

SOUTH WEST AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION (SWACT) Meeting Minutes March 10, 2023 Teleconference

❖ Roll Call ❖

Chair Nikki Messenger called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Roll was called, and a quorum confirmed. (14 voting members present. V = voting member for this meeting. Quorum = 10 (50% of filled [currently 19] membership positions.)

Commission Members and Alternates in Attendance (alphabetical)

Alcorn, Brad	Curry County (Primary)	V
Baron, Tony	City of Brookings (Alternate)	V
Bernhardt, Kathryn	Transit (Primary)	V
Boyer, Brant	Douglas County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Burns, John	Freight/Rail (Primary)	V
Cheas, Cheryl	Douglas County Stakeholder (Alternate)	V
Dolgonas, Dick	Bicycle & Pedestrian (Primary)	V
Dunham, Ralph	Coos County Stakeholder (Alternate)	V
Hossley, Jim	City of Coos Bay (Primary)	V
Hunter, Chris	ODOT (Primary)	V
Kent, Scott	Port (Alternate)	V
Kress, Tom	Douglas County (Primary)	V
Malmberg, Clayton	Curry County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Messenger, Nikki	City of Roseburg (Primary)	V
Pederson, Glen	ODOT (Alternate)	
Pryce, Loree	Bicycle & Pedestrian (Alternate)	

ODOT Staff in Attendance

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| 1. Baker, Mike | Region 3 Planning Manager |
| 2. Baerg, Rye | Carbon Reduction Program Coordinator |
| 3. Birch, Naomi | Region 3 STIP Coordinator |
| 4. Boardman, Jennifer | Region 3 Transit Coordinator |
| 5. Cornutt, Lisa | Region 3 Principal Planner |
| 6. DeWald, Teresa | Region 3 Local Agency Liaison |
| 7. Heck, Zechariah | Sustainability Program Manager |
| 8. Howell, Brett | Transportation Electrification Coordinator |
| 9. Latham, Dan | Region 3 Public Information Officer |
| 10. Neavoll, Darrin | Region 3 Manager |
| 11. Thompson, Sarah | Region 3 Executive Analyst |

❖ Public Input ❖

None

❖ Approval of Minutes ❖

- **Motion made and seconded to approve the January 13, 2023, SWACT Minutes. (Dick Dolgonas/Jim Hossley)**
- Discussion: None.
- ***Motion carried.***

❖ Membership Updates ❖

Chris Hunter informed the group a number of the members terms had expired, and we will run through the applications submitted for renewal today.

In addition, there are two new members that have joined since last meeting; Brad Alcorn, Curry County Commissioner will assume the Curry County Primary Representative position and John Burns with the Port of Coos Bay will be the new Freight/Rail Primary Representative. Art Poole and Robert Kohn have resigned so there are new vacancies in those positions now as well, which are the Coos County City at Large Primary Representative and the Coos County Stakeholders Alternate Representative #1.

Applications/Motions:

Kristi Gilbert - City of Sutherlin; Douglas County City at Large Primary Representative

Lonnie Rainville – City of Myrtle Creek; Douglas County City at Large Primary Representative

- **Motion made and seconded to appoint. (Tom Kress/Cheryl Cheas)**
- Discussion: None.

Motion carried. Brian Elliott will be appointed as the Alternate Representative for Kristi, Steve Ledbetter will stay as the Alternate Representative for Lonnie.

Brant Boyer – Terrain Tamers; Douglas County Primary Representative #2

Cheryl Cheas – Umpqua Public Transportation District; Douglas County Alternate Representative #1

- **Motion made and seconded to appoint. (Dick Dolgonas/Tom Kress)**
- Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

Ron Kutch – West Coast Contractors; Coos County Stakeholder Primary Representative #2

- **Motion made and seconded to appoint. (Jim Hossley/Tom Kress)**
- Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

Chris reiterated to the commissioners to reach out if there are any interested parties they would like to have considered for vacant positions.

❖ Carbon Reduction Program ❖

Presentation: Rye Baerg gave an overview of the Carbon Reduction Program, Small Urban and Rural call for projects. This program has approximately \$82 million available for the State of Oregon over the next five years, and funds projects in three different geographic areas; Transportation Management Areas, Small Urban Rural areas, and a statewide apportionment. This funding cycle, projects will fall into one of four strategies: vehicle and fuel technology, transportation options, system operations, and pricing. \$13 million is available in this first round and a second round will occur in 2024 for the other \$24 million. ODOT will be delivering the projects for non-certified local public agencies and there is a local match requirement of 10.27 percent. The key goal of the program is to reduce carbon emissions. Applications are due on May 31, 2023.

Discussion: Dick Dolgonas is aware of an outfit in Roseburg that is in the process of going to electric vehicles and would like to know if anything that has already been spent or is in line eligible for this funding. A: This program cannot fund past expenditures, however, could be used for project elements that haven't been completed yet. Cheryl Cheas would like to know the timeline for award if a project were selected. A: Funding awards will be announced in August/September and then project would be integrated into the STIP over the fall, so the earliest projects could be kicked off is Spring 2024. Nikki Messenger requested Rye go over the funding breakout slides. A: Albany, Bend, Grants Pass, Corvallis and Rogue Valley have their own earmarked funding and any other areas in the state would fall into either the 50,000 – 5,000 or the less than 5,000 bucket. Nikki Messenger asked then if someone like Cheryl or other transit districts that serve areas in both categories, how does that come together? A: Entities would apply for both pots of funding and then ODOT would determine the best fit for the project.

❖ National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program ❖

Presentation: Zechariah Heck and Brett Howell gave a presentation on the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program (NEVI). This program came out of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or IIJA, similarly to the Carbon Reduction Program. NEVI set aside \$5 billion in funding specifically for EV charging stations across the country and so funds must be used on federally approved alternative fuel corridors. Oregon is slated to receive \$52 million in federal funding and anticipate another \$13 million to come in from the private sector making up a total of approximately \$65 million over the next 5 years. The overall objective of this program is to build a seamless national network of public EV charging that it's reliable, convenient, affordable and equitable. Additionally, each of these charging stations must have a total of four, 150 kilowatt chargers at each site or 150 kilowatt ports supports capable of providing 150 kilowatts simultaneously. Each of them must be no further than 50 miles from another station that meets all of these Navy compliance standards, and they must be within one mile of the Interstate or highway. For year 1, ODOT is developing 33 corridors. ODOT will not be owning, operating or maintaining any of these sites. We will be partnering with the private sector to really understand the needs and concerns of the communities where these sites are being constructed. Phase one

will entail developing 65 charging stations along Oregon's 11 federally approved alternative fuel corridors. This will include I-5 south of Eugene, all of US 97 and then all of I-205.

Discussion: Chris Hunter asked if someone is interested in potentially hosting the site is that part of the survey or is there a way for folks to get their potential facility out there? A: Yes, on the Oregon Five Year Transportation Road Map website, there is a spot to put that information in there. Nikki Messenger asked if a draft agreement has been started on what the arrangement with the site host might look like? A: The agreement will be between the contractor and the site host, so ODOT will be taking a hands-off approach. The contract is currently being reviewed through the DOJ. Chris Hunter asked if there were any set minimum requirements for time frame to maintain the sites? A: The NEVI funding has a requirement that the station will be maintained and operated at a 97% or greater level for a minimum of 5 years.

❖ 2024-2027 STIP Update ❖

Presentation: Naomi Birch gave a presentation on the projects specifically in the Southwest area that are being presented in the Draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) going to the OTC for approval in July. The public comment period opened up yesterday and she is here today to receive feedback from the ACT on the projects in this area. Projects amounted to \$3.3 billion for the three-year cycle and are outlined below.

OR241: Chandler Bridge; Coos River (MP 3.7)
US101: Floras and Willow Creek Bridges (MP288.5 and 290.3)
Edson Creek "A" Bridge Rehab; Sixes River Road (MP 4.2)
Myrtle Creek Bridge; Arizona Ranch Road (MP 0.3)
OR42: Endicott, Middle Fork Coquille and Hoffman Bridges (MP 23.3, 26.7, 30.6)
I-5: N Umpqua River and CORP NB & SB Bridges; Winchester (MP 128.9)
South Umpqua River Bridge; Stewart Park Drive
Newton Creek Bridge; Parker Road
Deer Creek Bridge; Douglas Avenue
South Deer Creek - Hatfield Truss; Dixonville Road (MP 2.8)
Bilger Creek Bridge; North Myrtle Road
South Myrtle Creek Bridge; South Myrtle Road
Days Creek Bridge; Days Creek Road (MP 1.2)
OR38: Hinsdale Slough Culvert (MP 4.9)
I-5: South Douglas County Culverts (MP 88.0-115.3)
US101: Robin Lane - California State Line (MP360.0 - 363.1)
OR42: US101 - Cedar Point Road (MP 0.0 - 9.7)
OR42: Lookingglass Creek to I-5 (Winston) (MP 72.54 - 76.95)
OR38: Hancock Mountain to Drain (MP 38.1 - 50.2)
OR542: Powers Agness Highway - Burma Slide Section (MP 4.4 - 8.4)
US101: Woodruff Creek Slide (MP 315.9)
US101: Anderson Rockfall (MP 334.3)
Central Avenue Pedestrian Improvements (Sutherlin)
Roseburg Signal Improvements

Garden Valley Road at Melrose Road Roundabout (Roseburg)
OR42 at Brockway Road Roundabout (MP 71.5)
Region 3 Rural Intersection Safety Improvements (Various Hwy)
Highway Barrier Upgrades (Various Hwy)
US101/OR241/OR540 Curb Ramps (Coos Bay/North Bend)
SW Oregon 2024 -2027 ADA curb ramp design, Phase 2 (Various Hwy)
US101: Parkview Dr - Lucky Lane (Brookings) (MP 355.8 - 356.7)
Sandy Creek Road at MP 2.7 (Coos County) (Emergency Relief)
OR42: US101 to I-5 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (MP 0.0 - 77.0)
I-5: Stage Road Pass, Climbing Lanes (Design Only) (MP 79.0 - 80.7)

Key questions for input at this time are:

1. Which of the projects do you support, and which projects do you have concerns about?
2. Would any of the proposed projects have possible impacts that we should work to address?

Public comment for the Draft STIP closes on April 28th. The OTC will approve the final STIP in July.

Discussion: Nikki Messenger commented on how hurtful it was to hear that the Garden Valley Roundabout, which was approved in 2021, has been slated for construction in 2027. A: Chris stated that there were some concerns that the county was going to have to come up with some additional funding and so originally it was pushed out a little bit to try and account for that. At this time we have asked to advance the PE phase and funding for the project so the dates are just anticipated at this point. Loree Pryce commented that she is in big favor of roundabouts so is pleased to see it in the draft STIP. She is concerned however that the public will not be supportive and wanted to know if there was public outreach conducted and how that was received. A: Chris stated there have been a lot of conversations and a lot of concern has been raised from the community and the county. ODOT anticipates this project will need a lot more public outreach and open houses which in turn will result in the project taking a little longer to complete. Darrin Neavoll tagged on to Chris' comment and stated that this and the Brockway roundabout were also brought up and vetted with the Trucking Industry and have been in front of Winston City Council. ODOT understands the concerns and are trying to get some input as we move along. Clayton Malmberg was looking at the STIP website Project Tracker and didn't see any information on the draft projects. It sounds like there is going to be a three mile overlay from the State Line up on US101 and he would like to get a little bit more information about the project. A: Chris hunter informed the group that the draft STIP projects are not on the website tracker yet until they are approved by the OTC. He can get Clayton some more information on the project.

❖ Region 3 Construction Update ❖

Presentation: Dan Latham gave an update on construction projects currently underway in the area. These include ADA curb ramp replacements on the coast and the I-5 corridor, paving from Azalea to Glendale on I-5, the I-5 and OR138E Variable Message Sign Installation, the Conn Ford and Oakland Bridges replacement project, Lone Rock bridge repairs in Glide, some final repairs being done to the Scottsburg bridge, Frenchie Creek bridge project on OR42 as well as the Cedar Point – Finley Loop project, Bunker Hill sidewalks in Coos Bay and Garrison Slough

– Cemetery Loop rd. on US101, and the new Welcome to Oregon sign being installed on US101 at the CA border. In addition, there is work underway on US101 where the Arizona Slide collapsed in January.

Discussion: Glen Pederson indicated that US101 should tentatively be opened up this afternoon providing a single lane with flaggers. The rain is not helping. Over dimensional permits will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Ron Kutch thanked ODOT maintenance for all of their work on the slide area.

❖ Region 3 Updates ❖

Presentation: Darrin Neavoll gave a summary to the commission members of updates in Region 3. He thanked city/county partners for assistance with winter operations coordination.

- Glen Pederson has been chosen as the District 7 Manager, which was Darrin’s old position.
- We’ve talked about the budget cuts previously. Another round of exercises has occurred and Maintenance & Operations will be cutting 5% in July of this year. These first cuts will impact public less, however, another 5% reduction will come during the 2025 – 2027 biennium that will impact personnel, facilities and the public.
- Funding in our 24-27 STIP is 82% higher than back in 2010, however, due to inflation we have 10% less buying power.
- Great Streets program has called for applications. Region 3 submitted applications; 1 in Rogue Valley, and one for a planning grant in Gold Beach.
- Harbor Sidewalk project was chosen for earmarks and then pulled at the last minute. We have resubmitted for the next round of earmarks.

For the OTC meeting, some highlights:

- There is still one vacancy on the commission that we are awaiting the Governor to appoint.
- New AD for Operations has been named: Leah Horner
- Climate Office updates. Mostly talked about electric micro mobility
- Starting conversations on the 27-30 STIP cycle
- Update on bicycle safety
- Oregon Transportation Plan is out for public comment.

For the legislative session, some highlights:

- 2700 Bills have been introduced; 140 that ODOT is tracking from DMV fees to maintenance funding to homeless issues.
- ODOT went in front of the Joint Committee on Transportation on Tuesday and gave a presentation on the budget shortfalls for DMV and Maintenance and Operations.

Discussion: None

❖ **NOA's and Adjournment** ❖

Nikki Messenger adjourned the meeting at 11:34 am.

Next SWACT Meeting: Friday, July 14, 2023, at 10 am. Meeting will be virtual.