

**Northwest Area Commission on Transportation
Meeting Minutes March 9, 2023**

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

Clatsop County

*Commission (v) Lianne Thompson**
*Commission (a) Terry Hendryx**
Large City (v) Sean Fitzpatrick
*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) Casey Garrett
*Commission (a) Mike Russell**
Large City (v)
Large City (a) Dave Sukau
Small City (v) Bob Brajcich
*Small City (a) Scott Jorgenson**
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) Liane Welch**
*Citizen-at-Large Nicole Stevens**
Citizen-at-Large
*Citizen-at-Large Patrick McHugh**

Washington County

*Commission (v) Jerry Willey**
*Commission (a) Stacy Shetler**
Large City (v)
Large City (a) Jolynn Becker
*Small City (v) Marsha Kirk**
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) Brian Vitulli

Ports

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

Others in attendance:

Rye Baerg, ODOT
Mark Bernard, ODOT
Jennifer Boardman, ODOT
Debbie Booth-Schmidt, SETD
Jayson Buchholz, ODOT
Mark Buffington, ODOT
Caroline Crisp, ODOT
Sarah Lu Heath, NWACT
Juliet Hyams, ColPac EDD
Tony Hyde, Knife River
Bill Jablonski, ODOT
Chris Laity, Tillamook County
Arla Miller, ODOT
Megan McKibben, Washington County
Madelyn Orton, City of Tillamook
Jessica Pelz, Washington County
Ryan Phillips
Dave Sukau, City of Scapoose

Welcome and Introductions

NWACT Minutes/Updates:

Minutes were reviewed, no corrections. Motion to approve was made by Kathy Kleczek and seconded by Marsha Kirk; unanimous approval.

Public Comment: No attendees wished to provide public comment.

ODOT Region 2 Updates: The 2024-2027 STIP is draft is open for public comment. In our area proposed STIP projects include: the OR 6 Wilson River Loop interchange, Highway 101 and Broadway interchange in Seaside, flood control at Beerman Creek, and a crossing in Goble.

It was also shared that Senator Weber has introduced a bill to fund a safety study along Highway 30 from eastern Astoria past Knappa.

Members expressed appreciation for new reflectors along Highway 101, lighting improvements, and ODOT's snow response. ODOT noted that much of the work of the past few months have been storm response and repair.

Open houses for the OR 6 study were completed online and in-person. Common concerns included bad behavior, cell phone reception, limited passing opportunities, road conditions, and landslides.

Several grant proposals are in including a Great Streets application in Astoria, and Safe Routes to Schools applications in Tillamook and Columbia counties.

Constructions projects underway include ADA ramps across the area, Mallard and Bennett are fully open with lighting next, the Astoria Megler Bridge painting continues, paving projects on Highway 101 from Ecola to Aracadia beaches, fish and culvert projects in Westport, Clatskanie, and US 26 at Mendenhall.

AOC Transportation Committee Update: Commissioner Skaar brought three pieces of legislation to the attention of the NWACT: HB 2101 corrects rules within the State's Fund Transfer Program; SB 635 affects Rights of Way agreements between counties and business using the ROW allowing for usage fees to be implemented; HB 2619 would modify the makeup of the Oregon Transportation Commission expanding it to nine members.

Clatsop County Transportation Update: Terry Hendryx, Interim Public Works Director that they're finishing the Clatskanie bridge project in June and will begin working on a bridge replacement on Dolphin Road. Also starting the Clatsop County Safety Commission is beginning to take shape.

NWACT Strategy: Caroline Crisp provided a draft vision for the NWACT to review. Feedback included considering including elevating the groups collaborative nature and purpose as a community forum, greenhouse gas reduction, expanding beyond Cascadia events to include all disasters, allowing rural areas to access climate focused grants, adequately funding the transportation system, and expanding the strategy beyond the STIP program.

Aviation Review Committee 2023/24 Grant Cycle Report: Jim Knight, the NWACT's representative to the Aviation Review Committee, provided an overview of the grant program. Notably, Northwest Oregon has benefitted greatly and leveraged investments using this program. Knight announced his resignation from NWACT. Discussion on appointing a new representative to the ARC included asking

Knight to provide a job description for the role and for this item to be included on the next NWACT agenda.

Carbon Reduction Program: Rye Baerg presented information about ODOT's Climate Office and the new Carbon Reduction Program. The first round of funding is accepting applications through May and a second opportunity will open in 2024. There was some discussion about EV charging stations after the presentation, particularly interest in recognizing peak season needs do not match with projections based on resident vehicle registration.

Member Updates:

Meeting was adjourned at 2:58p.