

<b>SOUTH WEST AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION (SWACT)</b> <b>Meeting Minutes - September 12, 2025</b> <b>Teleconference</b>
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❖ Roll Call ❖

Chair Nikki Messenger called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Roll was called, and a quorum confirmed. (12 voting members present. V = voting member for this meeting. Quorum = 10 (50% of filled [currently 20] primary membership positions.)

**Commission Members and Alternates in Attendance (alphabetical)**

Adams, Scott	Douglas County (Primary)	V
Allaway, Julie	Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians (Primary)	V
Bernhardt, Kathryn	Transit (Primary)	V
Boyer, Brant	Douglas County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Dunham, Ralph	Coos County Stakeholder (Alternate)	
Fugate, Jamie	Douglas County City-At-Large (Alternate)	
Gilbert, Kristi	Douglas County City-At-Large (Primary)	V
Gray, Garrett	Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians (Primary)	V
Hunter, Chris	ODOT (Primary)	V
Kutch, Ron	Coos County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Messenger, Nikki	City of Roseburg (Primary)	V
Pederson, Glen	ODOT (Alternate)	
Rowe, John	Coos County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Rundel, Tim	City of Brookings (Primary)	V
Wirsing, Jennifer	City of Coos Bay (Primary)	V

**ODOT Staff in Attendance**

- |                    |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Baker, Michael  | Region 3 Planning Manager           |
| 2. Birch, Naomi    | Region 3 STIP Coordinator           |
| 3. Cole, Laura     | Region 3 Administrative Assistant   |
| 4. Cornutt, Lisa   | Region 3 Principal Planner          |
| 5. Latham, Dan     | Region 3 Public Information Officer |
| 6. Neavoll, Darrin | Region 3 Manager                    |
| 7. Scruggs, Julee  | Region 3 Permit Specialist          |
| 8. Thompson, Sarah | Region 3 Executive Analyst          |

**Guests in Attendance**

- |                  |                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Bleau, Andre  | Umpqua Public Transportation District |
| 2. Bleau, Sheryl | Umpqua Public Transportation District |

❖ Public Input ❖

- None

❖ Approval of Minutes ❖

- **Motion made and seconded to approve May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, SWACT Minutes. (Tim Rundel/Kathryn Bernhardt)**
- Discussion: None.
- *Motion carried.*

❖ Membership Updates ❖

- **Lynn Coker has been appointed the Curry County Primary Representative**
- **Jamie Fugate has been appointed the Douglas County City-At-Large Alternate Representative**

❖ Critical Oregon Airport Relief ❖

**Presentation:** As per Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 319.023, the State Aviation Board has requested the ACT appoint a representative to be a member of the Aviation Review Committee (ARC) for reviewing and providing feedback on the Critical Oregon Airport Relief (COAR) grants.

- **Motion was made and seconded to nominate Rodger Craddock to the Aviation Review Committee. (Chris Hunter/Tim Rundel)**
- Discussion: None.
- *Motion carried.*

❖ Region 3 Construction Updates ❖

**Presentation:** Dan Latham gave an update on projects currently under construction in Coos, Curry and Douglas County.

There are 15 projects that are in, will be or recently completed construction for Summer/Fall 2025.

1. Reedsport Pedestrian Crossing – the first project initiated and funded with ODOT’s Vulnerable User Crash Response Program installs push button pedestrian beacon and signs at Juniper Street. Expected completion is Fall 2025.
2. Chandler Bridge – repaints the bridge, replaces tower ladders and platforms on OR241 at MP 3.5. This is a two-year project that started this summer and continues until fall 2026.
3. US101 to Cedar Point Road – will pave nearly 10 miles of OR42, add rumble strips and replace several culverts. This is a two-year project that started this spring and will continue until fall 2026.
4. Bearhead Mountain – replaces a culvert under US101 at MP281.9 in difficult terrain. US101 will close for one weekend for rapid replacement of the culvert. Expected completion is October 2025.

5. Floras Creek and Willow Creek Bridges – will replace/repair rail, resurface the roadway and replace joints on two bridges on US101 (MP288.5 and MP 290.3). Construction was completed in August 2025.
6. US101 MP303 – has a failed culvert that is too deep to dig out so the project will tunnel in from the side to replace it with a new pipe that is 48” wide and 370’ long. Construction started in September and is expected to be completed by November 2025.
7. Arizona Slide Repair - will construct a new vertical shaft and horizontal drains. This work started in late March and will continue through Fall 2026. This work will not impact the roadway.
8. Anderson Rockfall – installs a 42-inch barrier with rock protection screen along the northbound shoulder of US101 at MP 334.3. Construction was completed in June 2025.
9. Parkview Dr to Lucky Lane – will install a flashing pedestrian beacon at Ransom Street in Brookings and extend sidewalks and bike lane north to Ransom Creek and replace sidewalks and ADA curb ramps south of Easy Street. Construction expected Spring – Summer 2025.
10. Lookingglass Creek to Interstate 5 – paves OR42 from Winston west to I-5, adds traffic signal and other safety features, and adds or replaces ADA sidewalk ramps. This two-year project started in February. The first year will be concrete work and the second year will be paving. The anticipated completion for this work is September 2026.
11. Stewart Park Drive Bridge – paints the 1933 bridge, repairs steel truss, replaces the timber pedestrian walkway and adds new handrail. Construction is anticipated to be completed by November 2025.
12. Marvin Hill landslide repair – is emergency work to repair culverts, install stone embankments and replace curb on OR138W at MP15.5 and 16.5 due to the heavy rain event earlier this year. Construction is anticipated to be completed by October 2025.
13. Southern Oregon Wrong Way Driver Mitigation – is a project to add features that alert drivers they are entering interchange off-ramps from the wrong direction. This work is taking place on all I-5 off-ramps from the California border to Curtin (MP 1-163) and is expected to be completed by January 2026.
14. ADA Curb Ramps – are being built in four communities; Brookings, Gold Beach, Myrtle Point and Roseburg. This work is anticipated to be completed by Summer 2026.
15. Stewart Park Drive Bridge – paints the 1933 bridge, repairs steel truss, replaces the pedestrian walkway and adds new handrail. Construction is anticipated to be completed by November 2025.

**Discussion:** None

❖ **Region 3 Manager and Budget Updates** ❖

**Presentation:** Darrin Neavoll gave an update on the legislative session and where we are as of today, which is the Transportation Bill (HB3991 and HB3992) were approved by the House Chamber on Monday 9/1/25. The Senate Chamber met and did the first reading of the Bills on 9/1 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on 9/2. The Senate Chamber was scheduled to meet on Wednesday 9/3 for the final reading and vote, however, this got delayed until 9/17.

Specifically, HB3991 will increase revenues for the State Highway Fund as follows:

1. 6 cent/gallon gas tax increase
  - a. \$.40 to \$.46 effective January 1, 2026

2. Increase in annual registration fees
  - a. \$43 to \$85 for passenger vehicles
  - b. \$63 to \$105 for utility vehicles, light trailers, low-speed vehicles and medium speed electric vehicles
  - c. \$44 to \$86 for mopeds and motorcycles
3. Increase title fees for passenger vehicles, \$77 to \$216
4. Increase registration surcharges for electric and highly fuel-efficient vehicles
  - a. \$35 to \$65 annually for cars with a 40+ mpg rating
  - b. \$115 to \$145 annually for electric vehicles
5. Phasing in of mandatory road usage charge program by 2031
  - a. Requires per-mile road usage charge or EV's and hybrids starting in July 2027 – starting with existing EV's, followed by new EV's then hybrids/plug-in models
6. Increase in payroll tax for public transportation
  - a. 0.1% to 0.2% beginning January 1, 2026
  - b. January 1, 2028, reverts back to 0.1%

HB3992 will have other impacts as follows:

1. Repeals the mandatory toll program
2. Provides for diesel fuel to be taxed in the same manner as gasoline
3. Dyed diesel testing at ODOT weigh stations and allows the department the ability to give citations
4. Roadside Rest Areas – increase annual allocation from the State Highway Fund to the Travel Information Council from \$9.16 million to \$12.6 million.
5. Heavy vehicle taxes – simplifies the number of tables
6. Highway Cost Allocation Study (HCAS) – If Legislative Assembly doesn't act, Department of Administrative Services (DAS) shall lower the per-mile rates and/or fuel tax to achieve an equity ratio less than 1.045 between light and heavy vehicles within 120 days of receiving the HCAS report.
7. Accountability for ODOT
  - a. Performance audit by Secretary of State
  - b. Governor has authority to hire and fire the ODOT Director; previously OTC authority
  - c. Repurposed Continuous Improvement Advisory Committee that will focus on overseeing on-time and on-budget delivery of major projects and report regularly to the Joint Commission on Transportation
  - d. Greater legislative oversight on major projects and agency performance measures through review of the scope, schedule and budget of major projects by the Joint Committee on Transportation
  - e. Additional OTC and legislative review when local scope elements are added to state projects without corresponding local investment.

These bills together will raise approximately \$600 million in revenue in the '25-'27 biennium and \$750 million in the '27-'29 biennium. This funding will be split 50/30/20 with the cities and counties. Local governments will receive about \$310 million. ODOT's share of the funding is only to be used for operations and maintenance, to prevent layoffs and keep maintenance stations

open. No funding will be used for preservation, major projects, Great Streets Program or Safe Routes to School.

#### OTC Updates:

The OTC meeting has been postponed to September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> with a Capital Investment Plan workshop on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Discussion:** Nikki Messenger commented increasing the funding to the TIC is concerning and would like to know if there will be more oversight. A: ODOT isn't sure, but there are agreements in place that will direct how the funds can be spent. Nikki Messenger also asked if the legislative committee has the qualifications to be given oversight on scope, schedule and budget. A: ODOT is not sure. Nikki Messenger asked who's on the CIAC. A: OTC members, chairs, consultants, some local folks, a legislator and an industry representative. We have to update them on any project estimated at over \$50 million. Nikki Messenger asked if there was going to be oversight on any of the other programs. A: There is nothing in the bill on that, but it does mandate the funds going to operations and maintenance. Nikki Messenger asked for an update on wildfire response. A: We will respond when we have people that are available. Ralph Dunham asked if there would be any adjustment after the '29 biennium as there is a fine line between pavement preservation and maintenance expense. A: This is short term work. Long term we will be re-prioritizing. The 2027 legislative session will include further discussions about preservation. For Federal talks, the FAST Act will expire in 2026 and there are conversations happening about preservation at that level as well. Andre Bleau asked if there would be any additional funding for Transit. A: If the bill passed the transit tax will go from \$0.01 to \$0.02 and that is dedicated funding for transit.

#### ❖ NOA's and Adjournment ❖

Chris Hunter announced that there will be a presentation given on the Capital Investment Plan at the November meeting.

Chris Hunter went over the Connect Oregon Federal Grant Match request that was submitted in between meetings for the Ko'Kwel Wharf Upland Storage Facility. Members of the ACT provided positive feedback on this request and were in support of the grant match request.

Nikki Messenger adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

**Next SWACT Meeting: Friday, November 14, 2025, at 10 am. Meeting will be via teleconference.**