

North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT)

3012 Island Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850

Phone: 541-963-3179 Fax: 541-963-9079

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: March 11, 2008 (10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

MEETING LOCATION: Oregon Department of Transportation
3012 Island Avenue
La Grande, Oregon

Open Meeting

- ? Roll call of voting members

Voting members/Alternates

Commissioner Bill Hansel	Ron Sivey	Hal Phillips
Commissioner Terry Tallman	Jerry Breazeale	Bob Jepson
Burke O'Brien	Ron McKinnis	Lisa Mittedorf
Commissioner Steve McClure	Robert Strope	Gary Bieberdorf
Norm Paullus	Commissioner Fred Warner	Nancy Gover
Mary Jo Carpenter	Commissioner Mike Hayward	Russ McMarten
Jack Davis	Frank Reading	Ken Helgerson
Others		
Jon Crogan	Scott Fairley	Kathleen Cathey
Alice Trindle	Jennifer Watkin	
Staff		
Monte Grove	Glenis Harrison	Marsha Duncan

- ? **Approve minutes from previous meeting – Commissioner Hansell moved to accept the minutes as written, Ron McKinnis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

Public and/or Stakeholders Comments:

Kathleen Cathey: Senator Wyden will be in Pendleton at St. Anthony's on Monday, March 17th during a rural health care town hall. Also, will be in Irrigon at the high school at 1:15pm also on the 17th. The Forest Road letter, keep the Senator in mind if you need help.

Larry Barte: Senator Smith's office; getting all the appropriations in and prioritizing. Working with Senator Wyden and deciding which ones to work together on.

Old Business and Reports (30 minutes)

- ? OTC and ODOT Update, Monte Grove
 - o Meeting in Astoria next week
 - o Only thing on the agenda that affects Region 5 is a Port of Morrow project. It's on the consent calendar.
 - o Two new commissioners. Dave Roman and Alan Brown
 - o Transportation Enhancement Program is out. Workshop was held in La Grande a couple of weeks ago.
 - o All of the contracts are let for I-84 from Boardman to Idaho. There will be lots of work this summer. Section from Pleasant Valley to Durbin Creek was let a couple of month ago.
- ? Byways Committee Update, Janet Dodson and/or Alice Trindle
 - o Hell's Canyon Scenic Byways: Phase II has 5 demonstration sites. Will see the product completed by the end of this summer. Will have Kiosks up, 3 in Baker County and 2 in Wallowa County.

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- Phase III: Contract will be out soon. Could be accomplished in 2008. Signage in Island City, Elgin, Imbler and Enterprise.
- Opted to wait for federal funding on Phase IV until everything is completed.
- Forest Roads: All work is reaching the correct ears, there may be a way to do this within the state and not have to go through the whole program. Will report more later.
- Travel Oregon is looking at applying for funding to do marketing and bolster the website. Will apply for around a half million dollars. Just won the best tourism website in the entire nation. Passed around Travel Oregon magazine and pointed out how many times Eastern Oregon is talked about. Showed Bend Living Magazine and a full page add for Travel Oregon.
- Working directly with the Governors office to make sure that Tourism and Transportation issues are being talked about. It is not just about spending dollars to bring visitors to Oregon when in reality they all travel roads. If we don't have good roads they can't get here.

Chair Tallman welcomed Jack Davis from the Tribes as a new voting member. He asked Jack to tell the members about himself.

- ? LOC, AOC Update: Bob Patterson (Norm Paullus gave report)
 - Talked about funding reductions, will share more at next meeting.
 - Talked about deterioration of streets being an issue.
 - AOC members reported 38% of their roads are fair - good

New Business and Presentations

- ? Connect Oregon II Update – Frank Reading
 - Talked about the presentations from applicants during the afternoon session.
 - Model Tier project reports were received on Friday.
 - Regional Staff has looked at the applications and will get together again next week to finish their work.
 - Sub Team will be provided with binders containing complete applications, including letters of support and model reports. Sub Team will put together recommendations that will then be presented for approval by NEACT voting members at the April 3 monthly meeting.
 - Afternoon of the 3rd will be the SuperAct meeting.
 - Region wide, 2 projects fell off for consideration; NE area – Project out of Stanfield, there was a question about portions being funded with gas tax dollars. SE Area – Ontario Project.
 - After recommendations are made to NEACT and they are approved, Regional Staff will put together some basic forms that are required. If there is any deviation from what the Region committee and the Model committees came up with, those will need to be documented.
 - New instructions for reviews came out. Clarity has been added to the instructions. 3 things were touched on and clarified:
 - ✍ Whether a transportation project resulted in an economic benefit to the State.
 - ✍ If the project provided more than a 20% match it should be credited
 - ✍ Clarified what “ready for construction” means.
 - Went over timelines

Discussion: Question and answers regarding the handout. Mike Hayward talked about the scoring for projects on the Rail Committee. Ranking should be within the tiers; explained the scoring for tiers. Fred Warner discussed prioritizing projects.

Fred Warner: There's \$50 million for the Regions and \$50 million for State Wide Significance projects. Will that be hammered out the same way as last year?

Monte Grove: The Consensus Committee will have a recommendation for the OTC for 100% of the money. The Area Commissions are just making a recommendation that will go to the Consensus Committee. Each Area Commission will have one person on the committee. In that you would want to make recommendations to the Committee for State Wide projects and prioritize the Region projects. If the NEACT committee can align with the Modal Committee then that project would be an easy sell. The problem will be if they don't align

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and there are a lot of inconsistencies. Another change will be that there will not be an OTC Commissioner at the Consensus Committee meeting; a facilitator will be there instead.

Terry Tallman: What has happened to the money from the projects fell off the Connect Oregon I list?

Monte Grove: Will find out and bring back to next meeting.

- ? STIP Update – Frank Reading
 - o Handout available on request.
 - o Talked about where and when NEACT will be involved.
 - o Will have someone do presentation on scoping in June or August.
 - o November will be the videoconference open meetings
 - o NEACT will review draft and send in comments
- ? SB 566 Update – Roundtable updates from SubTeam members
 - o Handout available on request
 - o Each County talked about their projects on the list
- ? Charter, Bi-Laws and Work Plan – Frank Reading
 - o Asked that members look at documents and let staff know of any changes or edits. Time line is end of April.
- ? New NEACT Chair – Umatilla, Wallowa or CTUIR – Terry Tallman
 - o Commissioner Steve McClure nominated Commissioner Mike Hayward to be Co-Chair for NEACT. Seconded by ????? Passed unanimously.
- ? Draft ODOT Earmarking Policy – Travis Brouwer, ODOT Federal Affairs Advisor with Government Relations (Teleconference) Handouts Available

Agenda Build

- o Monte will check back: What happened to the money from projects that dropped off during Connect Oregon I
- o Changes to Bylaws
- o SB566 recommendations
- o ConnectOregon II recommendations
- o Earmarking Update – Frank/Monte

Set time, date and place for next meeting

April 3, 2008 9 am – Noon
3012 Island Avenue
La Grande, Oregon

Adjourn meeting

Signed: _____ *Date:* _____