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# SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ALLIANCE

GRANT, HARNEY, AND MALHEUR COUNTIES

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 17, 2008

The Southeast Regional Alliance will hold its regular board meeting at 10:00 (PDT) / 11:00 (MDT) on Monday, March 24, 2008. The meeting will convene at the ODOT Conference Room, 1390 SE 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Ontario. 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 Regional Investment Board, Regional Partnership and Southeast Area Commission on Transportation (SEACT).

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. ODOT's *ConnectOregon II* will be a major topic at this meeting. This is a program that will fund \$100 million in marine, rail, aviation and transit projects in the form of grants and loans. Project activities that are eligible for funding from the State Highway Trust Fund or that require or rely upon continuing subsidies from the Oregon Department of Transportation are not eligible for *ConnectOregon II* funding.

During this meeting, members of the SEACT will prioritize the three applications submitted from this region. This is in preparation for an April 3 joint meeting with the Northeast Oregon ACT to prioritize all thirteen projects submitted from ODOT Region 5. For more information about Connect Oregon II, visit the ODOT Web site at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/CO/COIL.shtml>. Parties interested in the ConnectOregon II program are encouraged to attend this meeting

Other items on the agenda include a discussion of the future of the Regional Investment Program which has had all funding eliminated and use of the limited remaining funds.

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. 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.

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*Staffed by*

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