimum award size.

Chris Hunter informed the group that meetings will continue to be virtual. The Coos County Facility is not viable for ACT meetings. ODOT will continue to look for another facility to have in-person meetings.

John Sweet informed the group that John Rowe will be retiring at the end of this month. His replacement, Paul Slater, will replace John as alternate on the SWACT.

Nikki Messenger adjourned the meeting at 11:46 am.

**Next SWACT Meeting: Friday, September 09, 2022, at 10 am. Meeting will be virtual.**