

**Minutes of Meeting
October 6, 2011, 9:00 AM PST
Oregon Department of Transportation
3012 Island Avenue
La Grande, Oregon**

Members and Alternates present:

Fred Warner, Mary Jo Carpenter, Terry Tallman, Burke O'Brien, Gerald Breazeale, Tom Fellows, Bill Hansell, Ron Sivey, Steve McClure, Robert Strobe, Norm Paullus, Mike Hayward, Russ McMartin, Tim Keisecker, Karen Pettigrew, and Bob Shippentower

Guests present:

Derek Howard, Kathleen Cathey of Senator Wyden Office, Neil Handyside, Zach Lunden, and Doug Ferguson

ODOT Staff:

Monte Grove, Craig Sipp, Doug Wright, Laura Slater, Mark Kightlinger, Mike Bufalino and Lisa Hill

Opening Meeting:

- Commissioner Fred Warner called the meeting to order
- Roll call of voting members – Quorum present
- Introductions:
- Announcements: None

Public and/or Stakeholders Comments:

- None

Standing Items & Reports:

- Approval of August 4, 2011 minutes – Mike Hayward moved, Tom Fellows seconded, minutes unanimously approved.
- OTC/ODOT updates - Monte Grove
 - The OTC meeting update:
 - Approved the release of the draft OHP mobility standards revisions for public review and comment.
 - Approved the request to adopt the alternative mobility standards for US 101 in Seaside
 - Approved a resolution authorizing the refunding of Highway User-Tax Revenue bonds to lower the existing variable interest rate with the current European bank.

North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT)

- Approval to submit a request to Gov. Kitzhaber for the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council to be designated as the direct recipient of Federal Transit Administration grant funds/Urbanized Area Formula Program for the Central Oregon urbanized area of the City of Bend.
- Executive Session followed regarding a litigation issue
- The annual OTC workshop will be held in October to address the Governor's directions to the commission
- Gail Ackerman has resigned as Chairperson of OTC. Gail has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. David Lowman is the interim Chairperson. There will be three new OTC members.
- \$22 million of flexible funds are available for non-highway projects
 - ❖ Ontario was approved for a park and ride project
 - ❖ La Grande was approved for a bridge/pedestrian/bikeway project
- ODOT continues to work on the right sizing effort.
- ❖ Question: What kind of impact will the right sizing have on Region 5? The construction office in Pendleton will close leaving the La Grande and Ontario offices. The tech center will be reduced from 45 to 35. The reduction will be accomplished through retirements and not filling open positions.
- Local Program Update – Doug Wright
 - Flexible Funds project: Grande Ronde Bridge & Pedestrian/bikeway
 - Safe Routes for Schools: Elgin, North Powder, and Umatilla have projects. Currently working on the contract process with an estimated 2013 construction
 - Transportation Enhancement: Union and Echo projects will have an estimated bid let date in 2012
 - Gulick Road: Estimated May 2012 bid let date
 - The 2012 list for Special City Allotment projects was sent to Salem. The selection results will be in November 2011.
 - JTA Projects: Projects are in good shape. A total of \$4.5 million has been spent in the northeast area with a total program amount of \$50 million
- ❖ Question: With the tight city/county budgets, how can the reimbursement payments be coordinated with the contractors and Salem?
 1. Establish a monthly payment and cut off date with the contractor. Example: cut off date the 25th of the month for the contractor to submit their statement. Payment date is the 8th of the month. This will create a window for submitting the documents to us and receiving payment.
 2. For big ticket items, work with your contractor. Be sure to watch out for the \$500k local limit. Any amount over \$500k requires approval from Salem with an approximate 2 week turnaround.

- ❖ Senator Wyden Office Update: There is a congressional bill to extend the timber payments and it has bipartisan support. Under this proposed bill, it should provide some relief for the counties that receive PILT funding. See attached link for more information (place mouse over link and hit control and click):
<http://wyden.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/?id=afde957a-a173-40fe-98f6-140116063bdc>

Old Business:

- Approval of STIP Video Comments Summary: Steve McClure moved, Jerry Breazeale seconded, summary unanimously approved.
- Bike/Ped Steering Advisory Committee: Creating an advisory committee is currently on hold. NEACT will be notified when the selection process begins.
- Flexible Fund/Transit Selection: Applications are due next week for non-highway projects. There is a match requirement. The project selection will be made in January 2012.
- ODOT Updates:
 - Tower Road/Stanfield project is now complete. It was the largest paving project in the state this year.
 - Bladock Slough project will be completed at the end of the month. The project was originally a two year project and it was completed in one year.
 - Minam Viaduct/Hwy 82 is finishing work for the year. It will be completed in 2012.
 - Indian Creek/Elgin is finishing work for the year. It will be completed in 2012.

New Business:

- A slide show presentation was given on the OR 97/Heppner Project. The project won an Excellence in Concrete award from the Portland Concrete Association
- A teleconference presentation on the new draft OHP mobility standards was given. The draft plan is now in the public outreach review process. The LCDC hearing and action will be early December and submitted to OTC at its December meeting. Formal adoption into the Oregon Highway Plan will be in January 2012. For more information, go to the OHP project website (place mouse over link and hit control and click): [Trans Dev - Planning OHP Mobility Standard Revisions - 2011](#)
 - ❖ How will this impact the cities/counties? Example: City and counties will not have to upgrade existing intersection as much to meet the new OHP standards.
- OTC Member Tammy Baney: Tammy introduced herself to the group via teleconference. She understands the needs of rural Oregon are different than the metro area and is here to assist us. She is looking for and needs feedback from the community.

North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT)

- *ConnectOregon* IV: A brief presentation was given on the next round of *ConnectOregon* IV. The applications were available on 10/4/11. For more information, see Page 5, Quick Fact Sheet, or go to the following website (place mouse over link and hit control and click): [State of Oregon: ConnectOregon](#)
- **Partner Updates** – All
- **County/Cities Roundtables:**
 - Union County will be recruiting for a new Public Works Director. The new Director will start February 2012.
 - The Imnaha/Saw Creek Summit rebuild will cost \$13m for 12 miles for a 22 foot road service. The cost increases to \$33m for a 26 foot road service. Funding and the cost for widening is an issue.
- **By-ways Update:** None
- **LOC/AOC Update:** Norm Paullus will be phasing out of this committee. If anyone is interested, please apply.
- **Transit Update:** The federal funding for transit will be eliminating the base payment structure. Transit partnership between different agencies is increasing. Example: VA transit provider will consider providing transit service to ADA and school districts. Community Connection continues to provide on-line transit/carpooling contact information. The Baker City/La Grande transit ridership continues to improve and college students are using the service. The Oregon Transit Conference will be held in Seaside October 25-27, 2011.

Agenda Build:

- *ConnectOregon* IV committee setup and process
- Least Cost Planning (LCP)
- OHP Update & SB 264

Next Meeting:

December 1, 2011, Region 5 Conference Room, 9:00 a.m. to noon

**CONNECTOREGON IV
QUICK FACT SHEET**

Eligible Projects

Air, marine, rail, and transit projects.

(Note: Rural Airport projects are included in this program. There is not a specific set-aside for rural airports. They will be considered as part of the regular program.)

Program Funding

\$40 Million total with 10% (\$4 million) allocated to each *ConnectOregon* region. See www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/CO/Map.shtml to view the *ConnectOregon IV* Region map.

Schedule and Process

Oct. 3, 2011	Applications available
Nov. 21, 2011	Applications due
Nov. 2011 - Jan. 2012	State agency reviews
Feb. - March 2012	Modal committee reviews
April - May 2012	Regional committee reviews
June 2012	Final Review Committee prioritization
July 2012	Oregon Transportation Commission hearing
August 2012	OTC Final Award

Forms

Applications, Instructions, Frequently Asked Questions and other materials can be found by visiting: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/CO/index.shtml>

Contact

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