

**Northwest Area Commission on Transportation
Meeting Minutes, February 25, 2022**

Item 1

Welcome: The meeting was called to order by Henry Heimuller, Chair at 10:02am. The following members and guests attended:

NWACT Members in Attendance are denoted with an asterisk:

Clatsop County

Commission (v) Lianne Thompson
Commission (a) Ted Mclean
Large City (v) Meg Leatherman
Large City (a) Steve Wright*
Small City (v)
Small City (a)
Citizen-at-Large Kathy Kleczek*
Citizen-at-Large Jim Knight*

Columbia County

Commission (v) Henry Heimuller*
Commission (a) Mike Russell*
Large City (v)
Large City (a)
Small City (v) Bob Brajcich
Small City (a)
Citizen-at-Large Rosemary Lohrke
Citizen-at-Large Ryan Pearson

Tillamook County

Commission (v) Erin Skaar
Commission (a) Bill Baertlein
Large City (v)
Large City (a)
Small City (v)
Small City (a) Juliet Hyams*
Citizen-at-Large Tom Messenger

Others in attendance:

Jon Paul Bowles, Director Salmonberry Trail
Mark Buffington, ODOT
Ayreann Colombia, Col Pac EDD
Susana Gladwin
Sarah Lu Heath, NWACT Administrator
Bill Jablonski, ODOT
Chris Laity, Tillamook Co Public Works

Citizen-at-Large Patrick McIntire

Washington County

Commission (v) Jerry Willey
Commission (a) Joe Younkings*
Large City (v) Marsha Kirk*
Large City (a) Jolynn Becker
Small City (v)
Small City (a)
Citizen-at-Large Mike Borresen*
Citizen-at-Large

Transit Districts

Columbia Co (v) John Dreeszen
Columbia Co (a)
Clatsop County (v) Tracy MacDonald*
Clatsop County (a) Jeff Hazen
Tillamook Co (v)
Tillamook Co (a) Doug Pilant

Ports

Port of Astoria (v) Frank Spence
Port of Astoria (a) Will Isom
Port of Columbia Co (v)
Port of Columbia Co (a)
Port of Tillamook Bay (v) Michele Bradley*
Port of Garibaldi (a) Mike Saindon

Patrick McHugh
Megan McKibben, Washington County
Cindy Moore, City of Astoria
Jennifer Purcell, Regional Solutions
Ken Shonkwiler, ODOT
Dave Sukau, City of Scapoose

Item 2

Minutes: Reviewed with two amendments accepted: Spelling and designation for Kathy Kleczek were updated and the two highest ranking projects from the January discussion of Connect Oregon Grant applicants was updated to reflect Tongue Point Travel Lift and Warrenton Fuel and Ice Dock. Motion to approve made by Kathy Kleczek and seconded by Michele Bradley; motion carried.

Public Comment: Thanks for answering chat questions and comments. First and cheapest that may save my life as a regular commuter on Hwy 202 to Astoria: please paint fog lines on Hwy 202. Second cheapest reduce speed on Hwy 26 at Elderberry Inn where there are two roads and businesses, the fire department and a school bus crossing. A turn lane there would also increase safety. Name of commentator was not provided.

ODOT Region 2 Updates: Scoping for 2024-2027 STIP continues. For the Enhance Program, the signal in Seaside of Broadway and Highway 101 will be improved. Currently ODOT has five construction and one design position open in our region. The elk warning signs have been installed in the Warrenton and Seaside area. It's also noted that conversation from the NWACT meeting has led to a coalition of partners working on the flooding issues in Seaside. This issue has been chosen as a project for the Regional Solutions Team as solutions have been found outside of ODOT's purview.

Highway 6 safety messaging campaign is planned for high volume travel times and ODOT is also working on restriping and signage both to address safety concerns. It's also noted that Rep. Weber submitted a bill to fund a planning study of Highway 6. Some messaging isn't possible due to lack of communications infrastructure. Once there are communication tools ODOT would anticipate traffic cameras, weather stations and other typical infrastructure for state highways.

It's also noted that the Clatsop County Commissioners invited ODOT to a discussion regarding suicides on the Megler Bridge. There have been 12 in the last 21 years. Regular Megler Bridge maintenance continues with painting. Birds must be hazed from the area from some work and that will be communicated with communities in advance.

Work at Mallard and Bennett Roads continues and some weekend closures are expected. These will be coordinated by the contractor.

Paving and other urban upgrades are in the planning stages in Garibaldi. The Nehalem Bay Area TSP and work in Gearhart are also accepting public comment in planning stages. Next up will be a stretch of Astoria highway.

Washington County Update:

Design for Highway 47 in Banks is continues. Major improvements at Haag Lake are planned for this summer. Stringtown Road will see improvements in 2024. It's noted that bidding these projects has shown continued inflation of prices, few guarantees on cost and timetables across the board.

Item 3

Review and Comment on ODOT's IJJA Flexible Spending Scenarios: Ken Shonkwiler presented a slide deck on the situation and the proposed scenario's that are open for feedback. Discussion ensued before a vote of the interested attendees. The Fix It priority scenario received votes from Patrick McHugh, Steve Wright, Henry Heimuller, Marsha Kirk, Michele Bradley, Dave Suaku, Mike Borresen. The Active

and Alternate Modes scenario received votes from Jon Paul Bowles and Kathy Kleczek. The Enhance Scenario received a vote from Joe Younkens, and the Balanced scenario received a vote from Juliet Hyams.

Item 4

New Business and Member Updates

Membership Roster Review: The current membership roster was shared to highlight the need to fill vacancies. It was noted that Jim Knight is serving at Clatsop County Citizen at Large and that Bill Baertlein and Larry Erickson were not longer members. Marsha Kirk believes she has a new member in Western Washington County.

Letters to Oregon Transportation Committee and to the Joint Committee on Transportation were reviewed. The motion to approve the letter to OTC was brought forward by Steve Wright and seconded by Michele Bradley. The motion to approve the letter to the Joint Committee was brought forward by Mike Borresson and seconded by Steve Wright.

Meeting location was discussed and agreed that a hybrid option in Astoria for our May 12 meeting would meet everyone's needs.

Updates:

Chris Laity noted several bridges upgrades in Tillamook County and the removal of load limit signage.

Steve Wright noted his appreciation for the Broadway and Highway 101 intersection project and recognized the hard work of Seaside Public Works Director Dale McDowell.

Jon Paul Bowles noted recent work on planning for the Oregon Coast Trail providing alternative routes to cross rivers along the beach front. He also has a grant application underway for a Safe Routes to School project in Rockaway.

Kathy Kleczek noted several options for transportation alternatives to stay informed and engaged.

Dave Sukau noted the City of Scapoose's sidewalk infill project is nearing completion.

Joe Younkens reiterated the importance of the Safe Routes to School program and upcoming deadline.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08pm.