
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ALLIANCE

GRANT, HARNEY, AND MALHEUR COUNTIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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August 7, 2009

The Southeast Regional Alliance will convene its regular board meeting at 10:00 (PDT) / 11:00 (MDT) on Monday, August 24, 2009. The meeting will be held at the Federal Building, 431 Patterson Bridge Road in John Day. The public is invited to attend.

The SRA is a community and economic development region serving Grant, Harney, and Malheur Counties. It functions as the Southeast Area Commission on Transportation (SEACT) and as a Regional Partnership with the Governor's Economic Revitalization Team.

The SEACT serves as a forum to discuss and coordinate regional transportation issues and acts as an advisory body to the Oregon Transportation Commission and the Oregon Department of Transportation. In addition to a general update on regional transportation issues, the major agenda item is House Bill 2001, the Oregon Jobs and Transportation Act.

House Bill 2001 provides funds for transportation projects throughout Oregon, including those sponsored by cities and counties. In addition to the projects specified in the legislation, \$13.2 million has been set aside for undefined projects in Grant, Harney and Malheur Counties and the cities of Nyssa and Ontario. At the SEACT meeting, representatives of these counties and cities will give presentations on their proposed projects. The SEACT will review and approve the proposals prior to forwarding them to the Oregon Transportation Commission for final fund allocation.

The Regional Partnership includes regional representatives of the Governor's Economic Revitalization Team. In addition to the governor's eastern regional coordinator, the team includes the state Departments of Agriculture, Building Codes, Economic and Community Development, Energy, Environmental Quality, Housing and Community Services, Land Conservation and Development, State Lands, Transportation and Water Resources. These agency representatives, as well as the southeast region's Workforce Investment Board, will be giving reports on their areas of interest.

All SRA meetings are open to the public and interested persons are encouraged to attend. Anyone planning to join the board for lunch is asked to call for reservations. Additional information may be obtained from the county judges or economic development coordinators in any of the three counties or by contacting Sondra Lino, Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation, at (541) 575-2786.