

NORTHWEST AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION MEETING AGENDA

Date: Thursday, December 12, 2024
Time: 1:00 pm—3:00 pm
Contacts: Casey Garrett, Vice-Chair
 Sarah Lu Heath, Administrator
 971-328-2877 or sarahlu@nworegon.org
 Caroline Crisp, ODOT Staff
 (503)313-6812 or Caroline.crisp@odot.oregon.gov

Location: John Gumm Building & Civic Center
 251 St Helens St, St Helens OR 97051

Virtual: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83755031485>

Call-in Number: 1-253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 837 5503 1485

A complete meeting packet is available at NWOregon.org/NWACT

Item 1 1:00p	Welcome and Introductions		Sarah Lu Heath
Item 2 1:05p	NWACT Minutes/Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📎 October 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes (attached) 📎 Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🕒 Limited to 3 minutes per person 📎 Including comment on ODOT’s updates in packet 📎 Columbia County Transportation Update 	✓	Casey Garrett Bill Jablonski Mike Russell
Item 3 1:35p	NWACT Leadership	✓	Casey Garrett
Item 4 1:40p	Update: 2025 Transportation Package		Rep. McLain
Item 5 1:55p	Report: PROTECT Grant for US101 Killam Creek funding	✓	Caroline Crisp
Item 6 2:00p	Report: ACT/Model OTC Chairs Meeting		Casey Garrett
Items 7 2:05p	Update: Northwest Oregon Transit Alliance		Sarah Lu Heath
Item 7 2:35p	Upcoming Grant Opportunities USDOT RAISE Grant USDOT PROTECT Grant		Caroline Crisp Sarah Lu Heath
Item 8 2:45p	NWACT Business/Member Updates Updates: 2-3 minutes, transportation projects, grant requests, relevant closures, or construction projects, etc.		All

Attachments:

- October 10, 2024 Minutes
- ODOT Project Updates
- NWOTA Presentation

NWACT meetings are open to the public and accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities. If a sign language interpreter is needed, please call Colin Cooper at 503-397-3099 or colin@nworegon.org at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

**Northwest Area Commission on Transportation
Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm by Vice Chair Garrett.

Citizen-at-Large *Vacant*

Clatsop County

Commission (v) **Mark Kujala***
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 **John Nygaard***

Transit Districts

Columbia Co (v)
Columbia Co (a) *John Dreeszen*
Clatsop Co (v) **Debbie Boothe Schmidt***
Clatsop County (a) **Craig Johnston***
Tillamook Co (v) *Mary Johnson*
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 **Betsy Johnson***

Ports

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

Tillamook County

Commission (v) **Doug Olson***
Commission (a) **Chris Laity***
Large City (v) *Aaron Burris*
Large City (a) *Nathan George*
Small City (v) **Lianne Welch***
Small City (a) **David McCall***
Citizen-at-Large
Citizen-at-Large **Patrick McHugh***

Others in attendance:

Tony Hyde
Terre Cooper, Tillamook EDC
Tony Walters
Jillian Trinkaus
Caroline Crisp, ODOT
Rep. Susan McLain
Sen. Suzanne Weber
Bill Jablonski, ODOT
Arla Miller, ODOT Transit
Benjamin Burgener
Matt Steigledger
Paul Selke, AKS Engineering & Forestry
Alex Bettinardi, ODOT planning

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***

*Members denoted with asterisks were in attendance.

Item 2: NWACT Minutes/Updates

Minutes were reviewed and Kathy Kleczek noted that she was listed twice as an attendant and in one instance was incorrectly listed as an ODOT employee but is present as a Citizen at Large. Casey Garrett made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Betsy Johnson made the first motion to approve, and Michele Bradley seconded; passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee: Betsy Johnson, Michele Bradley, and Kathy Kleczek all approved for nominating committee participation by unanimous vote.

Public Comment:

- Comments from two public citizens regarding the safety concerns of the development of the roundabout off of highway six highlighting the elevated speeds driven and possible elevated crash incidents. Also concerned about the lack of adequate public outreach and engagement in the roundabout design and planning process.

Washington County Transportation Update: Highway 47 Banks Main Street intersection; procurement process ongoing with construction beginning in the coming months and completed Spring 2026. Roundabout at Martin Road intersection installed and performing well. Slide repair underway with completion anticipated in the next month. Stringtown Road progressing. Thatcher Road at Gales Creek project completed Spring of 2024. Timber Road slide repair under construction with a reopening in the next couple of months. Turk Road bridge is a new part of the 3F bridge reconstruction program with a timeline of 2026.

Caroline Crisp provided updates on ODOT projects, including:

- Tillamook County Transportation system plan soon to be finalized
- Circle Creek hydraulic study – procurement in works
- Highway 6 project – responded to public comment on the degree of danger and fatality within roundabout construction. Received responses from interested citizens commenting that there isn't robust enough public engagement on the highway development

Item 3 Oregon Legislature Joint Transportation Listening Session - look forward to 2025 legislative session

Comments provided by Senator Suzanne Weber, Representative Javadi, and Representative McLain

- Rep Susan McLain, House District 29, serves on joint commission and bridge replacement committee. Just completed a 4-month long state-wide listening tour, including starting at Tillamook. More common feedback from local jurisdictions and businesses about the needs for maintenance, consideration for safety improvements, and multimodal transit provision. Ice storms are of key concerns. Safe routes to school highlighted as a key program. Transit in rural areas require more connecting routes. Tillamook has transit to Portland three times a day which is considered highly connected for a rural area. 3,000 culverts in Tillamook County need greater resources for replacement. Continuing to gather information and form preliminary solutions. This will be accomplished through a working group that will include members from LOC, legislators, business leaders, transportation matter experts, and elected officials. The working groups will convene in late October. Infrastructure project priority list has received funding from infrastructure bill.

- The fuel efficiency of cars has weakened the efficacy of the gas tax to provide ongoing maintenance and overall system upgrades in our region.
- Office can provide monthly updates to keep community up to date on the advocacy efforts by representatives.
- Senator Weber attended a hearing that was held in Hillsboro to remind group of Tillamook’s priorities.
- Patrick McHugh questions how electric vehicles are being taken into considerations in light of the decreasing gas tax. Rep McLain notes that the registration for EVs are higher but should be increased to represent “fair share” of roadway impact.
- Doug Olson commented on the failing capacity of bridges to move traffic efficiently. Rep. McLain noted that there will be modifications to the I-5 Interstate Bridge.
 - The NEPA report is being completed and now in the phase of public engagement to comment on the need assessment of the modified designs.
- Don Odermott – deadline for testimony on October 25th in response to bridge functionality project.

Item 4 – STIF Discretionary Application review FY 25 - 27

Arla Miller, ODOT Transit, presented regional STIF project applications.

Regional Projects –

- a. SETD – Two replacement fixed route buses; \$425,000 request to request two new buses that will have 7 years or 200,000 miles. Craig Johnston shared that currently buses have far exceeded their mileage life and need to be updated as they provide service in Astoria and down through Cannon Beach.
- b. TCTD – fire alarm system replacement and update; request \$80,000 to enhance the safety and security and asset protection within the administration building as well as vehicle maintenance building. Brian Vitulli noted that the proprietary system has made it difficult to make needed updates and maintain system.
- c. TCTD – 6 bus shelters and installation in Garibaldi; \$99,996 to fund up to 6 bus shelters and their installation. Brian Vitulli spoke on the collaborative effort between ODOT and TCTD to provide those shelters in addition to sidewalk improvements.

Project input form due by Oct 22, 2024; Sarah Lu Heath will submit NWACT feedback to ODOT.

Comment from Betsy Johnson that safety needs to be the number one ODOT priority and that is not being exhibited now. Also inquired about SETD financial and administrative standing – Arla Miller responded that the district is paying it’s required monthly payments and reporting to ODOT.

Doug Olson commented on the fact that the Tillamook trolley didn’t operate this summer due to driver shortage. Arla Miller noted that there is a chronic driver shortage that hasn’t revived since the pandemic. Sarah Lu Heath recognized that the driver shortage conversation has been ongoing and being addressed by a variety of agencies including, TBCC and CCC working together to share the CDL license simulator, the region’s workforce board reaching out into the community and highlighting needed truck driver positions in job fairs.

Liane Welch asked whether there is geographic equity in project considerations so that the metro area isn’t disproportionately favored in awards. Arla Miller noted that equity considerations are made throughout the award process and through the advocacy of other transit agencies.

Liane Welch proposed the following ranking of the 3 regional projects

- Tillamook fire alarm
- Tillamook bus shelter purchase – ODOT has \$10M in this project in Garibaldi
- SETD bus purchases

Item 5 – Oregon Highway 6/Aerts Road Project Discussion

Paul Selke, with AKS Engineering & Forestry, presented information on the proposed roundabout at OR 6 and Aerts Road in Banks, Oregon

East Bank Expansion - Aerts Addition will drive the addition of roughly 929 single family homes. Coordination & public outreach has been going on for over two years. Creation of an informational website is currently underway and anticipated to be living in late October/early November 2024. Betsy noted that the pattern of the public outreach seems heavily reliant/exclusive to government agencies, primarily ODOT. Paul noted that the Aerts addition in particular had community engagement through several public hearings and a neighborhood meeting where 80 people attended. No comments in opposition to the development portion of the project.

NWACT members and guests shared several comments concerning the roundabout including worries regarding speeding vehicles, farm equipment, and freight vehicle access.

Liane Welch asked if the engineering team has a public outreach consultant. Paul noted that the team is working with ODOT and their planning team.

Patrick McHugh brought up concern for truck drivers not being able to navigate the roundabout proposed and how that will exacerbate traffic on Highway 6. Marsha Kirk clarified the speed of the roundabout will be 25mph. Suzanne Weber questioned whether the company reached out to trucking industry stakeholders. Paul responded, saying that this outreach had been performed.

Don Odermott responds to comment concerning the misrepresentation of traffic count by noting the processing in which ODOT applies.

Presentation of "ICE" analysis that detailed 3 different options each with pros and cons. The current concept presents a single lane roundabout that has been approved by ODOT with future consideration for a multi-lane expansion. Concept does plan to accommodate pedestrian crossing

In summary, presenters are looking for additional feedback from NWACT; they will incorporate public input and feedback from ODOT website into design as applicable. Public comments can also be received via email.

Item 6 – ODOT Investment Planning Overview

Alex Bettinardi and Caroline Crisp presented ODOT's new mapping tool. Walked through a variety of investment priority areas that are broken down by primary and secondary priorities and ranked across a four-point system. Priority areas include safety, equity, and climate mitigation opportunities. Noted that mapping data is only available on state highways.

Review specific ACT "hot spots"

- US101/30 Astoria
- US101 through Tillamook – All Roads Through Safety
- US101 Seaside
- US30 scappoose
- US30 st.helens
- US30 Astoria East
- US101 Astoria-Megler brdge
- US101 Warrenton
- US30 Clatskanie
- OR6 Tillamook/ OR6 safety study

Don Odermott commented about how some of this preliminary data may be misleading, especially since these priorities will be translated differently across our region.

Item 7 – Upcoming Grant Opportunities – grant opportunities not discussed during the meeting due to lack of time. Sarah Lu Heath noted that these grant opportunities are linked in the electronic version of the packet for member review.

1. ODOT Innovative Mobility Program
2. USDOT Bridge Investment Program

Item 8 NWACT Business/Member Updates

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

	A	B	C	E	G
1	Area 1 updates NWACT	11-Dec			
2	Complete 2427 STIP @ https://www.oregon.gov/odot/STIP/Documents/OnlineSTIP_Public.pdf				
3		STIP Project	Phase/Year	Completion date	Comments
4	Planning				
5		Tillamook County TSP - ODOT budget	PL 2023	PL2025	County decided on a Consultant, ODOT is currently in negotiations with them.
6		US101 Flooding studyCircle Creek	PL 2024	PL 2024	Hyrdolics enginner is reviewing the Statement of Work, then the procurement process will start and the document will be sent to the DOJ.
7		St Helens Path - Oregon Community Paths	PL 2023	PI 2023	Consultant solistation is now at ODOT procurement. Waiting on EA from the feds then will be in DOJ.
8		Rockaway Beach Path	PL 2023	PL 2023	Public Involvement plan is being reviewed and the existing conditions is completed. Was reviewed by PMT and will be reviewed by PAC.

	A	B	C	E	G
9		Killam Creek			Caroline and Charolette are going after another 6 million dollar Protect grant for a project in Tillamook County, currently within ODOT review, if selected will be able to apply in federal grant cycle.
10	Project Development (current)				
11		OR202: Nehalem River Bridge	PE/2023	PE/2026	Full bridge deck and rail repalcement - DAP complete Nov 2024
12		US101 @ Broadway Signal Upgrades (Seaside)	PE/2023	PE/2026	Engineering design being completed by ODOT. (survey has started)
13		US101 MP 23.9 Culvert Replacement	PE/2023	PE/2027	In design- replace failing culvert
14		OR6 Roadside Barrier Upgrades	PE/2023	PE/2024	Project at Advanced Plans - construction expected 2025 full barrier upgrade/replacement Tillamook to Banks
15		OR6 MP 4.4 - 9.0 (Paving)	PE/2023	PE/2024	In design -Paving construction anticipated 2025
16		OR6 @ Wilson River Loop Road (MP2.07)	PE/2023	PE/2026	DAP 10/2024-Upgrade NE intersection of WRL and OR6 - construction anticipated NOW 2026
17		OR131 Tillamook River Bridge	PE/2023	PE/2024	Contractor given notice to proceed. Look for construction schedule early 2025.

	A	B	C	E	G
18		OR 6 Devila Lake Fork Wilson River Bridge	PE/2023	PE/2024	Construction expected spring/summer 2025
19		US101 Nedonna Creek	PE/2023	PE/2025	Project at DAP-working on identify ROW needs/fish passage mitigation and construction schedule for NOW 2027
20		US30 Rainier - Wonderly Rd	PE/2023	PE/2026	In DAP, constrction still 2026
21		US101 Pacific Way (Gearhart)	PE/2023	PE/2026	Signal replacement design at DAP - construction 2026
22		US30at SE Maple St Rail Crossing (Scappoose)	PE/2023	PE/2026	Design at DAP -upgrade rail crossing - construction 2026/27
23		US101 Butte Creek Culvert	PE/2022	PE/2026	Design at DAP- Construction is fully funded by PROTECT grant. Construction 2026
24					
25	Construction				
26					
27		US30 @ Graham Creek	CON	Summer 2024	Work is substantially complete.Need to install recessed pavement markers and permanent striping.
28		US26 @ Mendenhall	CON	Spring 2024	Work is substantially complete, need to perform ride quality corrections.
29		US26 Little Humbug Creek Bridge	CON	Fall 2024	Substantially complete, need to install permanent striping in the spring.
30		OR202 Dresden St. to 4th St (Astoria)	CON	Fall 2024	Work is complete.
31		US101: Urban Upgrade (Garibaldi)	CON	Fall 2025	Work is progressing
32		Astoria Riverwalk Trail Lighting	CON	Spring 2025	Work about to begin
33		Sign Replacements (NW Oregon)(21-24)	CON	Spring 2025	Work to begin in January

	A	B	C	E	G
34					
35					
36	Maintenance				
37		The Tillamook crew is split into day and night shifts 7 days a week primarily to cover winter issues such as ice and snow.			
38		They will be ditching on 101.			
39		OR6 at MP35 has issues that we are trying to repair. This is in Washington county but affects them in Tillamook county. We may have to move to 24 hour flagging in the EB lane.			

**Northwest Area Commission on Transportation
Leadership Candidates Memo**

December 4, 2024

At the October 10, 2024 meeting of the NWACT, it was announced that Commissioner Lianne Thompson had stepped down from her position as Chair. A nomination committee was formed, including Michele Bradley, Betsy Johnson, and Kathy Kleczek.

The nominating committee met and reached out to potential candidates. The leadership slate that the nominating committee recommends is:

Chair: Columbia County Commission Casey Garrett

Vice Chair: Bay City Mayor Liane Welch

2nd Vice Chair: Banks Mayor



US 101 MP 70.78 Killam Creek

Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program (PROTECT)

Infrastructure and Job Investment Act

December 2024

Caroline Crisp, Senior Transportation Planner

US 101 MP 70.78 Killam Creek

- Why it was selected?
 - High priority for Salmon Superhighway
 - Currently funded as a design shelf project, seeking Construction funds (\$12.2M)
 - Tier 1 Resilience Corridor – designated evacuation route
 - High Social Disparity
 - Inland flooding, heavy precipitation, and coastal flooding identified Climate Risks
 - Flooding harms disadvantaged communities, causing economic hardship, health risks, housing instability, and inequities due to limited resources and disrupted services.

US 101 MP 70.78 Killam Creek

- Replace aging 96" concrete box with 125' single span bridge
- Increase crossing capacity and design life
- Protect highway embankment
- Addresses anticipated climate change impacts and uses green infrastructure approaches



nwCONNECTOR

Northwest Oregon Transit Alliance





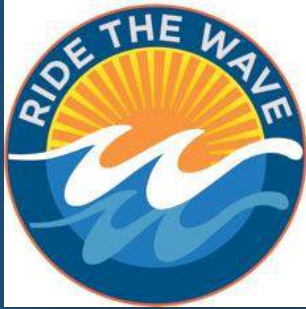
PACIFIC
OCEAN



Seaside



Who We Are





Board President:

Cynda Bruce, Director of Transit, Lincoln County

Structure:

ORS190 Intergovernmental Entity

Administered by Columbia Pacific Economic Development District

Fiscal Sponsor:

Tillamook County Transportation District

Brian Vitulli, General Manager

Northwest Oregon Transit Alliance

REGIONAL TRANSIT PROJECT

MISSION

To reduce greenhouse gases and fossil fuel dependence through increased transit use by visitors and commuters.

ALLIANCE GOALS

- Improve transit connections between communities
- Brand and market transit service in all five counties as a single seamless service
- Improve interagency coordination
- Promote environmentally-conscious travel
- Develop transit as an asset for economic development





MAJOR TASKS

- Regional Route and Service Coordination
- Branding and Marketing
- Centralized Website
- Strategic Partnerships
- Sustainable Funding
- Successes and Lessons Learned

All services are interconnected!

Route and Service Coordination

Focus Areas

- Population/employment clusters and visitor destinations served by existing routes within each county
- Connections across county lines
- Commuter and visitor markets
- Coordinated policies EG: Fare, Bike, Flag Stops

Branding and Marketing: The Challenge

- Five diverse counties
- Visitors and commuters – two different audiences
- Existing individual agency brands and identities

Regional Fares for Visitors

- 3-day and 7-day visitor passes may be purchased from drivers on any route served by NW CONNECTOR partner agencies. Visitor passes allow one trip to the coast from Portland or the Albany/Corvallis area, one return trip, and unlimited travel in Clatsop, Tillamook and Lincoln Counties (from Astoria to Yachats)
- 3-day passes are \$25.00. 7-day passes are \$30.00.
- You can purchase your pass from your driver. Drivers accept only cash and exact change is required. Your pass is your receipt.
- *Next step – Online ticket and pass sales!*





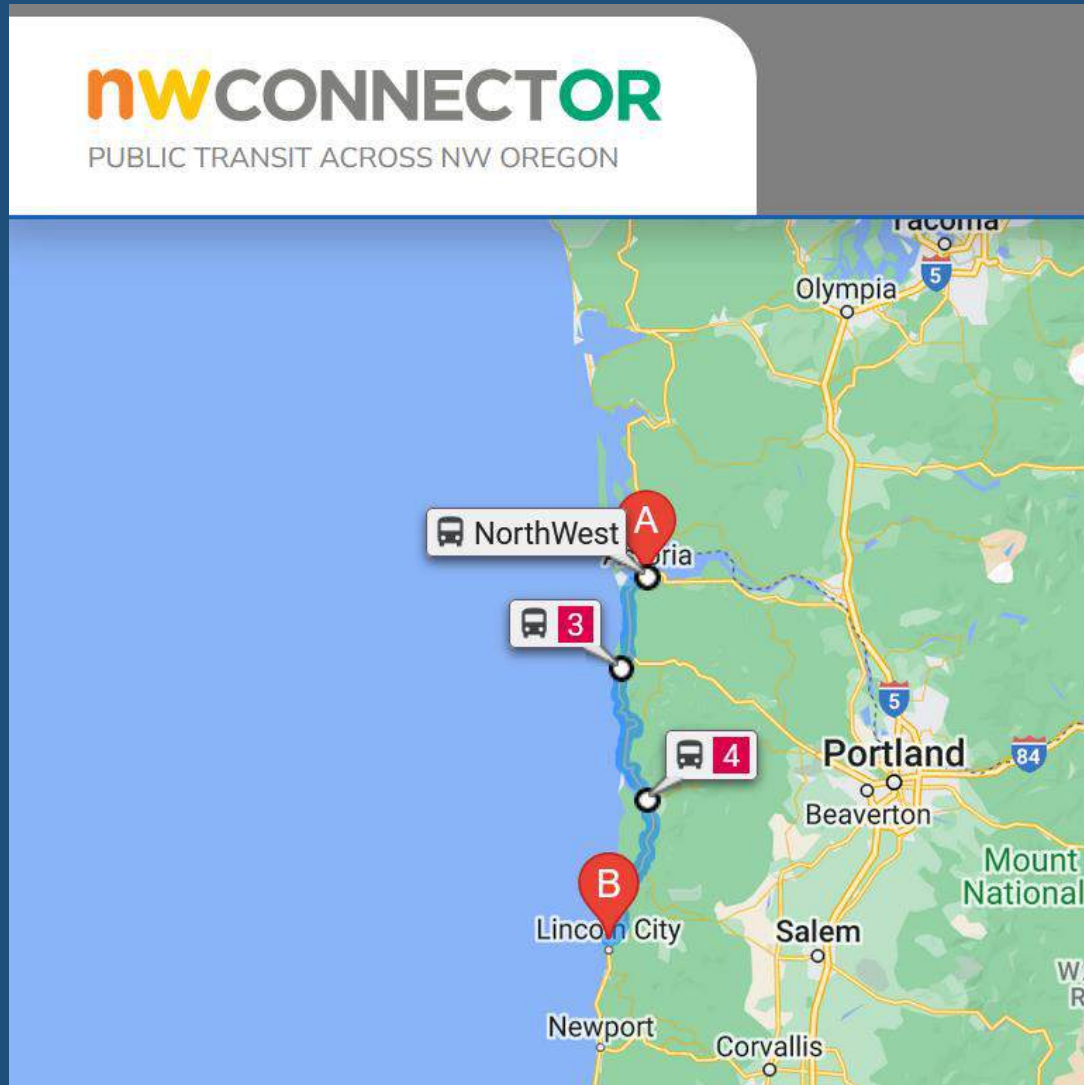
CENTRALIZED WEBSITE

nwCONNECTOR

Link to our site: nwconnector.org

The screenshot shows the nwCONNECTOR website interface. At the top left is the logo "nwCONNECTOR" with the tagline "PUBLIC TRANSIT ACCESSIBILITY". To the right are buttons for "SIGN UP FOR NEWSLETTER" and "HOME". The main content area features a large map of the Northwest Oregon region with various transit routes highlighted in different colors (red, green, blue, yellow). To the right of the map is a "PLAN A TRIP" section with input fields for "Starting Address" and "Ending Address", a "DATE/TIME" field, and a "Time" field. Below these are radio buttons for "Depart at" and "Arrive by", and a "GETTING HOME" button. Further down is a "GET YOUR PASS" section with a description and a "GET YOUR PASS" button. Below that is an "EXPLORE TRIP IDEAS" section with a description and a "SEE TRIP IDEAS" button. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the nwCONNECTOR logo and tagline, a "SIGN UP FOR NEWSLETTER" button, and five partner logos: "Fossil Creek Transportation Center", "Clatsop County", "Linn County", "BENTON AREA TRANSIT", and "Seaside Region Transit System".

Home page has regional trip planning info for riders, news, meeting notices, etc.



Strategic Partners

- Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- Salem-Keizer Transit District (Cherriots)
- Yamhill County Transit Area
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Siletz Indians
- Amtrak and Greyhound

Successes

- Coast to Valley ridership between Albany/Corvallis and Newport has increased
- Ridership between Lincoln County and Tillamook County increased
- Better connections to the NW Point bus service in Cannon Beach
- Ridership between Lincoln City and Salem increased
- Interline agreements with Amtrak for seamless travel

Upcoming Initiatives

- Real-time bus tracking on nwconnector.org
- Enhanced marketing to visitors
- Online fare and multi-day pass purchasing

