

**Northwest Area Commission on Transportation
Meeting Minutes September 8, 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

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)

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

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

Tillamook County

*Commission (v) Erin Skaar**
Commission (a) Bill Baertlein
Large City (v)
Large City (a)
Small City (v)
Small City (a)
Citizen-at-Large
Citizen-at-Large
*Citizen-at-Large Patrick McHugh**

Others in attendance:

Jayson Bucholz, ODOT
Mark Buffington, ODOT
Ayreann Colombo, ColPac EDD
Elissa Gertler, NW Oregon Housing Auth.
Melyssa Graeper, DEQ
Jeff Harrington, City of Astoria
Erik Halvig, ODOT
Sarah Lu Heath, NWACT
Juliet Hyams, ColPac EDD
Bill Jablonski, ODOT
Stephanie Jones
Megan McKibben, Washington County
Arla Miller, ODOT
Ken Shonkwiler, ODOT
Lianne Welch, Bay City
Cyril Whitehaus

Washington County

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

Welcome and Introductions

NWACT Consent Calendar:

Minutes were reviewed. Mike Borreson moved to approve, Jerry Willey seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None.

ODOT Region 2 Updates: The Seaside paving project is out to bid and the contract is being finalized. Several projects will move into the design phase later this year including Banks school district, Astoria Highway 30 striping, and Astoria's Highway 202 sidewalks.

The West Fork Dairy Creek project in Banks will extend beyond the anticipated deadline. The bridge coating project in Vernonia is expected to complete by the end of October.

The Highway 30 project at Mallard and Bennet roads is expected to complete in late October. US 26 at Mountain Road will get surface work. The Astoria Megler bridge coating work is on-going.

Bill Jablonski updated the group on the planned Winter Weather meeting.

Erik Havig shared a short presentation on upcoming ODOT budget.

Marsha Kirk recognized ODOT's diligent efforts to manage detours during the Banks project. Jeff Harrington recognized the effective new reflectors on Highway 26.

Washington County Updates: The intersection of Highway 47 at Martin Road will be getting a roundabout. South Road bridge in Shady Grove design is complete. A parking lot for the Salmonberry Trail is under design for Highway 47 in Banks.

Statewide Tolling Policy Update: The comment period for the updates to the Statewide Tolling Policy document was extended to September 15. It was reiterated that these updates set frames works for decision making and that implementation decisions are not taking place at this time. Commissioner Thompson inquired about the implementation of congestion pricing on the North Coast; it was noted that the cost of setting up tolling would outweigh revenue generation. It was also asked if revenue allocations would be required to be in the same location as it was collect; yes, monies collected in a corridor must be spent in that corridor.

The group discussed how best to engage with a topic this large and what comment on this policy update should be. It was agreed that feedback should include the desire for equitable outcomes and thoughtful diversion mitigation. Commissioner Jerry Wiley also offered a letter to reference.

Astoria Megler Bridge Suicide Prevention: The NWACT was informed that there is a group of stakeholders in Clatsop County looking at ways to reduce suicides from the bridge.

NWACT Business: A nominating committee made up of Kathy Klezcek, Michelle Bradley, and Rosemary Lohrke was formed to put forward names to be considered for the NWACT Executive Committee.

Member Updates: Arla Miller notes that ODOT has robust funding for transit projects in the next biennium.

Commissioner Jerry Wiley noted that METRO is studying the Tualatin Valley highway with an emphasis between Beaverton and Forest Grove.

Bill Jablonski noted that Highway 6 study is assembling stakeholders, having contracted with their consultant. Results will be published in 2023.

Councilor Steve Wright noted that Seaside is working on the culvert on Wahanna Road and the Avenue S bridge project.

Jeff Hazen noted that the Sunset Empire Transit District was able to fund the acquisition of three new buses but delivery is delayed with no end in sight. Also the driver shortage continues trouble the district.

Patrick McHugh noted that the condition Highway 6 and potential costs of tolling are of great concern to the freight industry; not only costs but driving time.

Kathy Klezcek noted that the North Coast Tourism Management Network published car-free travel guides to five coastal destinations, information is also available in Spanish.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:37pm.