

NW Oregon Area Commission on Transportation

May 1, 2008
Camp Rilea
Warrenton, OR

The meeting was called to order by Shirley Kalkhoven, Chair. The following members and guests attended:

Rita Bernhart—Columbia County	Rosemary Lohrke—Columbia Co Citizen-at-Large
Clark Berry—Washington County	Don McDaniel—Clatsop Citizen-at-Large
Ron Bline—Sunset Empire Transit District	Ray McFarlane—City of Rockaway Beach
Representative Boone—Oregon Legislature	Larry McKinley—ODOT Region 2
Seth Brumley—ODOT Region 1	Matt Mumford—Tillamook County Transit
Lylla Gaebel—Warrenton private citizen	Ron Puzey—City of Clatskanie
Mark Gervasi—City of Tillamook	Kathy Sanders—Port of Astoria
Jim Hough—City of Banks	Dave True—City of Clatskanie
Jim Hunt—Clatsop Co Citizen-at-Large	Russ Warr—City of Astoria
Senator Johnson—Oregon Legislature	Ed Wegner—Clatsop County
Shirley Kalkhoven—City of Nehalem	Ingrid Weisenbach—ODOT Region 2
David Kim—ODOT Region 1	Lonny Welter—Columbia County Roads
Richard Krikava—Senator Smith's Office	Rian Windsheimer
Mark Labhart—Tillamook County Commission	

Excused: Janet Trueblood, Liane Welch.

1. NWACT Minutes/Updates:

- Approval of March 27, 2008 Minutes—Approved with two corrections: Correct spelling of Janet Trueblood, and that Rosemary Loerke was excused as she also attempted to attend the meeting but was turned back due to the weather conditions.
- Public Comment—None
- Legislative Comment—Senator Johnson noted that she sat in on a portion of the ConnectOregon II, but deferred to Shirley for the final recommendations. She also commended ODOT on their productive and active involvement on the Oregon Solutions Project in the City of Tillamook. Also being worked on is how federal funding requests can get re-linked up with the newly developed Infrastructure Inventory.
- Region 1—TE application from St Helens needs to interface with the railroad regarding signage and sidewalks although this review is not holding up the application. Bike/Ped project applications are out. David will send to Mary who will send to all NWACT members. NWACT members were also encouraged to complete the on-line survey on ODOT, ACTs, public involvement, etc. Rian walked NWACT members through Region 1's recommendation regarding allocation of modernization funds in 2010—2013—use the monies to restore funding cut from the 2008-2011 STIP project: SW 185th. NWACT supported the recommendation unanimously. (CB, RB)
- Region 2 Update—Larry McKinley reported the new Region 2 Manager is Jane Lee, who was formerly Area 5 Manager for Region 2. Been very busy in the field, \$24 million worth of projects. Jetty Bridge should be done by the end of this Summer. Downtown Tillamook and in the City of Warrenton working on new signals. Youngs Bay Bridge renovation continues; also Latimer Rd. Web-based survey available for the Transportation System Process for Seaside.
- Oregon Transportation Plan—The Oregon Transportation Commission has prepared a draft workplan, and is looking for input from ACTs. Focus areas include: 1. System Operations and Facility improvements. 2. Effective and efficient uses of limited resources. 3. Project delivery performance improvements. 4. Transportation funding strategies. 5. Rail assessment and action strategies. 6. Governance and cross-jurisdictional relationships. 7. Development impact mitigation. Mary will send out to everyone, and request comments.
- Federal Transportation Earmarks—A draft policy revision is being circulated. Currently, NWACT has not been asked to respond. Match must identified before an earmark is requested. Washington County is concerned that this could stall or kill large projects; also, there are existing projects that have expected future earmarks.
- Clatsop Transportation Update—Ed Wegner reported on the Hwy 101/Warrenton intersection where the Home Depot is being constructed. Intersection is needed for development on the other side of the highway. Still 3—6 months out, and Costco's expansion really needs to move forward sooner than that. Looking to pull together some form of a Letter of Agreement.

2. ConnectOregon II Applications

Two day state-wide meeting concluded yesterday. Shirley and Lylla Gaebel sat on the ConnectOregon II committee. The results will be officially released on May 5th. Projects that made the funding list in NWACT included: Region 2—Port of Astoria Pier 2, Newport/Astoria aerservice, Region 1—P& W rail project was ranked number 1, Columbia Co Transit made the list, as did the Port of St Helens Wye project at Port Westward. Process went smoother than last time, but it there still needs to be some more discussion on the various roles and blending of the Freight Advisory Committee, modal committees, the ACTs, and the other groups providing input. If going to add an Economic Development criteria, will need to define that clearly. Next steps: Public hearing on May 15th on the recommendations. Final approval will occur at the Transportation Commission's June meeting. David will get the full list to Mary on Monday when it is released to the public; she will get it out to all NWACT members. Question: At what point will projects below the line be moved up? For example, do projects have to get started by a certain time?

3. Multi-Modal Projects

Looking at multi-modal trade-offs, difficult to compare different types of projects. A draft paper has been prepared that shows that Oregon is in a good position to start looking at these trade-offs, given that the state has gone through two multi-modal processes with ConnectOregon I and II.

4. Future of the Federal Surface Transportation Program

- The Highway Account will face a shortfall in 2009 and a long term deficit; without additional revenue, funding will fall \$6 billion below 2009 levels.
- Congress chartered a bipartisan panel in SAFETEA-LU to study funding issues and make recommendations. The report is available at www.transportationfortomorrow.org
- Key recommendations: Substantially increase funding for surface transportations program by raising federal gas tax 5-8 cents each year for the next 5 years; Establish a National Surface Transportation Commission to set user fee levels; Transition away from the gas tax to a more sustainable user fee such as a VMT based road user fee; Eliminate barriers to tolling and congestion pricing and encourage public-private partnerships; Dedicate freight fees and Customs duties to freight-related improvements.
- Key recommendations: Consolidate federal surface transportation program to just 10 mode-neutral programs; Shift to a performance driven, needs based program structure; Develop a national strategic plan for surface transportation that will dictate where funding goes; Streamline the project delivery process by reforming the planning and environmental processes.

Related to this, is that the Federal Safety Act has not been reauthorized, which directly affects Columbia and Tillamook counties road budgets. Other counties in Oregon will be even harder hit. Federal Payments Task Force has been organized by the Governor to collectively work on doing things differently, from service delivery to assignment of fees to working collaboratively with other jurisdictions and regions.

5. SB566

Region 2 agreed to recommend funding of the Camp Rilea/Surf Pines/Hwy 101 project if additional funding was to become available. Region 1 is recommending 3 projects in the NWACT region: US 26 @ Staley's Junction, Swedetown Road Bridge Replacement on Hwy 30, and US 26 @ Glencoe Rd. ODOT's portion of the Havlik Rd intersection has already been fully funded, the balance left is the local portion of the intersection. Senator Johnson recommended that ODOT not forget to look at the project listed in the recently completed OECDD Infrastructure Inventory. Have been some regional discussions regarding how allocate funding for transportation facilities that hugely benefit an area larger than the County they are situated in, eg: Cornelius Pass Rd. NWACT members endorsed recommendations as presented. (CB, RL) Rian will send out a final list when it is completed.

6. New Business

- NWACT 2008 Meeting Schedule—Mary provided the finalized 2008 Meeting Schedule.
- NWACT 2008 Workplan—Updated plan was presented. Note: The Bike/Ped application will be added.
- NWACT Roster—Updated roster handed out.
- NWACT Public Information Workplan—Ingrid, Larry, Clark,
- NWACT Charter/Bylaws Review—Executive Committee
- NWACT Biennial Report—Executive Committee
- NWACT July 10 Meeting: Will be in Banks.