

NW Oregon Area Commission on Transportation

January 3, 2008
Scappoose Fire Hall
Scappoose, OR

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

Ed Armstrong—Tillamook Co Citizen-at-Large	Ron Kroop—ODOT Region 1
Ron Ash—Clatsop County Public Works	Don McDaniel—Clatsop County Citizen-at-Large
Rita Bernhard—Columbia County Commission	Ray McFarlane—City of Rockaway Beach
Clark Berry—Washington County Transportation	Larry McKinley—ODOT Region 2
Ron Bline—Sunset Empire Transit District	Gerry Meyer—Port of St Helens
Pat Fisher—ODOT Transportation Enhancement	Don Otterman—City of North Plains
Senator Johnson—Oregon Legislature	Ron Puzey—City of Clatskanie
Shirley Kalkhoven—City of Nehalem	Shawn Reiersgaard—Tillamook Co Citizen-at-Large
Mark Labhart—Tillamook County Commission	Kathy Sanders—Port of Astoria
Rosemary Lohrke—Columbia Co Citizen-at-Large	Ingrid Weisenbach—ODOT Region 2
David Kim—ODOT Region 1	Lonny Welter—Columbia County
	Jim Webb—EDC of Tillamook County

Excused: Matt Mumford, Janet Trueblood, Russ Warr, Liane Welch, Commissioner Wilson

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Members and guests introduced themselves.
2. **NWACT Minutes/Updates:**
 - Approval of November 1, 2007 Minutes—Approved unanimously. (ML, SR)
 - Public Comment—None
 - Legislative Comment— Senator Johnson will be attending task forces on future ODOT funding legislation. 2008 legislative session has been challenged, although unclear what will happen with that challenge. Still been reeling from storm damage. Given that Connect Oregon II is a statewide program, it is unlikely that any of those funds will be able to diverted to the storm damage repair. Governor is assembling a task force to work on the Tillamook railroad. He is interested in looking at regional options to repairing the rail as well. No decisions have been made.
 - Region 1—David Kim is expecting approval day for 2008—11 projects and will be able to start those projects. 2010—2013 projects are being scoped. Two projects on Beaver Falls are expected to go out for bid in April, 2008.
 - Region 2 Update—Larry McKinley gave an update on the new Youngs Bay repaint, Jetty Creek culvert replacement and Tillamook and Astoria/Warrenton resignalization. Neahkanie rock wall survey has been completed, with a \$1.1 million in funding available through two scenic byway grants—Good news, and a news release will be going out shortly. Another resignalization project in Astoria replacing all the signals downtown, because of the historic context of the streets and building walls, may be able to get a federal earmark. OTC will be holding its March meeting in Astoria and will be an opportunity to showcase the Port of Astoria, Sunset Empire Transit District and City of Astoria projects. A permanent fix for Beerman Creek, which floods every time there is high water, may involve the work Nature Conservancy is doing on flood mitigation on Circle Creek. Jeff Scheick is leaving for Ft Collins, CO.
 - Columbia County Transportation Update—Lonny Welter reported that while Hwy 30 is open, the hills are so steep that the high amounts of water are bringing down a lot of silt, and causing streams to change channels. Palm Hill Rd near Clatskanie, Smith Rd and Timber Rd are all closed. Still finding little slides that need to be dealt with.
 - Tillamook County—\$ 6 million in damage, including loss of a bridge over the Salmonberry. Looking into 3 advanced emergency measures with the Corps of Engineers (COE), spillway projects to get water out of flood areas, 1 in Nehalem and 2 outside of Tillamook. Scoping should be done by end of January. If COE won't fund 100%, will be looking to Oregon Solutions. Hoping to get an EDA grant to scope out Intersection of Hwy 101 and Hwy 6 and two bridges and elevating Hwy 101 above flood plain. \$26.6 million cost to repair Tillamook Rail. Looking at options such as rail out to the Port of Garibaldi and barging up to Astoria, or rail up to Astoria. Fiber optic line runs up the rail bed, which provides redundancy for Clatsop County.
 - Clatsop County—Primarily wind damage, other than flooding at Fish Hawk, which Columbia County helped with. Westport looks okay for now, some dredging was done to keep ferry open. All roads open at

the present time, and primarily working on clean up. Shirley mentioned that she had heard that there was a possibility of a failure at Fish Hawk Dam. Apparently, the integrity of the dam held through out the storm, but there is no warning system.

- OTC has two vacancies: Stuart Foster and Randy Pape have both resigned. Oregon Tourism Commission is interested in improving/maintaining rest areas.

3. Transportation Enhancement Grants

Federal funding that comes to Oregon through a formula. Bike/ped, historic preservation are most popular out of the 12 categories. Application process is underway. Current projects: Port of Astoria, Banks/Vernonia Trail, Columbia County Beaver Falls project, B Street project in Rainier, cannery hill overlook project. Cannery hill project dovetails into a turning lane project for a new housing development. Statewide competitive process that happens every two years. \$8.5 million per year. Looking at awarding about \$13 million this year. Because it is federal funding, will look at minimum project cost of \$200,000. Maximum awards are typically at about \$1.5 million. Minimum match is 10.27%. Notices of intent are due Feb 1st and full applications May 2nd. ACTs will be asked to provide public input over the Summer. Must be clearly related to surface transportation, and go above and beyond what required to do. Contracts can only go out to public-funded entities. Higher priority goes to projects on State highways. Costs described in the Notice of Intent may be estimates that will change by the time of the actual application. Completeness of packet, including addressing all key areas—even if there doesn't appear to have any impact, such as environment (note that there are no environmental impacts. Also, if the project is going to impact a state highway, ODOT will have to sign off on the application.

4. ODOT Storm Repair Update

- Region 1—Mostly washouts, stream bank remediation, hillsides. Biggest damage was to Hwy 47, and repairs have started. Hwy 30 was hit with catastrophic debris flow. Biggest issues were to get access to communities and major work sites such as Wauna Mill. Repair and recovery will take another 4–6 weeks. Owners of privately-owned timber that needs to be removed, but is not an immediate safety hazard have 30 days to remove it. \$6--\$10 million in damages.
- Region 2—Center of windstorm stayed over Astoria for about 12 hours. Biggest damage was to signals, stop signs, anything standing. Working on clearing debris. Lost all highways, were able to open up Hwy 30 first. Other areas of the State sent maintenance crews. Tillamook picked up a lot of water too. Looking at \$3--\$4 million in damages.
- Governor's Recovery Council—Set up to address all aspects of storm recovery. Shirley sits on for Tillamook County

5. 2008–2011 and 2010–2013 STIP Reductions

- Region 2—Task 1 was completed at the last board meeting. \$2.1 million reduced from NWACT region, but will not impact the projects currently underway. Task 2 dealt with at Cannon Beach. Task 3 – If new funds are available, have a straw proposal. Task 4 involved projects over \$100 million in size and must be on a county's TSP.
- Region 1—Task 1—Looking at project readiness and leverage. Glencoe Rd reconstruction will be affected but progress will be made on the project scoping. Basically just took funds away from future years of funding for a project. If more funding does become available, project priorities will already be in place, and a new prioritization will not have to be done. Tasks 3 and 4, Region 1 is looking at internal capacity to design and construct if additional funds become available.
- Cross region support—Regions are also looking at how they can support each other to balance out resources.

6. Election of NWACT 2008 Officer Slate

- Ray reported that no new nominations were received. Slate was unanimously approved as presented. (KS, TL) NWACT 2008 officers are: Shirley Kalkhoven—Chair, Don McDaniel—Vice Chair and Rita Bernhard—Second Vice Chair.

7. Other

Senator Johnson and Commissioner Labhart wanted to publicly acknowledge all the hard work by ODOT over the storm damage. Work was truly heroic and got an amazing amount of work accomplished. Commissioner Bernhard mentioned the same for Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook County public works staff. Next meeting: March 27, 2008—Tillamook County.