

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

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

Clatsop County

Commission (v)
Commission (a)
Large City (v)
Large City (a)
Small City (v)
Small City (a)
Citizen-at-Large
Citizen-at-Large

Mark Kujala*
Terry Hendryx*
Elisabeth Adams*

Steve Wright*

Kathy Kleczek*
John Nygaard*

Columbia County

Commission (v)
Commission (a)
Large City (v)
Large City (a)
Small City (v)
Small City (a)
Citizen-at-Large
Citizen-at-Large

Casey Garrett*
Mike Russell*

Dave Sukau*
Bob Brajcich
Scott Jorgenson*
Rosemary Lohrke*
Betsy Johnson*

Tillamook County

Commission (v)
Commission (a)
Large City (v)
Large City (a)
Small City (v)
Small City (a)
Citizen-at-Large
Citizen-at-Large

Doug Olson*
Chris Laity*
Aaron Burris
Nathan George
Lianne Welch*
David McCall*

Patrick McHugh*

Washington County

Commission (v)
Commission (a)
Large City (v)
Large City (a)
Small City (v)
Small City (a)
Citizen-at-Large
Citizen-at-large

Jerry Willey*
Stacy Shetler*

Jolynn Becker*
Marsha Kirk*

Don Odermott*
vacant

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***

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:

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

*Members denoted with asterisks were in attendance.

Item 2: August 2024 NWACT Minutes/Public 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 elevate 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. Contracting is underway.
- 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 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.