

Minutes of Meeting
January 12, 2023 10:00 AM
Meeting Location:
Virtual MS Teams
Region 5HQ La Grande Or
Grant Co. Regional Airport, John Day Or

Members and Alternates present:

Commissioner Susan Roberts, Commissioner Shane Alderson, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner Dan Dorran, Commissioner Paul Anderes, Commissioner Jim Hamsher, Commissioner Bill Hart, Commissioner Dan Joyce, Michelle Owen, Karen Pettigrew, Aaron Palmquist, Byron Smith, Ben Burgener, Tom Fellows, Robert Strope, Doug Wright, Kyle Carpenter, Shaun Young, Todd Nash, Brandon Tanzy, JD Tovery, Mavis Hartz, Bob Dixon, Tory Stinnett, Haley Walker, Manuel Mose, Rick Paul, Dan Cummings

Guests present:

David VanAtta, Karen Kendall, Feather Sams-Huesties, Andy Gomez, Katie Imes, Benjamin Tucker, Megan Davchevski, Brian McDowell, Justin Walker, Kim Curley

ODOT Staff:

Ken Patterson, Sean Maloney, Erin Winterton, Sheri Folsom

Opening Meeting:

Chairman Susan Roberts called the meeting to order

Roll call of voting members – Quorum present

Introductions:

Announcements: N/A

Public and/or Stakeholders Comments: If Any: N/A

Standing Items & Reports:

OTC/ Updates – Ken Patterson

OTC will be meeting on this day. Updates to be given regarding the Rose Quarter project, Abernathy Bridge project and the OR217 project. Information will be shared at next meeting

- Community Work Agreements – 8 projects around the state, Region 5 does not have any projects

Regional Updates – Ken Patterson

- Fatalities are down in Region 5 however the data reflects an increase statewide
- Road Closures are down 33% from previous years. Of the 36 closures in 2023, 30 of them were due to unchained CMV when chains were required
- Issues with Oversize loads running in inclement weather when they do not have permission to do so
- ODOT Staffing – 12% of the Maintenance positions are vacant however recruitments are moving forward and making improvement. Area Manager interviews will be held

North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT) on January 13th. The Local Area Liason recruitment has closed and in the process of scheduling interviews once the Area Manager is hired

- With the retirement of Mike Remily, Resident Engineer, Josh McCullough has been promoted into the position
- Region 5's ADA projects will be completed by 2027 which is ahead of expected timeline
- TGM Grants – 6 applications, Elgin-rails to trails, Wallowa-rails to trails, Umatilla-updating TSP process
- Umatilla Co. is working on a Traffic Safety Grant
- RAISE Grant application period is open, applications due by mid-February
- There are two Congressionally driven projects – Burns/Piute wildlife crossing \$800k and the City of Pendleton housing development
- There are new Commissioners around our region. Ken Patterson would like to meet with them and review who is who and update our contact list

Local Program Update: Erin Winterton

- Thorne Hollow project is being moved from a FEMA project over to a FHWA project. Currently, Anderson Perry is working on the design
- SCA – Busy closing out the old projects. 9 were closed out last week
- FLAP awards are coming in. OR244 Culvert Replacement project was awarded

Presentations:

➤ STIF Application Review

- STIF application summary was reviewed for both NEACT and SEACT. Sub-Committees were set up to meet and rank their respective project applications. We will meet in March to finalize the ranking.

Summaries are available upon request

➤ Connect Oregon Updates:

- Union Co. Airport Improvement – 3 phase system: Fuel & Hanger Improvement/Fuel Farm/Generator with \$1.4M budget which includes Match Funds, the construction for will begin June 2023 and be completed by June 2024.
- Jet A fuel capacity is at 40k currently and usage can be 20k in one day. An increase in capacity is needed. The new generator may take up to two years to receive due to supply issues

➤ Transportation Funding Outlook – Travis Brouwer, ODOT

- Transportation Funding Challenges
 - Inflation
 - Growing fuel efficiency will render the fuels tax unsustainable in coming years
 - ODOT faces significant shortfall for operations and maintenance

North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT)

- Public and active transportation funding sources are inadequate
- OReGO program
 - First operational RUC program in the world when it went live in 2015
 - Volunteers pay 1.9 cents per mile, receive credit for fuel tax paid
 - Vehicles over 40 MPG don't pay tiered registration fees if they join OReGO
- Strategies Implemented to Narrow the Gap
 - Cut \$90M (5%) from maintenance and agency operations in '23-'25 budget
 - Cover more O&M costs from other sources, including federal funds and HB2017
- Four Areas of Action
 - Continue shifting O&M costs to dedicated state and federal resources where we can
 - Develop additional 10% reduction in O&M budget
 - Further modifications to local government fund exchange
 - Explore new revenue sources/additional revenue
- Impacts of Potential 10% Budget Reductions
 - Fewer maintenance workers to ensure state highways are safe
 - Significant deterioration of pavement on half of Oregon's highways
 - Multiple maintenance station closures
 - Extended closures following major events
 - Increased safety risks due to deferred maintenance
- Fund Exchange
 - Fund exchange is not sustainable at current levels
 - ODOT wants to preserve fund exchange for as many projects and local agencies as possible
 - ODOT's Proposal: ODOT would set aside \$20M in state money to exchange

See attached for complete presentation



Transportation
funding for NEACT

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm