

**Northwest Area Commission on Transportation
Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2024**

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)
 Small City (v) **Steve Wright***
 Small City (a)
 Citizen-at-Large **Kathy Kleczek***
 Citizen-at-Large John Nygaard

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

Tillamook County

Commission (v) Doug Olson
 Commission (a) Chris Laity
 Large City (v) Aaron Burriss
 Large City (a) Nathan George
 Small City (v) **Lianne Welch***
 Small City (a) **David McCall***
 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 **Don Odermott***
 Citizen-at-Large **Mike Borresen***

Transit Districts

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

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

Others in attendance:

Grant DeJongh, Washington County
 Jayson Buchholz, ODOT
 Gerry Gitzen, public comment
 Rye Baerg, ODOT
 Stephanie Millar, ODOT
 Melyssa Graeper, ODEQ & RST
 Mark Buffington, ODOT
 Bill Jablonski, ODOT
 Kristi Ward, Wauna
 John Boren, ODOT

*Members denoted with asterisks were in attendance.

Item 2: Consent Calendar

February Minutes were reviewed. David McCall motioned to accept the minutes and Marsha Kirk seconded; passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Gerry Gitzen of Wheeler proposed an addition of the Scenic Byways to include stretches along the Nehalem Bay.

Construction Updates: Rainier and Vernonia are scheduled to get ADA improvements. Rainier, including nine miles of highway going east will be repaved. Additional sign posts and messaging will be installed on US 30 at Larson Road. The Clatskanie River bridge will receive riprap to protect from scouring. Highway 202 in Astoria will receive sidewalks.

The Humbug Creek bridge will be replaced on Highway 26 which will entail several days of closures. The Skipanon Bridge in Warrenton will also be improved and will result in road closures.

Kathy Kleczek inquired about surface conditions at mile post 13 on Highway 26 and Mark Buffington shared there are plans for the pavement to be refinished.

Patrick McHugh asked a related question about permanent upgrades. Mark Buffington shared a similar project cost on Highway 6 is nearly twenty million dollars and suggested Federal funding would be required for either project.

Bill Jablonski shared that the Butte Creek culvert project received \$6m in Federal funding.

Columbia County Updates: The main topic of concern in Columbia County is the condition of off-highway arterial roads, particularly Apiary and the Scappoose Vernonia Road. Detours when these roads are not passable are quite long.

ODOT 2025 Maintenance & Operations Funding

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Savannah Crawford was unable to attend the NWACT meeting. Bill Jablonski shared messaging about the struggles to fund maintenance activities for ODOT. The group viewed an explainer video.

Stacy Shetler questioned why only a small percentage could be used on maintenance. Bill Jablonski specified that these spending controls were introduced by the legislature and would need a legislative fix.

Patrick McHugh shared that Highway 22 is impassable for freight loads and that Highway 6 is not a freight rated highway; therefore with fuel tax and pay-per-mile tax, their freight needs are not being addressed despite being some of the heavily taxed. Bill Jablonski shared that it would take a legislative designation to make Highway 6 freight-rated.

Chair Thompson requested updates from ODOT on the fatal crash on Highway 101 in Clatsop County. Mark Buffington shared details of the crash investigation which concluded driver behavior was the cause of the incident.

Carbon Reduction Program

Rye Baerg shared a slide deck about the upcoming application cycle for the Carbon Reduction Program.

Connect Oregon Grant Program

John Boren shared a slide deck about the Connect Oregon Grant Program, it's mission, process, and instructions for NWACT members in prioritizing project at the next meeting.

Westside Multi-Modal Study

Stephanie Millar shared the outcomes of the extensive 'Westside Multi-Modal Study' which focused on areas just east of the NWACT geography.

NWACT Business/Member Updates

Kathy Kleczek moved to record NWACT meetings, Marsha Kirk seconded, and remaining attendees voted unanimously to approve.

Mike Borreson announced that he will be retiring from the NWACT.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:02pm.