

SOUTH WEST AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION (SWACT) Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2026 Teleconference

❖ **Roll Call** ❖

Chair Nikki Messenger called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Roll was called, and a quorum confirmed. (14 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)

Allaway, Julie	Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians (P)	V
Bernhardt, Kathryn	Transit (P)	V
Boyer, Brant	Douglas County Stakeholder (P)	V
Coker, Lynn	Curry County (P)	V
Dolgonas, Dick	Bicycle/Pedestrian (P)	V
Dunham, Ralph	Coos County Stakeholder (A)	
Early, Brian	Freight/Rail (P)	V
Gilbert, Kristi	Douglas County City-At-Large (P)	V
Hunter, Chris	ODOT (P)	V
Jensen, Matthew	Coquille Indian Tribe (P)	V
Messenger, Nikki	City of Roseburg (P)	V
Pederson, Glen	ODOT (A)	
Pryce, Loree	Bicycle/Pedestrian (A)	
Rundel, Tim	City of Brookings (P)	V
Rowe, John	Coos County Stakeholder (P)	V
Slater, Paul	Coos County (P)	V
Wirsing, Jennifer	City of Coos Bay (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. Latham, Dan	Region 3 Public Information Officer
5. Neavoll, Darrin	Region 3 Manager
6. Thompson, Sarah	Region 3 Executive Analyst

Guests in Attendance

1. Bleau, Andre	Umpqua Public Transportation District
2. Bleau, Sheryl	Umpqua Public Transportation District
3. Brown, Julie	Chair; Oregon Transportation Commission
4. Bowen, Andy	Keller & Associates
5. Metz, Melissa	Coos County Area Transportation District
6. Schafer, Deanna	City Manager; City of Reedsport

❖ Public Input ❖

- None

❖ Approval of Minutes ❖

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

❖ Membership Updates ❖

Four applications were submitted for vacant/expired positions:

- **Kristi Gilbert: Douglas County City-at-Large Primary**
- **Deanna Schafer: Douglas County City-at-Large Primary**
- **Brant Boyer: Douglas County Stakeholder Primary**
- **Ron Kutch: Coos County Stakeholder Primary**

Motion made and seconded to approve all four applications (Matt Jensen/Tim Rundel)

Discussion: None

Motion carried

❖ Capital Investment Program Project Prioritization ❖

Presentation: The subcommittee has met a few times and selected the top five projects that it would like to move forward to the OTC for consideration in the Capital Investment Program (CIP). The top 5 ranking projects are:

- OR42 @ Brockway Roundabout
- US101: North Bend to Bunker Hill
- OR138E (Roseburg) Bike/Ped Facilities – Stephens to Sunshine Road
- US101 Harbor – Chetco River Bridge to Benham: Bike/Ped Safety Improvements
- Arizona North Landslide Repair – Continuation

Motion made and seconded to approve the top five projects as selected to move forward for OTC consideration in the Capital Investment Program. (Lynn Coker/Ralph Dunham)

Discussion:

Lynn Coker states number 4 will have positive significant safety impacts on tourists, number 5 is critical for the state. If the landslide goes, it impacts everything from Brookings up to Cannon Beach.

Brant Boyer says the Brockway roundabout must be huge to accommodate all the trucks.

Rodger Craddock thanks everyone for the work on this list.

Matt Jensen questioned why bridges aren't being addressed on this list? A: Each program manager will have their own list. We can duplicate if we think it is a priority.

Andy Bowen (guest) asked if the bridge list coming out includes local bridges? A: No, that is a separate program.

Motion carried

❖ 2027 – 2030 Draft STIP ❖

Presentation: Mike Baker, Region 3 Planning Manager, gave an overview of the Draft STIP for the 2027 – 2030 cycle and the major changes occurring this cycle. These include:

- 40% reduction in Fix-It funding,
- Doubling of ADA funding but nearly 30% reduction in Public & Active Transportation,
- Zeroed out historical discretionary programs like Enhance & Mass Transit,
- Reduced other historical discretionary programs like Elderly & Disabled
- Even with these major reductions, we are only able to maximize \$70M in unallocated funds for Great Streets.

Projected outcomes from the changes above include only paving the interstates in this timeframe, more bridges will be load rated, gaps in the bicycle/pedestrian networks will not be addressed and there will be a significant reduction in asset maintenance and preservation across all modes.

Fifteen new projects were programmed into the STIP for the Southwest Area for 2027 – 2030.

Public comment opened on January 22, 2026, and will run through March 31, 2026. There is an online open house as well that opened on February 3, 2026, and will run through March 20, 2026. The final draft will be presented to the OTC in June for approval and then to the Federal Highway Administration for final adoption in September. The official start of the 2027 – 2030 STIP is October 1, 2026.

Discussion: None

❖ Region 3 Construction Updates ❖

Presentation: Dan Latham gave an update on projects currently under construction in Coos, Curry and Douglas County. There are 12 projects that are in, will be or have recently completed construction for 2026.

1. North Umpqua River Bridges (Winchester) – Repairs both I-5 Winchester Bridges, resurfaces the travel lanes, upgrades bridge rails and adds protective screening. Project will start this Spring and run through Summer 2026.
2. 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 May 2026.
3. 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 was concrete work and this second year will be paving. The anticipated completion for this work is September 2026.
4. 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 last spring and will continue until fall 2026.
5. Hinsdale Slough Culvert – builds a retaining wall along the south side of OR38 to extend the life of the culvert. Construction should wrap up this month.

6. Chandler Bridge – repaints the bridge, replaces tower ladders and platforms on OR241 at MP 3.5. This is a two-year project that started last summer and continues until fall 2026.
7. Arizona Slide Repair - will construct a new vertical shaft and horizontal drains. This work started in late March 2025 and will continue through Fall 2026. This work will not impact the roadway.
8. ADA Curb Ramps – at 149 locations are being built in four communities; Brookings, Gold Beach, Myrtle Point and Roseburg. This work is anticipated to be completed by Summer 2026.

Upcoming Projects for Summer and Fall of 2026

9. Southwest Oregon Rural Intersection Safety Improvements
10. Oregon 138E Paris Reservoir
11. Highway Barrier Upgrades (Coos/Curry)
12. US101: 80 Acres Landslide Repair

Discussion: None

❖ Region 3 Budget/Legislative Update ❖

Presentation: Darrin gave a presentation on the impacts of deferred maintenance which include the reduced safety and increased costs of pavement, reduced safety on bridges as they age, and the additional safety risks from culvert failures and unstable slopes.

OTC Updates

January 22, 2026 – Highlights

- Center Street Bridge
- Interstate Bridge Update
- Capital Investment Plan (CIP) update
- 27-30 STIP – Request (Approve Draft list)
- Community Paths Update

March 12, 2026 – Next Meeting Agenda

- HB3991 Implementation, Budget, Legislative Outcomes
- I-5 Rose Quarter, Abernethy & Interstate Bridge Replacement Project Updates
- Continuous Improvement Advisory Committee (CIAC) Update
- Legislative Concept Development for 2027 Session – Informational
- Key Performance Measure Changes – Approve
- Formal Public Involvement Policy (PIP) – Adoption
- Audit Accountability Committee – Approve Policy Changes
- Right to Access Plan – Informational Update

Additional information was shared by Darrin on the Legislative Session that just ended. The Legislature closed the \$296 million gap for this budget cycle and the first months of the next cycle. ODOT will take \$78 million in additional one-time reductions, and the Legislature will temporarily redirect \$218 million in highway and multimodal funding to avoid layoffs. We will need to hold 130 positions vacant for the rest of the biennium. The redirected funding will come from portions of each HB2017 named projects, Safe Routes to School program, the Privilege Tax

that funds Connect Oregon and Community Paths, the Transportation Operating Fund that includes Community Charging, Innovative Mobility, Passenger Rail and grant match, reserves and the Student Driver Training Fund.

HB3991 was moved from November to May ballot via passage of SB1599, and multiple lawsuits have been filed to fight it. We are already starting conversations about the 2027 session and how we sustainably fund our transportation system moving forward, including cities, counties, transit and ODOT. This will be a big lift.

Discussion: *Matt Jensen* asked going back to the CIP conversation, are we being cognizant of these failing bridges? A: Yes, if we can't fit them into the maintenance conversation, we are addressing them via the STIP. *Julie Brown* thanked the group for putting their priorities together and for giving input during the legislative session. It is very important to have these conversations, so the legislators understand the priorities of the communities. *Nikki Messenger* thanked Julie Brown for all of her hard work during the legislative session as well. Transportation shouldn't be so political. *Nikki Messenger* also asked if tolling will ever come back into the conversation? A: A bill passed preventing tolling in the state of Oregon. I-5 is tolled but it is on the Washington side.

❖ NOA's and Adjournment ❖

Nikki Messenger adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Next SWACT Meeting: Friday, May 8, 2026, at 10 am. via teleconference.