

North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT)

3012 Island Avenue
La Grande, OR 97850

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

MINUTES

MEETING DATE: June 7, 2007 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION: Umatilla County Extension Service
2411 NW Carder Avenue
Pendleton, Oregon
(see attachment for directions)

1. **Open Meeting** - Judge Terry Tallman, NEACT chair opened the meeting and asked for the roll call
 - a. Roll call of voting members

Voting Members/Alternates Present

Commissioner Bill Hansell
Bob Patterson
Hal Phillips
Commissioner Terry Tallman
Commissioner Steve McClure
Mary Jo Carpenter
Ken Helgerson
Burke O'Brien
Frank Reading

Others Present

Jon Croghan
Mayor Phil Houk
Larry Bartee
Andy Perry

ODOT Staff

Glenis Harrison
Doug Wright
Marilyn Holt
Monte Grove

- b. Approve minutes from previous Meeting. Minutes were amended.
Mary Jo Carpenter moved to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Hansell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - c. Announcements
 - i. Commissioner Terry Tallman thanked Commissioner McClure for stepping in as chair at the last meeting.
 - ii. Mayor Houk welcomed NEACT and said that he appreciated the groups work. He explained the partnership and relationship between the City of Pendleton and Blue Mountain Community College. The Umatilla Extension service is now a part of the campus.
 - iii. Introductions: attendees introduced themselves.
2. **Public and/or Stakeholders Comments:** (whatever time is needed)
Public comments may be taken at any time during the ACT meeting
3. **Old Business and Reports** (30 minutes)
 - a. OTC Update, Commissioner Mike Nelson
 - i. Mike was not present
 - ii. Approved the public transit plan
 - iii. Received reports on OTIA ConnectOregon
 - iv. Approved IOF grant for hwy 331 by casino. Approve IOF type B Grant in Baker City
 - v. Budget is out of committee now and looks like it will pass. Baker Maintenance facilities money to construct new facility is still in the bill.
 - b. ODOT Update, Monte Grove
 - i. Working on management plans for Barnhart Road.
 - ii. Boardman Project, 30 acres of land is problematic, working on different language.
 - iii. OTIA 3: 2 contracts are left on I-84 to go out to bid.
 - iv. Discussed what ODOT will do with excess money from OTIA projects.

- v. Discussion regarding processes that weren't the same for everyone and the rules changing with OTIA bridge selection.
- vi. Burke O'Brien gave a heads up to everyone to make sure that all freight issues are correct in the application. Be sure and identify all traffic across the structure.
- c. Byways Committee Update, Janet Dodson or Alice Trindle
 - i. No one present to give report

4. New Business and Presentations

- a. Connect Oregon I Project Presentation – Doug Wright
 - i. Presentation available upon request
 - ii. Update on where the NE Connect Oregon 1 projects stand today
 - iii. 4 projects equal \$7.2 million.
 - iv. Morrow-Lexington, Port of Morrow, Community Connection, Port of Umatilla.
 - v. Morrow County –Lexington Airport fueling terminal improvement of \$118,000. Scope was to install a card lock fueling system and small pilots lounge and covered parking. Project is near completion. Should be completed by the end of this month.
 - vi. Port of Morrow: Terminal 3 Intermodal Marine Transportation Improvements, \$1.549 million. Widen existing barge slip, hard surfacing of the container yard, construction of an operations building, adding 100 feet of face dock. Work is under way on construction of ops building and container yard. Dock face and slip work will commence in December 2007.
 - vii. Community Connection of NE Oregon - \$894,000. Multimodal Transit Consolidation and Improvement Project. Construct a transit hub consisting of a building, outdoor lighting, signage and security system. Land had been acquired for building, facility design is underway.
 - viii. Port of Umatilla: Upland Distribution Center. \$4.7 million. Container yard upgrades, construct transfer storage building, install container dock electronic security, logistics improvements, and repair industrial park rail. Work is underway on all project components. As of April 2007, 12 new construction jobs have been created by the project.
 - ix. Pictures
- b. City of Pendleton – Barnhart Road – Bob Patterson
 - i. Update on Barnhart Road: City has 4 city plans that need to be approved; the project money is earmarked dollars.
 - ii. Lots of work
- c. Capital Projects List – Marilyn Holt, ODOT District 12 Assistant Manager
 - i. Handout: maintenance needs list sorted by District. (Available on request)
 - ii. Asked for comments from members
- d. Public Transit Presentation – Michael Ward, ODOT Public Transit Administrator – 15 minutes – Dinah ???
 - i. The next steps of the activity will be next Wednesday, looking at the category of enhancement projects and will continue to consider some of those.
 - ii. Will look at projects that are in a new category called “Innovative Projects”.
 - iii. Work is not completed. About \$1.5 million to be distributed in the rural and special needs program category. Additional funds available for the innovative projects.
 - iv. The committee has quite a few comments regarding the new innovative program and will be discussing the comments and will then be allocating the additional revenue.
 - v. Go to website, information posted. Status report based on ODOT Region.
 - vi. Question: Concern about preservation projects. When it was presented to the counties for recommendation, the projects were not prioritized, but when they got to state level they were. Are they being looked at that? (Mary Jo Carpenter)
 - vii. Answer: They will be looking at the preservation category. There are a few changes for a couple of projects. They will be distributing the remaining funds. Will add your comment to the list and make sure the committee gets it.
 - viii. Question: Preservation as it relates to what? (Terry Tallman)

- ix. Answer: Preservation of services that exist now and to continue preservation of vehicles that are still in service and continue preservation in terms of replacement of vehicles that are in service and will continue.
- x. Comments: "I think you can add the voice of NEACT in the area of preservation, that we think it is important. We want to make sure that Community Connect continues to receive what they need because they are definitely a success. It is a high priority for NEACT." (Terry Tallman)
- xi. Will be talking a strong message to the committee about revisiting preservation.
- xii. Comments: With the growth in our area, there is going to be more need of things like that in our area. We will probably be presenting other funding needs along this same line as well. Community Connections is just one example, a major leader in our NEACT area that we can point to, but we have others in the region that are smaller but still have the same needs.
- xiii. I agree. We were very surprised in our grant solicitation to have such a big volume of applications. It is the first time we have had \$60 million worth of requests ever and that just indicates to me that there is a real growing need in communities for this kind of service. It doesn't help that fuel costs are so high. There are many low income people needing access to work. We have been getting the information that we need additional funding and resources to get to the various rural communities. We will be approaching this problem. We don't have the money in our pocket today but we are well aware of it.
- xiv. **ACTION: Send out link for the site to NEACT**
- xv. **ACTION: Send letter supporting preservation projects.**
- xvi. **Mary Jo will send wording for letter and send to secretary to be put on NEACT letterhead. Terry Tallman gave permission to the secretary to sign the letter on his behalf.**

- 5. **County Roundtable**, County representatives provide brief descriptions of items of interest/happenings/lessons learned, etc. (As time allows)
 - a. Ken Helgerson – Expressed his concern with the Forest Service plan to close and restrict roads.
 - b. Terry Tallman – Commented on the plan and talked about the map
 - c. Jon Crogan – Talked about the map – map is difficult to read and interpret.
 - d. Concerns – map being the final authority, Federal Governments lack of concern,
 - e. Extended public comments to August 17th. Process needs to be more user friendly, easier to understand. The forest roads are part of our life style.
 - f. Write a letter from NEACT voicing concerns –
 - g. **Bill Hansel moved that NEACT send a letter to Senator Smith expressing the concerns voiced in the meeting. Steve McClure and Ken Helgerson will work on the text of the letter. The motion was seconded. Unanimous approval.**
 - h. Letter should be sent to the congressional delegation also.
- 6. **Agenda Build**
 - a. STIP Update
 - b. Legislative review
 - c. Joe Gray – ROW Presentation
- 7. **Set time, date and place for next meeting**
 August 2, 2007
 3012 Island Avenue
 La Grande, Oregon
- 8. **Adjourn meeting**
NOTE: This meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities, per the Americans with Disabilities Act. The public is invited to attend.