

**Northwest Area Commission on Transportation
Meeting Minutes
August 8, 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 Burris
 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 **Tony Walters***

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:

Melyssa Graper, DEQ
 Jessica Pelz, Washington Co LUT*
 Jayson Buchholz, ODOT
 Gerry Gitzen, public comment
 Rye Baerg, ODOT
 Stephanie Millar, ODOT
 Melyssa Graeper, ODEQ & RST
 Mark Buffington, ODOT*
 Bill Jablonski, ODOT
 Caroline Crisp, ODOT
 Kristi Ward, Wauna
 Arla Miller, ODOT*

*Members denoted with asterisks were in attendance.

Item 2: Consent Calendar

June 2024 Minutes were reviewed. Casey Garrett motioned to accept the minutes and Lianne Welch seconded; passed unanimously.

Item 3: Clatsop County Federal Safety Grant/TSP/Project Update

Terry Hendrix, Clatsop County Public Works, described the ongoing summer projects in Clatsop County. Mayor Wright noted the importance of traffic rule enforcement to help moderate poor driving behavior.

There was a general discussion around Highway 30 as it goes through Astoria. Astoria City Councilor Elisabeth Adams noted that Highway 30 changes are slowing people down which is not popular, but it is safer.

Bill Jablonski, ODOT, noted that the Highway 30 treatments in Astoria are tests and are being monitored closely and they continue to try to build awareness for the goals of the changes.

Don Odermott, Washington County at-large member noted that the City of Hillsboro has successfully deployed Rapid Flashing Beacons at a cost of approximately \$20,000 per crossing which is significantly less than some communities have estimated.

Craig Johnson, Sunset Empire Transit provided an update on Transit in Clatsop County and that while ridership is 80 percent of pre-shut down levels, they are only providing 40 percent of the service prior to the shutdown. Mayor Wright followed up that transit is very important to for younger people and workers in Seaside.

Item 4 Oregon Legislature Joint Transportation Listening Session -

Standing Agenda Item – District Legislators were unable to attend this meeting. The members of the ACT agreed that this agenda item will be carried over for the next NWACT meeting.

Colin Cooper noted that he had attended and actively participated in the Joint Transportation Committee’s Listening Session at the Tillamook Creamery along with several other members of the ColPac Board and NWACT. Additionally, Colin provided testimony to the Committee later in the day along with Sarah Lu Heath who testified on behalf of the NW Oregon Transit Alliance.

Walk On Agenda Item: – Ballot Measure 118 (Formerly Initiative Petition 117) – Betsy Johnson described Ballot Measure (BM) 118 the “Oregon Rebate” in detail as a “massive tax on sales” that would drive up consumer prices in Oregon and will make Oregon less competitive. The proposal is to tax corporations that have over twenty-five million in gross revenue and redistribute the funds to every Oregonian regardless of need. Betsy described that the details leave significant opportunity for the legislature to make changes in BM 118 to increase the rate of the tax and reduce the amount of funds passed through to Oregonians. Betsy also noted that the Oregon Budget office has calculated that BM 118 would reduce the states general fund because BM 118 requires that people be indemnified from any loss in benefits caused by an increase in their household income.

Walk On Agenda Item: FEMA BiOp – Member of the NWACT asked about the FEMA BiOp. Sarah Lu Heath provided a summary and described the potential impacts to economic development, housing, and

infrastructure development. Sarah Lu also described the importance of fund raising to provide a resource to stand up a legal fight to the proposed regulations and the implementation process.

Item: 5 - ODOT Connect Oregon 9 Project Recap

Commissioner Thompson noted that the project list supported by the Region Super “ACT” prioritization preserved the prioritization of the NWACT recommendation. Commissioner Thompson also noted that the Connect Oregon 9 Final Review Committee, chaired by Betsy Johnson also preserved the top two projects for the NWACT, which included the Columbia Bar Pilots Wave Buoy Project and the Port of Columbia County Beaver Dock Seismic Design and Engineering Study. Additionally, the final project list approved by the Final Review Committee included several other key projects for ODOT Region 2 including Salem to Woodburn Railroad Upgrade and Oakridge Airport Upgrades. The Port of Astoria Pier 2 project was elevated to just below the cut line so that should other projects falter it would be in line to receive funding. There is a public hearing on August 15 in which members were encouraged to participate and the OTC will decide at their meeting in September.

NWACT Business/Member Updates

Commissioner Thompson described recent work on the Jurisdictional Transfer Committee and that it was ongoing.

Kathy Kleczek with DLCD speaking on behalf of her role with the TGM program reminded members that she had a summary list of the TGM applications if people wanted to see what projects were proposed and would potentially be funded.

Councilor Marsha Kirk mentioned the development of the Qual Valley Golf Course was moving forward with recent City Council action. She suggested with a new member Tony Walters he had an update he would like to share.

Tony Walters – said thank you and he was glad to be joining the group but did not have anything additional to share with the group.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

