

NW Oregon Area Commission on Transportation

July 6, 2006

Jesse May Community Center
North Plains, OR

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

Rita Bernhard – Columbia County Commission	Don Otterman – City of North Plains
Clark Berry – Washington County	Tim Potter – ODOT Region 2
Valerie Grigg Devis – ODOT Region 2	Ron Puzey – City of Clatskanie
Jim Hunt – Clatsop Citizen-at-Large	Shawn Reiersgaard – Tillamook Citizen-at-Large
Shirley Kalkhoven – City of Nehalem	David Shannon – Sunset Empire Transit
David Kim – ODOT Region 1	Bob Sherman – Transportation Planning Rule
Rosemary Loerke – Columbia Citizen-at-Large	Dave True – Clatskanie Public Works
Don McDaniel – Port of Astoria	Russ Warr – City of Astoria
Ray McFarlane – City of Rockaway Beach	Tim Wilson – ODOT Region 1
Larry McKinley – ODOT Region 2	1

Excused: Val Folkema, Mark Gervasi, Mark Labhart, Aaron Suko

1. Welcome and Introductions: Members and guests introduced themselves. Welcome to new Region 2 Area Manager – Larry McKinley. Tim Potter will be moving to become Area 3 Manager. Charlotte Mendenhall has resigned from NWACT, Dave Shannon will be representing Sunset Empire Transit until her replacement is named.
2. NWACT Minutes/Updates:
 - Approval of May 6, 2006 Minutes – Approved unanimously. (DMcD, SK).
 - Public Comment – None
 - Legislative Comment – Lylla noted that Federal earmarks must be approved by the Oregon State Legislature before they can be spent. As Oregon’s Legislature isn’t in session, the E-Board must approve the expenditures. Astoria’s Refinement Plan, which has received a Federal earmark, will have to wait until the September E Board session before they are authorized to spend the funds.
 - Region 1 Updates – Draft 2008-11 STIP projects have been finalized and will be released to the public shortly. A grant program, High Risk Rural Roads Program, is going out for a call for applications, due October 1, 2006. The Oregon Highway Plan is out for public review, and will be receiving public comments through August 14th. Two interchange management plans at Glencoe Rd and Staley’s Junction are currently underway.
 - Region 2 Updates – Draft 2008 – 11 STIP was handed out, which will go out for public review in October. A petition is being circulated to put in a traffic signal at the Safeway Store in Astoria.
3. Transportation Planning Rule
Bob Sherman, ODOT Senior Transportation Planner, presented. The Transportation Rule was first put in place in 1991, and amended in 2004. A joint commission between DLCD and ODOT formed to address and identify issues related to coordinating land use and transportation planning. eg, Requiring land use infrastructure be funded before transportation enhancements can be made can delay development. Public infrastructure supporting development often take years and funding set-asides before they can occur. The two agencies looked at how agreements could be made so that development has a reasonably certain expectation that supporting facilities will be funded and built. One of the options for a developer is to ask for a “reasonably likely to occur” letter as to whether the supporting facilities are going to be built. Other issues identified included: Requirements for reduced use of automobiles, and guidelines for local transportation system plans.

One example of how the Transportation Rule has been implemented in the NWACT area, is the Dolphin Rd interchange in Clatsop County. An interim solution was worked out so that development could proceed without waiting for construction of a full interchange.

4. Updates

- ConnectOregon – Lylla sat on the Consensus Committee, and three NWACT projects: Tillamook Transit Center, Teevin Mooring Dock and Port Westward rail improvements, made it through the process. Apparently, the meeting became very political between rail, marine, aviation, transit and the ACTs. Stuart Foster, Chair of the Oregon Transportation Commission, noted that Lylla did an outstanding job pulling together the final recommendations. Shirley presented her with NWACT's first "Medal of Valor."

The Oregon Transportation Commission met in Boardman two weeks after the Consensus Committee, and a contingent from Tillamook and Columbia counties attended to support the Tillamook Transit Center. A standby list of projects has also been prepared in case any of the initial projects fail to go forward. The next Oregon Transportation Commission meeting will be July 19th, at which the recommended list is expected to be approved.

- 2008 – 11 STIP Schedule of Public Outreach – ODOT would like to do four open houses in October in each of NWACT's four counties. At November meeting, NWACT can finalize recommendations to take to the two area-wide meetings. Lylla will work on the Clatsop date, Shirley will work on a Tillamook date, David and Tim will coordinate the Columbia and western Washington county dates. Both regions agreed to have the other region STIP information available as handouts.
- Transportation Enhancement Applications – Applications closed at the end of June. Three applications submitted included: Port of Astoria/Warrenton Waterfront Trail extension, and cities of Gaston and North Plains downtown street, parking and sidewalk improvements. Next step will be to screen the applications for completeness, and then prioritization and recommendation by ODOT. NWACT sent in a letter of support for the Warrenton project, but did not know of the other two applications until they had already been submitted. Larry will check as to whether there is still time to send in a support letter on the Gaston and North Plains projects. Mary will also add to notice of intent to submit an application on NWACT's workplan.
- Scenic – Neahkanie Rockwall Repair – Haven't heard back yet on Federal funding, but have heard it is a good project. South Tillamook pullouts project has been modified because one of the sites has now gotten a turn lane. The South Tillamook project implementation is being coordinated with another highway construction project for cost efficiencies.
- Bike/Ped – Applications close at the end of this month. \$5 million for the bike/ped project within a State highway right-away. Work with the District Manager on how the right-away can be utilized. Valerie handed out a reminder notice. City of Clatskanie will be co-applying with ODOT on an application for a separated walking path along Hwy 47 to Hwy 30. **Tim will check** with the Michael Ronkin, Manager of the Bike/Ped Program to see if it would appropriate for NWACT to submit a support letter. Rita was interested in seeing if Milton Bridge across Old :Portland Rd might be eligible. **Tim will check** on this as well.
- OTIA III Bridge Bundle – Repair of bridges on major corridors is completing, and now getting down to Bundle 421 which includes Tillamook/Ckatsop (Hwys 26 and 6) and Columbia (Hwy 30) counties. Projects will be coordinated with other highway improvements to minimize down time for vehicle traffic by not having multiple projects happening at the same time. Where possible, projects will be scheduled together to maximize construction efficiencies. This will mean the completion time will be pushed out. Because the schedule is shifting around somewhat, Bundle 421 is being split into 421-1 (Hwys 26 and 6) and 421-2 (Hwy 30). The plan is to have the Hwy 30 bridge projects (and thus construction delays) be completed before the Hwys 26 and 6 start. Price increases have also changed the budget numbers which will may a reduction in the number of bridges that can be repaired in the same timeframe.
- Astoria Airport Airline Service Project – Originally a Connect Oregon application, Lylla noted that this was an example of a good project that just didn't meet specific program criteria. Good support, projects such as this could seek other funding. One option available to NWACT might be to support a project when it identifies and applies for alternative funding. Or, projects looking for funding might

come to NWACT for counsel or input on potential funding sources. At this time, NWACT's support or involvement isn't needed. The group agreed to think further about whether NWACT should have a role advocating for projects looking for alternative sources of funding. If timing is an issue because NWACT only meets every other month, the Executive Committee is authorized to act on behalf of NWACT, and then have those decisions ratified at the next meeting. NWACT may want to start a chat group or list serve to allow discussions electronically. **Mary will check** into the feasibility of setting this up.

5. Proposed Bylaws Amendment

To establish a definitive process for nominating a Slate of Officers will require a Bylaws amendment. Have examples from Col-Pac Economic Development District and the NW Oregon Economic Alliance.

6. Nominating Committee

To serve, members must not be interested in serving as an officer. Lylla appointed Clark, Ray, Russ, Rosemary, and Mark Labhart as the tie-breaker. Mary will set up a phone conference call after July. And will provide an updated attendance sheet.

7. New Business

- Robyn and Aaron Suko are no longer at the City of Vernonia and Tillamook County respectively. Mary will email out a new roster.
- September Agenda – Bob Russell with the Oregon Trucking Association will be invited, in addition to a presentation on the SPIS, ODOT Safety program.

Recorded: Mary McArthur, Staff

Lylla Gaebel,-Chair