

May 28th, 2026 | 10 a.m. PT; 11 a.m. MT
ODOT District 14 Office
1390 SE 1st Ave. Ontario, OR
In-Person and virtual/Teams

SEACT Board Meeting Minutes

Members and Alternates present:

Rick Paul, Mike Mclaughlin, Judge Dan Joyce, Judge Bill Hart, Jim Maret, Alesa Komning, Dan Cummings, Brittany White, Andy Wood, Judge Jim Hamsher, Commissioner John Rowell.

Guests present:

Courtney Crowell, Justin Walker.

ODOT Staff:

Ken Patterson, Sean Maloney, Michelle Owen, Angie Jones, Vicki Moles, Jane Kerr, Marlow Stanton, Scott Boardman (presenter), Billie-Jo Nickens, Sarah Morris.

Opening Meeting:

- 10 a.m. Judge Joyce called the meeting to order.
- Roll call of voting members – Quorum present .
- Announcements: N/A.
- September Minutes: Motion made, Jim Maret to approve, Seconded by Rick Paul. Approved.

Presentations:

- Speed Zone Investigations-Marlow Stanton, ODOT Region 5 Traffic Engineer.
- Road Usage Charge Program Update-Chuck Larsen, ODOT Manager of Innovative Systems.

Region Updates – Ken Patterson, Region 5, ODOT

- Governor Kotek has established a vision group to develop recommendations for a transportation package for the 2027 legislative session. The workgroup is co-chaired by Grace Crunican and Bruce Hanna and includes representatives from transportation, local government, business, labor, environmental, and community organizations. The group is tasked with evaluating transportation funding needs, system performance, and investment priorities, with recommendations expected to inform a 2027 legislative package. Commissioner Dan Dorran serves on the workgroup and is representing county interests in the discussions.

Southeast Area Commission on Transportation (SEACT)

- Preview of the proposed federal House transportation bill was released this week. The legislation would largely maintain existing formula funding mechanisms while making significant changes to federal transportation policy priorities. The proposal includes a substantial increase in federal funding available for bridge projects.
- ACTS priorities are now formal presentations-NEACTS and SEACTS projects are in presentation.
- The Burnt River Canyon center line striping project has been completed and is scheduled to underway in the Grande Ronde Canyon as well. The project included the installation of a solid centerline intended to improve roadway safety by helping motorists remain in their designated travel lanes and reducing the risk of cross-centerline collisions.

Local Projects – Michelle Owen, ODOT

- Small City Allotment Program:
 - The program received 23 applications in Region 5, 22 of which are eligible for consideration, typically 5-6 grants are awarded in the Region.
- Bridge projects:
 - Thorn Hollow Bridge project is complete.
 - Caudle Lane and City of Union projects are in design.
 - Harney County bridge project scheduled for design in February.
- Upcoming presentations for proposed projects seeking funding through Connect Oregon will be made at the next meeting. ACTS have the responsibility to rank projects for Region 5 and there will be 1 vote allowed per Region.

Current Construction Projects – Sean Maloney, Area Manager ODOT

- Upcoming projects for 2026 include:
 - [I-84: Farewell Bend - N. Fork Jacobsen Gulch \(22919\)](#). Planned completion October 2027.
 - [OR 86: Guardrail Upgrades Final Phase](#) (continues from 2025). Anticipated completion by the end of June.
 - [U.S. 20: Vale Sidewalk \(rail safety\)](#) is complete.
 - [U.S. 95: Chip Seal \(by Jordan Valley\)](#). Anticipated completion by July 4.
 - Last year we had 18 projects in Region 5 for a total of about \$100 million.
 - This year we have 12 projects in Region 5 for a total of about \$80 million.

Transit Updates – Angie Jones, ODOT

- Public transportation is currently in grant season, and the team is reviewing the status and progress of active grant applications and awards.
- The I-84 Ontario bus project is performing well, with continued strong community participation.

Southeast Area Commission on Transportation (SEACT)

Courtney Crowell – Regional Solutions

- Lake Owyhee Road discussions regarding pursuing Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) and Federal Lands Bridge (FLBP) grant funding opportunities for road and infrastructure improvements. Continued progress on the plans to install a boat inspection station.
- Planning a community open house for Oregon Solutions project wrapping up this summer.
- Wastewater project discussions focused on complex infrastructure needs, funding strategies, and regulatory compliance requirements. Additionally, the Harney Co. groundwater project is working on implementation plans and participating in cooperative discussions to address groundwater management issues.
- Multiple mining project discussions in Malheur Co. including the McDermitt Mine project. The Grassy Mountain Mine project is in the final permit phase.
- The Wallowa Lake Dam project is finalizing plans and may begin construction this winter. The project is awaiting approval of the fish passage design before permits can be issued. The project has also applied for additional grant funding.

City/County/Tribal/Transit Updates – City/County/Tribal/Transit Representatives

City updates

- City of Ontario, Dan Cummings – City Lane improvement projects to begin this June.
- City of Burns, Rick Paul – City of Burns Mayor has resigned, and the position is pending council action. The Hines Park is complete and open to the public.
- City of Nyssa, Jim Maret – The Nyssa Park and splash pad are complete and operational just in time for summer.

County updates

- Ontario County Airport, Andy Wood – The new Helicopter parking pad is 95% grant funded and they are hopeful for full funding. A bid is in place for construction. Air command has arrived, preparing for fire season.

Other Transit

- Brittany White, Malheur County ACS – Grant season in full swing, working on budget and reporting

The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 30, in Burns.