

SOUTH WEST AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION (SWACT)
Meeting Minutes - January 9, 2026
Teleconference

❖ Roll Call ❖

Chair Nikki Messenger called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Roll was called, and a quorum confirmed. (11 voting members present. V = voting member for this meeting. Quorum = 9 (50% of filled [currently 18] primary membership positions.)

Commission Members & Alternates in Attendance (*P = Primary; A = Alternate)

Adams, Scott	Douglas County (P)	V
Bernhardt, Kathryn	Transit (P)	V
Boyer, Brant	Douglas County Stakeholder (P)	V
Coker, Lynn	Curry County (P)	V
Craddock, Rodger	Aviation (P)	V
Dolgonas, Dick	Bicycle/Pedestrian (P)	V
Gilbert, Kristi	Douglas County City-At-Large (P)	V
Gray, Garrett	Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians (P)	V
Hunter, Chris	ODOT (P)	V
Jensen, Matthew	Coquille Indian Tribe (P)	V
Kent, Scott	Port (A)	V
Kutch, Ron	Coos County Stakeholder (P)	V
Messenger, Nikki	City of Roseburg (P)	V
Pederson, Glen	ODOT (A)	
Rowe, John	Coos County Stakeholder (P)	V

ODOT Staff in Attendance

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Baker, Michael | Region 3 Planning Manager |
| 2. Boardman, Jennifer | Region 3 Transit Coordinator |
| 3. Cornutt, Lisa | Region 3 Principal Planner |
| 4. DeWald, Teresa | Region 3 Local Agency Liaison |
| 5. Latham, Dan | Region 3 Public Information Officer |
| 6. Lonie, Josh | Region 3 Resident Engineer/Consultant Projects |
| 7. Neavoll, Darrin | Region 3 Manager |
| 8. Oberlander, Eli | Rogue Valley Area Manager |
| 9. Scruggs, Julee | District 7 Permit Specialist |
| 10. Thompson, Sarah | Region 3 Executive Analyst |

Guests in Attendance

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Bleau, Andre | Umpqua Public Transportation District |
| 2. Bleau, Sheryl | Umpqua Public Transportation District |
| 3. Bowen, Andy | Kittelson & Associates |
| 4. Lee, Wayne | Unknown |

- 5. Metz, Melissa
- 6. Morgan, Christine
- 7. Potter, Zach

Coos County Area Transportation District
 Canyonville Mayor
 City of Myrtle Creek

❖ Public Input ❖

- None

❖ Approval of Minutes ❖

- **Motion made and seconded to approve November 14th, 2025, SWACT Minutes. (Dick Dolgonas/Matthew Jensen)**
- Discussion: None.
- *Motion carried.*

❖ Membership Updates ❖

- **Chris Hunter pointed out there are still a lot of vacancies on the ACT. Sarah is getting ready to send out advertisements and solicitations to try and get membership positions filled.**
 - **Nikki Messenger asked what that entails. A: Newspapers, email; reaching out to current members. This membership body can put forth & nominate others for positions as well.**
- **Ron Kutch, Brant Boyer and Kristi Gilbert all have terms expiring in March 2026, so Sarah will be reaching out to see if they are interested in continuing on with the SWACT for another term.**

❖ Region 3 Manager and Budget Updates ❖

Presentation: Darrin Neavoll gave an update on events around the agency, within Region 3 and gave an update on the Budget.

Agency Updates:

- Two Transit Grants were awarded to agencies in Region 3:
 - Coos County Area Transportation District – received \$8,839,155 to construct a multi-modal transfer hub to improve transit operations and community access.
 - Umpqua Public Transportation District – received \$2,295,000 to buy new buses to replace older buses that have reached their useful life.
- Region 3 Winter Maintenance Preparation – at the November meeting, Darrin had discussed that even with the referendum in place, we were directed to continue to hire seasonal and temporary help for winter maintenance. We didn't hire all of our positions; however, we did hire similar numbers to last winter. Those employees have come on board and initially trained.
- Pavement Conditions – Darrin shared the numbers on pavement conditions throughout the state and the downhill trend in miles paved. This is due to pavement funding being cut through this biennium and the next; in addition to the inflated cost of paving.

OTC Updates:

The last OTC meeting was held 12/11/2025

- This was the last meeting with Director Strickler and the introduction of the new Interim Director – Lisa Sumption
- Rose Quarter Update
- HB3991 Implementation with Referendum

The next OTC meeting is January 22, 2026

- Center Street Bridge (Salem Bridge)
- Interstate Bridge Update
- Capital Investment Plan (CIP) Update
- 2027 – 2030 STIP – Request approval of Draft List
- Community Paths Update
- Statewide Transportation Investment Plan (STIF) – Request approval of rule change

HB3991/Referendum/Repeal

The number of signatures needed for the referendum process was 78,116; petitioners turned in about three times that amount. The Secretary of State had 30 days to review and has certified the signatures needed. All taxes and fees subject to the referendum have been paused while awaiting the vote in November 2026. These include:

- Increase in base registration fees
- Increase in title fees
- Increase in fuels tax
- Increase in payroll tax

As of last week, the Governor is proposing a full repeal of HB3991.

Tax and fee changes that are not subject to the referendum, if no repeal, include:

- Increase in supplemental registration fee for 40+ mpg vehicles and EVs
- Mandatory Road User Charge (RUC) for hybrids and EVs
- Truck taxation modernization
 - Weight-mile tax simplification
 - Shifting trucks to diesel tax

Provisions in HB3991 not subject to the referendum, if no repeal, include:

- Accountability provisions: CIAC, SOS audits, LPRO review, etc.
- Repeal of direction to toll I-5 and I-205
- Additional annual transfers to Travel Information Council (\$3M) and Small City Allotment program (\$500k)
- Highway Cost Allocation Study

Even if it is repealed, impacts of the referendum will account for loss of revenue to ODOT, local governments and public transportation and a remaining inequity between light and heavy vehicles.

Discussion: *Nikki Messenger* asked when looking at crash data, is the pavement condition a factor? **A:** Not in the sense you are thinking. It will show wet/dry etc. but not condition. **Ron**

Kutch asked if the pavement charts are for the region or statewide? A: Statewide. **Ron Kutch** asked with the implementation of HB2017 how do we account for such a drop off? A: Pavements only got a small portion of that funding; most of it went to named projects. **Dick Dolgonas** asked if these were constant dollars, and is there a graph showing construction costs during these periods? A: Yes, however, buying power has dropped. **Nikki Messenger** stated that the cost of ADA probably impacts the amount going to pavement as well. **Dick Dolgonas**, in regard to HB3991, states those on this call have interest in transportation. Seeing the legs kicked out from under the bill makes him feel like maybe they didn't do a good enough job telling the story. **Nikki Messenger** asks in regard to Dick's statement; how do we help with the narrative? **Ron Kutch**, in regard to the slide depicting the two paths, the #1 option – redirecting resources, that means stopping projects? A: Yes, it is mostly bridge projects that have come up. **Dick Dolgonas** if the plan is to go back and start over on the bill if it is repealed? A: yes, that seems like the only choice at the moment.

❖ Capital Improvement Plan ❖

Presentation: Lisa Cornutt gave a recap of what the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is and the role the ACT will play in the process. ACTs will make recommendations for the prioritization and weighting of goals that will be used to help screen investments. These will be shared with the OTC to be used in their final decision and will be updated every 3-5 years. The ACTs will also identify needs and investment opportunities that are of high interest to the ACT, send this priority list to OTC and ODOT for consideration for inclusion in the CIP, updating project every 2 years. We are currently at a point where ACTs are being asked to identify the top 3-5 needs and investments considering reasonableness, urgency, regional and statewide benefit and alignment with OTC investment priorities. This list, along with up to 10 more “other needs and investments” projects will be submitted to the OTC in April/May 2026.

Discussion: **Dick Dolgonas** asked what SPIS stood for? A: Safety Priority Index Site. **Dick Dolgonas** asked if these were in the STIP now? A: No, the new STIP will only include projects going to construction in 2027. Everything else will go into the CIP.

Chris Hunter asked the group if they thought we could get to a consensus on 3-5 projects today at this meeting or would a subcommittee be better? A: It was decided through a group discussion that a subcommittee would be better. The subcommittee will include **Rodger Craddock, Lynn Coker, Dick Dolgonas, Nikki Messenger and Matt Jensen**. Chris will send out a doodle poll to get the meeting set up.

❖ NOA's and Adjournment ❖

Nikki Messenger asked if there is anything that could be done about the Powers Interchange outside of ODOT funding? A: Alternative options are being looked at all the time. The ODOT Traffic Unit can bring safety audit results to the March meeting.

Nikki Messenger adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

Next SWACT Meeting: Friday, March 13, 2026, at 10 am. be via teleconference.