

**Northwest Area Commission on Transportation
Meeting Minutes May 11, 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) Elisabeth Adams
*Large City (a) Steve Wright**
Small City (v)
Small City (a)
*Citizen-at-Large Kathy Kleczek**
Citizen-at-Large

*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)
Tillamook Co (v)
*Tillamook Co (a) Brian Vitulli**

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

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

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**

Others in attendance:

Adam Argo, ODOT
Caroline Crisp, ODOT
Jeff Harrington, City of Astoria
Sarah Lu Heath, NWACT Administrator
Juliet Hyams, ColPac EDD
Tony Hyde, Columbia County/Knife River
Bill Jablonski, ODOT
Betsy Johnson, Regional Solutions
Chief Linz, Banks Fire Chief
Don Odermott, Washington County
Michael Rock, ODOT
Nate Stice, Regional Solutions
Megan McKibben, Washington County
Brian Worley, Assoc of Oregon Counties

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)

Welcome and Introductions

Members and guests introduced themselves. Don Odermott was welcomed as a new Citizen-at-Large representing Washington County.

NWACT Minutes/Updates:

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

Public Comment:

Carol Rosenflex spoke to her experiences driving on Highway 47 between Forest Grove and Vernonia. She requested that ODOT consider installing guardrails along that section of the highway.

City of Banks Fire Chief Linz spoke to the group about the development of the firehouse in which the NWACT was holding its meeting. Chief Linz also relayed his concerns about the stations access to the highway and driver failing to yield right of way. The Chief requested ODOT consider signage, lights, or other devices to assist emergency vehicles onto the highway. Chief Linz also noted that the department is seeing emergency calls increasing on Highways 26 and 47. Additionally, the Chief requested saturation patrol from OSP in the area to help correct driver behavior.

ODOT Region 2 Updates:

The Highway 6 study continues to move forward with both stakeholder and public gatherings to gather feedback. Finding will be delivered to the legislature in September.

The Mallard and Bennett intersection continues to take steps towards completion including striping and lighting; the project is expected to wrap up early this summer.

US 30 will see a major detour between Westport and Clatskanie; drivers will be routed to Colvin Road.

The Lewis & Clark bridge will be closed in July for at least one week.

Dairy Creek bridge will be closed for resurfacing in late June with a detour in place.

Betsy Johnson commented on her grave disappointment that Sunset Empire Transportation District suspended services due to unexpected, catastrophic financial issues. It was noted that ODOT and a third party forensic accounting firm were investigating.

Caroline Crisp brought the Safe Streets funding opportunity to the attention of the group. Funding assistance covers signage, painting, and other tools in high crash corridors. Applications are due July 10.

AOC Transportation Committee Update:

Erin Skaar related that I-5 bridge tolling has been put on hold. Additionally, two bills of note are HB2095 which would allow cities to use traffic ticket cameras and HB3556 which failed but would have assisted jurisdictions in dealing with abandoned RVs.

Oregon Transportation Plan Update:

Adam Argo with ODOT's Policy Division provided a presentation on the update to the Oregon Transportation Plan. This update began in 2021 and will wrap up this year. It visions out to 2050 and has 10 Implementation Actions. Comments for the update will be accepted until May 12th.

Betsy Johnson noted that the deadline to comment is the following day after the meeting and inquired about how many comments had been received thus far. ODOT answered that about 150 comments had been received. Betsy Johnson remarked that the low number of responses was concerned and indicated

a lack of awareness of the plan update on the part of the public. ODOT replied that many more responses had been gathered through the process and this comment period was only one of several.

Kathy Kleczek noted that as member of ODOT's Committee for Mobility Accessibility, she was under the impression that the plan would take a 'people first approach' and this is not reflected in the proposed plan. ODOT recognized that they had hoped this would be the approach but instead will be providing a framework for how to develop people-first projects.

Don Odomot shared his concerns that the metrics used to measure reductions in green house gasses and vehicle miles traveled are not the best mechanisms for reliable data. He also noted that metro area feedback is heavily influenced by special interests.

Fund Transfer Program:

Brian Worley the County Road Program Director for the Association of Oregon Counties provided a presentation on AOC's preferred solution to the pending changes to ODOT's Fund Transfer Program. At this time, changes to the program would drastically reduce funding to county road programs. HB2101-4 would:

- remove barriers that prevent ODOT from flexibly exchanging State Highway Funds and codify the STBG Fund Exchange Program in statute.
- Local governments have worked in collaboration with ODOT to draft the -4 amendment to HB 2101.
- The -4 amendment would codify a \$35 million annual program for counties, cities, and small metropolitan planning organizations (average level of the current 90% STBG Fund Exchange Program over the five-year Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).
- Capping the state funding ensures ODOT can maintain the program without unexpected increases in federal funding.

NWACT Strategy: This discussion was moved to the July meeting.

Washington County Transportation Update:

Haag Lake slide repairs are underway and there is a potential to use the FLAP program for further work. Upcoming projects in Washington County include a roundabout on Highway 47, signal upgrades in downtown Banks, and flood gates and sensors for Sussvauer Road. Additionally, the county recently received a Safe Streets for All award.

Other Business:

Chair Thompson inquired changing the member update section of the meeting. Kevin Leahy commented that he still wanted to time discuss timely issues. All agreed that comments should be short and focused.

Member Updates:

Mike Borresen inquired about the state of the Mendenhall Road project; the project should be complete in 2024.

Kathy Kleczek inquired about the markings on the new Youngs Bay Bridge; there is a warranty investigation underway regarding previous preservation work.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:01p.

