

**Northwest Area Commission on Transportation
Meeting Minutes July 14, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm by Chair Heimuller. NWACT Members in Attendance are denoted with an asterisk:

Clatsop County

*Commission (v) Lianne Thompson**
*Commission (a) Ted Mclean**
Large City (v) Bruce Jones
*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) Dave Sukau**
*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
Citizen-at-Large
*Citizen-at-Large Patrick McHugh**

Washington County

Commission (v) Jerry Willey
*Commission (a) Joe Younkens**
*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 Dreezen
Columbia Co (a)
*Clatsop County (v) Tracy MacDonald**
*Clatsop County (a) Jeff Hazen**
Tillamook Co (v)
Tillamook Co (a)

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

Others in attendance:

Mark Bernard, ODOT
Jon Paul Jones, Salmonberry Trail
Jayson Buchholz, ODOT
Mark Buffington, ODOT
Weican Chen
Ayreann Colombo, ColPac EDD
Brian Cook
Jeff Harrington, City of Astoria
Sarah Lu Heath, ColPac EDD
Bill Jablonski, ODOT
Rodney Linz, Banks Fire Chief
Arla Miller, ODOT
Jennifer Purcell, Regional Solutions
Larry Robinson
Tony Robinson, ODOT
Ken Shonkwiler, ODOT

Welcome and Introductions:

Jeff Hazen recognized the passing of Tillamook County Transit District Manager, Doug Pilant.

NWACT Consent Calendar:

Minutes were reviewed. Lianne Thompson moved to approve, Michele Bradley seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

Banks Fire Chief Linz: Commenting on detour and two bridge closures. Painting project, 5 vehicle accidents, many intoxicated rear-endings. Flagging company did a good job but a stronger law enforcement presence would be better. Hwy 26 detour, put people on Sellers Road where there have been 6 significant accidents. Some can be attributed to impatience due to backed up traffic. Office is also fielding many complaints from the public. With 6 accidents to date with more months to go, the issue may get worse and we seek solutions. At busy times of traffic, OSP presence or a temporary stoplight may make things better for this time period.

Chair Heimuller asked Bill Jablonski if any effort has already started working on solutions.

Bill recognizes the investment in these areas and the safety concerns. Sellers Road is a safe intersection and accidents are being caused by impatience. He also notes that Sellers Road is not the designated detour. Washington Co and ODOT have been in communication. Analysis shows that additional modifications could worsen the safety situation. Contract w OSP at Hwy 26 and Sellers road to increase patrols; working on similar with Washington County Sheriffs Office. Signage 'local traffic only' for undesignated detour areas.

Region 2 Updates: US30: Millard and Bennett Roads (St. Helens) – Project completion early fall 2022. Coordination between the ODOT contractor and the railroad contractor is progressing.

US26: Necanicum Jct – Nehalem River Bridge – Project will be complete this week. US26: Hayward Rd – NW Mountindale Rd – Project is substantially complete with only corrective work remaining. US101: Columbia River (Astoria-Megler) Bridge – Project is progressing nicely with a 2024 completion date. US101 @ Perkins Lane Intersection Improvements – Project is about the kickoff with an October completion date. US101 Ecola Cr – Arcadia Beach – Paving is complete on this project with striping and bridge rail work ongoing. US101 Youngs Bay Bridge – Neptune Drive – Paving is complete with striping and signal modification work still to come. US30 @ Graham Creek MP 65.08-65.25 – High water this past spring has complicated this project. Likely move to 2023 construction season. OR6 Mills (Wilson River) Bridge – Project is complete. OR47: Nehalem River Bridge – This bridge coating project is ongoing with an October completion date. Region 2 North Curve Warning Upgrades – US26 and US30 sign upgrade project is ongoing with a fall 2022 completion. US26 @ Mendenhall Creek MP 45.63 – Project is progressing. This is a two season project with completion in Spring 2023. OR47 West Fork Dairy Creek Bridge – Project has OR47 closed and is progressing. Completion in October 2022.

Chairman Heimuller reminded everyone of the 2023 Lewis & Clark Bridge project and requested that ODOT ensure an ambulance be available at the foot of the bridge during closures as many local residents use the hospital in Longview, WA. Marsha Kirk requested that signage be placed at the two other

interstate bridges alerting motorists that the Lewis and Clark bridge will be closed and that the bridges in Astoria and Portland are the nearest detours.

Steve Wright announced that the Seaside bridge project is accepting bids until July 28.

Washington County Updates

Highway 47 and Martin project will be pushed to 2023 due to fish closure window. Highway 47 and Maple Road signal work will begin in 2023. Haag Lake slide repair is expected to start this summer.

Marsha Kirk asks about the detour route on Sellers Road while Highway 47 is closed; significant freight traffic is causing safety concerns. Ken Shonkwiler and Bill Jablonski reviewed efforts taken, including signage and direct communication with local freight operations.

Patrick McHugh noted that Shady Brook Road has curves that are obscured by unattended vegetation and is causing safety concerns.

Oregon Federal Lands Access Program

Jamie Lemon, Transportation Planner for the Federal Highway Administration, Western Federal Lands Highway Division gave a presentation. The FHWA Western Federal Lands Highway Division is leading a Statewide Needs Assessment for the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) in Oregon. The goal of this project is to identify and prioritize unmet federal lands transportation access needs across the state and establish a FLAP Strategic Investment Plan to guide future funding cycles.

Oregon Highway 6 Geologic Survey Findings

Tony Robinson the Senior Geotechnical Engineer with Oregon Department of Transportation provided the group with a detailed presentation on the Oregon 6, Wilson River Highway, Mile MP 32 to 37 Landslide Investigation and Planning report.

It was noted that both repair options are high-cost projects and that no decisions have been made at this point. The report was an investigation to inform on-going conversations.

Highway 6 Broadband and Emergency Communications

Ayreann Colombo, Executive Director of ColPac EDD, updated the group on activities of the Broadband Action Team regarding Highway 6 Emergency Communications. Amazon is supporting a new backbone fiber to be laid along Highway 6 from Tillamook to Hillsboro. The project is anticipated to be constructed in 2023 and could be used to build emergency communications.

NWACT Business/Member Updates

ODOT submitted a Tolling Policy Update for feedback to the ACT's. The request came after notice for the meeting went out. Ken Shonkwiler provided an overview of a presentation provided by ODOT.

Discussion of the proposed policies and impacts in rural areas, especially Columbia County and Western Washington County were raised. Overall, the group agreed that this was not enough time to review

dense materials and contemplate thoughtful feedback. Questions of congestion tolling on the coast arose as well as how to mitigate diverted traffic before problems in rural areas were overwhelming.

Meeting adjourned at 2:59pm.