

**SOUTH CENTRAL OREGON AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: November 8, 2007

Time: 12:30 a.m.

Location: SCOEDD Offices, 317 South 7th St., Second Floor, Room 224, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Board Members Present:

X John Elliott	X Brad Winters	X Al Switzer	X Jeff Ball	X Ray Simms
<input type="checkbox"/> Fred Smith	X Frank Villagrana	X Bill Brown	<input type="checkbox"/> Ken Kestner	
X Ernie Palmer	X Dan Shoun	X Devin Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/> Dale Roberts	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Cobb	<input type="checkbox"/> Gary Zieg	<input type="checkbox"/> Rhonda Lyon	<input type="checkbox"/> Betty Tyree	
<input type="checkbox"/> Caro Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake at Large #2	<input type="checkbox"/> Fields Flynn	<input type="checkbox"/> Jennie Anderton	
X Jared Hall	<input type="checkbox"/> Ken Gerschler (ad hoc)		<input type="checkbox"/> Trey Senn (ad hoc)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Senator Whitsett	<input type="checkbox"/> Representative Garrard	<input type="checkbox"/> Representative Butler	<input type="checkbox"/> Representative	
Gilman				

Staff:

Deanna Redd Shilo Ogilvie X Christina Ingram X Betty Riley

State Staff and Consultants

Butch Hansen, ODOT Area Manager, Mike Stinson, ODOT Director Region 10,

Public:

Stan Strickland, Klamath County Public Works

Meeting Called to Order at: 1:15 **by:** John Elliott, Chair

Introductions – Roll Call:

Review and Adopt Minutes of September 24, 2007 Meeting:

The Board reviewed the minutes of the September 24th meeting and had the following corrections:
Un Area Manager’s Report – change bullet point “Butch explained” to Butch clarified the uses of the STIP funding to John Kratchovil.....

Under the Highway 140 Study – the Board wanted the areas of restriction listed (See pg. 1 slide 3 for restrictions) will have added Dougherty, work in the canyon, Beatty Curves

Moved: Bill Brown, Second: Al Switzer, to adopt the minutes of the September 24, 2007 meeting as corrected.

Ayes: All Nays: None

Motion Carried

STIP Reduction Proposals

Butch presented the Board with two proposals for STIP project reductions to meet Region Budget. Reduce Henley, finish preliminary evaluation, then shelve the project until additional funding is located.

Looking at the handout – Yellow projects have some construction money budgeted in – Green projects don’t have construction money budgeted in.

1. Yellow projects in both areas will be cut
2. Is cuts from Bend, Redmond area

Al Switzer wanted to know how the projects were picked.

Mike explained that Henley is a congestion problem – it will move congestion from the highway to the school property – when they looked at where to cut, they looked for projects that were lower safety impact.

Brad Winters wanted to know what was the project “Bend 97” – they want to build an interchange farther North for Hwy 20, Bend Parkway.

The Board entered into a heated discussion regarding the “Big Box” development in Bend getting more funding to fix their traffic congestion, when Klamath has been told there is no funding available to help with traffic issues for its’ potential “Big Box” project. The project in Klamath will have more impact on the economy here than the Bend project.

Ray Simms wanted to know if this would impact the continued movement of truck traffic to Hwy 97. The Board discussed the flow of trucks on Hwy 97 and that most trucks turned onto Hwy 58 to get back to I-5.

Mike Stinson commented that ODOT has been severely tongue lashed over this project – people felt that they should have anticipated the growth and the need to move the interchange.

The Board came to a consensus that they prefer Option C from the handout – all projects taking cuts are from Bend.

Moved: Bill Brown, Second: Jeff Ball for Option C to be the recommended option from the South Central OR, ACT

Ayes: All, Nays: None

Motion Carried

Discussion of SCOACT Comment Letter Re: TE Update:

Butch had received a request for comment on the Transportation Enhancement Grant update – he felt a letter from the ACT, signed by the Chair, would be appropriate. A sample letter was included in the board packet. Butch gave a quick overview of the program – most projects have to be in the ROW – funding is about \$7 million. It is pass through funding from gas taxes.

At a meeting with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission – they are looking at economic development – Klamath is looking at Link River, out by KCC, and South 6th St. by Home Depot. The Board wanted “...economically disadvantaged areas, like ours” changed to read “...areas.” The also wanted to add “state and local” before *focus* in the last sentence. The Board requested the closing statement be changed to add “for the benefit of state and local highways and roads.”

Needs and Issues List:

Butch wanted to review the Needs and Issues list with the Board – as a check to see if projects have been completed, priorities and needs have changed. He wants to review the safety list next meeting. The consensus was the list is up to date.

Butch asked the members to notify him of any Operations and Needs as well to update that list

Area Manager’s Report:

- Butch brought a handout of the truck counts on Hwy 97 – it shows they have not increased as much as members thought – The Board would like to see the counts from CA border to 58, & CA to 26. Ray Simms would like to know the Valley Falls counts. The Board would like to see five years of data for counts on 39, 395, 140 & 97.
- Member Ernie Palmer had a question – ODOT staff has looked at \$7 million he has to cut – has ODOT as an organization started “Armageddon Planning”? Mike Stinson gave the response included below as the District Manager’s report.

District Manager's Report:

Back in April, ODOT noticed the static cost exceeding the base – biannual is at \$43 million – Static cost is at \$42 million – Region wide there is a \$3 million shortfall in the budget for maintenance – they have done six months of numbers projections and met with the Deputy Director – they have put together a plan that will affect each district – they are looking to cut \$7 million from district 11 – on staff they will be five people short – they will not be renting any equipment, the rental is too much – Mike has positions that he has not filled – we will see a change in summer maintenance – instead of 30 minutes to remove a dead deer it may be a couple of hours – there will be wrangling – some districts are picking up more of the shortfall – Mike's average crew size is 5 – 6, he will be looking at the equivalent of losing one crew across the District – ODOT is still working on the numbers – their highest priority right now is winter maintenance – they are fully staffed for that – they are hoping for funding in the 2009 biennium.

Ernie said his question is broader than the Region – has the main State agency of ODOT planned for when ODOT ceases to exist?

Mike thinks the optimism is still there in the Agency until 2009.

Al Switzer pointed out that the system is going the hole \$1.3 billion per year.

The Chair feels the public needs to be made aware of this.

Ernie commented that ODOT does the best job of hiding their money needs of any agency he has ever seen – by doing more with less –

Area Manager's Report Continued:

- ODOT has advertised for the Area Manager position – Butch was here this year as a trial – the interviews are to be the first week in December.
- Does the Board want to have an Executive session in December – it would have to be after the 14th and before the 25th – They decided on a conference call on Monday, December 17 at 9:00

Public Comment:

None

Area Member Reports:

- Ernie Palmer updated the Board on the new bus for BTS – it was 90% grant funded.
- Regarding Connect OR II – Ernie was at the meeting – all applications are out to all modal committees
- Al gave thanks to Brad and the ODOT staff for help their work on the Senator Metzger tour.

Adjourned: 3:00 **by:** John Elliott, Chair

Next Meeting: Phone Conference: December 17, 9:00