

**Northwest Area Commission on Transportation
Meeting Minutes July 13, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm by Chair Thompson. NWACTION 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)
Small City (v) **Steve Wright***
Small City (a)
Citizen-at-Large **Kathy Kleczek***
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

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) **Chris Laity***
Large City (v)
Large City (a)
Small City (v)
Small City (a) Liane Welch
Citizen-at-Large **Nicole Stevens***
Citizen-at-Large **Patrick McHugh***

Others in attendance:

Debbie Boothe Schmidt, SETD
Jayson Buchholz, ODOT
Mark Buffington, ODOT
Wes Cochran, EDA
Colin Cooper, ColPac EDD
Caroline Crisp, ODOT
Melyssa Graeper, ODEQ and RST
Jeff Harrington, City of Astoria
Tony Hyde, Columbia County
Bill Jablonski, ODOT
State Representative Cyrus Javadi
Chris Laity, Tillamook Co Public Works
David McCall, City of Bay City
Arla Miller, ODOT Transit
Senator Suzanne Weber

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 **Don Odermott***
Citizen-at-Large **Mike Borresen***

*Members denoted with asterisks were in attendance.

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Members and guests introduced themselves.

Item 2: NWACT Minutes/Updates

July's meeting minutes were reviewed. Commission Garret motion to approve; Michele Bradley seconded the motion, it passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None

ODOT Regional 2 Updates: Rockaway Beaches' Community Path grant is in contracting. St Helen's Community Paths grant will go into procurement this winter. The Highway 6 study is complete and will be provided to the legislature. The grant application to improve the Butte Creek bridge has been submitted with a letter of support from the NWACT.

It was noted that the USDOT Thriving Communities grant cycle will open soon.

In Astoria, repaving is taking place on US30 to delineate new turn and bike lines. The project is expected to finish in September. ADA ramps are being worked on in downtown Clatskanie.

The Colvin Road detour on Highway 30 should be restored in early October. Work on the project will begin again in the spring, but will not require a detour.

The sidewalk project in Seaside will be completed with a ribbon cutting shortly. The Astoria Megler bridge project is wrapping up.

Upcoming projects include a sidewalk and pavement project in Garibaldi from 1st through 12th Streets, coming in 2024. In Rainier, the Fox Creek project is seeking funding. There will also be a study on Beerman Creek regarding King Tides effects. Upcoming paving/grinding projects include Highway 26 at Douglas Park and Highway 30 at Tide Creek. St Helens and Scappoose will be provided grinding work to smooth the transition between concrete and asphalt paving. Warrenton is seeing working on wheelchair ramps and paving in their downtown.

Councilor Marsha Kirk requested an update Banks Fire Departments request for improved access to Highway 26 from their station. Bill Jablonski said he followed up but a meeting will need to take place to get the ball rolling.

AOC Update: No update since the legislative session is over.

Tillamook County Update: The county is in the process of updating their Transportation Systems Plan. They have also received congressional funding for bridge repairs, and two awards for culvert work. Additionally, the Cape Meares Loop Road project is nearing completion, utilizing three federal funding awards, five retaining walls, with project cost of \$22 million. A ribbon cutting will be held.

Upcoming projects include culvert replacements along the Salmon Super Highway. A letter of support for grant applications for the project was requested. Stacy Shetler moved to approve a letter of support, Michele Bradley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 3: Open Chair Position: Rosemary Lorchke and Kathy Kleczek agreed to work together as a nominating committee for the open 2nd Chair Position as well as general recruitment to vacancies.

Item 4: Highway 6 Study Findings: Caroline Crisp shared the findings of the Highway 6 Corridor Study. Senator Weber commented that rumble strips are her first priority. As well as finding an east bound passing lane, and the area of mile markers 31-35.

Commissioner Thompson remarked that ODOT is underfunded and her priority of safety.

Bill Jablonski cautioned that most solutions have such high costs they their implementation would be dependent on federal funding assistance.

A discussion followed regarding increased highway use coming from the metro areas burdening existing transportation facilities and drive high crash numbers. Don Odermott requested to see crash data during the 'urban surge' weekend periods.

Item 5: NWACT Strategy Update: Caroline Crisp reviewed the process. The NWACT has completed the vision and significant themes. In the coming weeks, representatives from each county will discuss updating the significant projects list. The NWACT will review the full list in November.

Item 6: Highway 26 Accidents: Mayor Wright shared his concerns about the number and severity of crashes on Highway 26. Data provided by OSP was shared on accident rates and types. Discussion on the topic included comments requesting more OSP patrol, notes that Knappa speed reductions have not slowed drivers, and that the Buxton/Manning area backs up thirty minutes or more on the weekend.

Item 7: ODOT Services Changes: Mark Buffington and Bill Jablonski provide an update from ODOT including a hiring freeze in the maintenance department. The group is told to expect lower levels of service this winter due to lack of personnel. Only Highways 26, 30, 6, and 101 will be prioritized. There will be fewer snow plows and no stripping on secondary roads.

In the 2024-2027 STIP, budget numbers will not be assigned to projects. Instead buckets of funding will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Projects will stay 'in line' from year to year, to receive funding as it comes available. This new methodology will emphasize phased approaches to projects.

Item 8: NWACT Business/Member Updates:

Councilor Adams with the City of Astoria notes that she's been answering questions about the road re-stripping and re-configuration and is anticipating the arrival of flashing beacons to be installed at 23rd Street near Columbia Memorial Hospital.

Stacy Shetler with Washington County shared that they are applying for funding for seven bridge projects.

Debbie Boothe-Schmidt with the Sunset Empire Transportation District shares that they are considering restoring two routes. Interviews for a new Executive Director are also underway as well as plans for additional board training. They are also embarking on a volunteer project to build two bus shelters with existing materials.

Michele Bradley with the Port of Tillamook Bay shared that they having a paving project underway with ODOT's help. They've also secured emergency supplies for 100 people as part of a community preparedness plan.

Mayor Steve Wright of Seaside shared his appreciation for the Highway 101 sidewalk redesign.

Don Odermott of Washington County brings the Westside Multi-Modal Corridor Study to the attention of the NWACT due to its inclusion of Cornelius Pass, a long time area of concern for the group. He recommends we include a presentation of the study at an upcoming meeting and the group agrees.

Councilor Marsha Kirk of Banks shares the news of a new flashing light at the Banks High School.

Kathy Kleczek of Clatsop County shares the news of new 'movi-mats' in Seaside which allow greater access across sandy areas for people with different mobility needs.

SETD Board Member Tracy MacDonald gave his thanks for the NWACT's support of SETD and announces that this will be his last meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:57p.