

## North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT)

**Meeting Date:** April 2, 2009 (9:00 a.m. – noon)  
**Meeting Location:** Oregon Department of Transportation  
3012 Island Avenue  
La Grande, Oregon

### Open Meeting

#### Voting Members/Alternates Present

Ron Sivey  
Bob Patterson  
Terry Tallman  
Burke O'Brien  
Hal Phillips  
Steve McClure  
Gary Bieberdorf  
Jerry Breazeale  
Fred Warner  
Bob Jepsen  
Mary Jo Carpenter

Mike Hayward  
Ron McKinnis  
Robert Strobe  
Patrick Munyan, Jr.  
Rowdy Smith  
Michael Johnson

#### Others Present

Larry Givens  
Norm Paullus  
Scott Fairley  
Nola Driskell  
Karen Pettigrew  
Chet Phillips  
Kathleen Cathey  
Andy Perry  
Laurie Allen  
Colleen MacLeod  
Larry Dalrymple  
Jeremy Morris

#### ODOT Staff

Tom Strandberg  
Monte Grove  
Glenis Harrison  
Robert Maestre  
Doug Wright  
Frank Reading  
Laura Slater  
Joe Gray

Glenis Harrison took roll for the meeting. A quorum was announced. Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Minutes of February 5, 2009, were unanimously approved.

**1. Announcements:** none

**2. Public and/or stakeholders comments:**

Public comments may be taken at any time during the ACT meeting  
No public comments

**3. Old business and Staff Reports**

- Monte Grove, provided an overview of the ARRA charts and funding distribution. He also discussed economic stimulus projects (June 18<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for letting contracts) and potential for second distribution of funds sometime in July. We will also be receiving a revenue update in May. Monte also mentioned the Governor's committee that convened to handle future distribution of unspent ARRA funds. Discussion also included the government funding proposal (Jobs and Transportation Act [JTA]) and how Representative Bentz is working to provide flexibility on spending for eastern Oregon.
- Fred Warner initiated a discussion and motion for NEACT to provide a letter of support to legislators on the government JTA. Motion was passed.
- Hal Phillips and Ron Sivey commented on the reductions in gas tax revenue and its impacts. Monte followed with comments on how ODOT has been impacted by the same losses in revenue as a result of people driving less.

- No Scenic Byways update
- Transit – Mary Jo shared that Transit has been very busy with stimulus work. She also mentioned that they have been working on expending capital funding in the amount of \$600K for vehicle replacements and repairs. She also mentioned a separate bill that would add \$.07 of additional tax to cigarettes to help fund senior and disabled transportation. She also mentioned that April 21<sup>st</sup> is Transit Day in Salem. The web site with more information is [www.neotransit.org](http://www.neotransit.org).

4. New Business

- Robert Maestre, from the Office of Long Range Planning, Transportation Development in Salem, gave a presentation on Tolling. (See handouts.)
- Frank Reading gave a construction update. (See handouts.)
- Marty Anderson, Local Government Section Manager, provided the group with an update on local economic stimulus processes and timelines. IGA's for 120-day projects were to be sent out by the end of this week. He mentioned that \$5 million had been set aside for communities with less than 5000 population to apply for projects up to \$100K in value. The application process for communities with less than 5000 population will be coming out soon. LOC will be helping prioritize these projects. Marty also mentioned to be looking for opportunities to tie local stimulus projects to ODOT projects for efficiencies and cost savings wherever possible. He discussed the 1R process and completion of environmental documentation for those ODOT projects. Locals should make sure they have contingencies in their projects to ensure they spend all of their funding.
- Nola Driskell gave the team a brief update that Whitman Forest received PE dollars to do design work on the loop road off Anthony Lakes Highway.

5. County Roundtable

- Baker County – Fred Warner will be doing road repair work this summer.
- Union County – Steve McClure shared that the Alicel Connect Oregon II project is well under way.
- Morrow County – Ron McKinnis gave an update on the Port of Morrow's OTIA projects and Connect Oregon Project.

6. Agenda Build

- Stimulus updates
- Legislative updates

**Next Meeting:** June 4, 2009, Region 5 Headquarters, 3012 Island Avenue, La Grande, Oregon, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Adjourn Meeting

Minutes Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_