

**SOUTH CENTRAL OREGON AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Date: July 11, 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: 317 South 7th St., Second Floor, Room 227, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Board Members Present:

X John Elliott	X Brad Winters	X Ray Simms	X Frank Villagrana
<input type="checkbox"/> Al Switzer	<input type="checkbox"/> Ernie Palmer	X Jeff Ball	X Larry Holzgang
X Butch Hansen	X Mike Stinson	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Brown	<input type="checkbox"/> Ken Kestner
<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Shoun	<input type="checkbox"/> Jared Hall	<input type="checkbox"/> Caro Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/> Dale Roberts
X Randal Norris	<input type="checkbox"/> Betty Tyree	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Cobb	<input type="checkbox"/> Gary Zeig
<input type="checkbox"/> Senator Whitsett	<input type="checkbox"/> Rhonda Lyon		

Staff:

<input type="checkbox"/> Deanna Redd	<input type="checkbox"/> Shilo Ogilvie	X Christina Ingram	X Betty Riley
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Partners:

Public:

Meeting Called to Order at: 10:04 **by:** Brad Winters, Chair

Introductions – Roll Call:

Area Member Reports:

- Brad Winters updated the Board on Lake Co projects – the property owner on Industrial Lane was not agreeable to losing their driveway access – it has been long enough that it is grandfathered in.
- Ray Simms wanted to know about the ODOT meeting advertised at 513 N First St., two doors down from Town Hall – he let Butch and Mike know the room only holds about 20 people. It is an Open House, for people to come meet the ODOT staff.
- Ray had a second question regarding the application before the Planning Commission on the M Street extension to N Street. They don't have the written opinion from ODOT yet and they have to have it to proceed. Mike is to check on that and call Ray – he thinks it was already sent out.

Area Manager's Report:

mp = Mile Post

ROW = Right of Way

- Working on the Drews Creek Fish Passage project.
- Highway 140 to Klamath Falls is continuing well
- The Forest Highway program applications are out

District Manager's Report:

- Completed all chip sealing projects – 35 miles in all
- They had to cut 12 miles of projects including Bly to the Klamath County line. Oil prices have gone from about \$4.00 a gallon in the Spring to \$5.80's by the time of work commencing.

- This is the first time they have been able to do this so it is 35 miles more than in the past 10 years and is a big improvement
- With summer, the patching projects are starting – the cost of oil is cutting into this program as well.
- They have done a lot of crack sealing projects so far this year
- Butch had a comment for the Board on the cost of oil impacting projects – paving on the 16 miles on the 140 project near Medford has increased \$900,000 since the bid in February. Brad agreed with the problems with the cost of oil – Lake County has experienced it with their projects already this year – He asked Mike and Butch if ODOT has any plans to redo the Ski Hill project where the chip sealing failed – the answer was not at this time – there is no budget for it.
- Mike updated the Board on the cuts made in his budget this year – he had to cut \$500,000. He did it by eliminating five positions and giving up some equipment. They will be using seasonal employees to keep winter service levels. He did keep the equipment for winter, and the multiuse equipment. They will see a hit in efficiency since the specialized equipment was given back.
- The Board wanted to know if the 5 positions were lay-offs, or were they able to be done thru attrition – Mike was able to cover all 5 of the losses thru attrition.

Discussion of Klamath County Letter and Projects List:

Ray Simms started the discussion by inquiring about the funds from ODOT to help the Counties with the loss of Secure Rural Schools funding.

Stan Strickland from Klamath County Public Works is here before the Board to present the Klamath County project list. The information they have received on the funding from SB994 says that the County is to receive funds from ODOT and they are to bring a project list to the ACT for review. Stan and the Board reviewed the list (see attached handout for project specifics)

- Butch noted the Foothills Blvd project called for overlay with fabric – he has heard of the process but does not have direct experience with it – he wanted to know if the County had already used the process – Stan said it works well – Butch asked if he could come and give a presentation to the ACT regarding it?
- Ray Simms wanted to know if ODOT assisted Klamath County in this process? No – Stan developed the list independent of ODOT –
- The Board wanted to know if there was a deadline for this process – the “drop dead” time is for the Legislature in April – Stan requested a letter by August 14 –
- The Board had some additional discussion of the cost to chip seal – last year Klamath County paid \$300 per ton for gravel – this year it is \$500 per ton.
- Larry Holzgang said he had hoped to see the Wings Way from Homedale to the airport on this list.
- Jeff Ball commented that he would like to see some projects with benefit back to ODOT from these funds – particularly since they are losing the funds from their budget.
- Jeff asked if the County also planned to consult with the City on this list – Stan said there is already a letter to Mayor Kellstrom.
- Jeff noted that the Loosely project has indirect benefit to ODOT – were other projects considered with indirect benefit to ODOT – Stan said replacing Third bridge on Sprague River Hwy where it is the ODOT overlimit/overlength route.
- Brad liked Jeff’s idea to assist ODOT – he wanted to know if Stan had other discussions with ODOT besides coming to the ACT – Yes he and Rick (ODOT planner) reviewed the upcoming projects list for ODOT – none of the County’s priority projects are important to the upcoming ODOT projects.
- Brad called for any additional questions or comments –

- Butch commented that he would like an update from AOC – where they are with this process – they seem to have a better information stream regarding SB994 than he does.
- John Elliott wanted to know if a formal motion was needed for the letter – the Board consensus was it would be appropriate.

Moved: John Elliott, Second: Larry Holzgang, to authorize the Chair of the ACT to submit a letter to the Chair of the Klamath County Board of Commissioners stating that the ACT has reviewed the project list submitted by Klamath County under the guidelines of SB994 and a copy of the minutes is attached.

Discussion –

Frank Villagrana objected to a motion at this time – he wanted to review the project list from Lake County as well before consenting to a motion.

Jeff Ball explained that this list covers the plans from Klamath County for their portion of the funds – Lake County would submit a list at a future ACT for their portion of the funds.

Frank consented to the motion.

Vote Called

Ayes : All Nays: None

Motion Carried

Connect Oregon II overview of Selection Process:

We had one project funded – the Lake County Railroad – the Klamath Northern Railroad is number 31 on the list – they top 30 were funded. Butch has had a discussion with Teddie Baker from ODOT – having that project at 31 means it has the possibility to get funded if something else falls off the funded list –

Discussion:

- Brad expressed he was very frustrated with the process – we were told there were to be two pots of money – one for Regional and one for Statewide significance – when they got to Portland the Statewide significance disappeared. We had set up our priority list based on the idea of the two pots so the Klamath Falls airport project wasn't on the list for the Region – it was on the Statewide list. He noted that other Regions seemed to be prepared for this and had arrived with two sets of lists – one based on one pot and one if there were two.
- Jeff Ball informed the Board that the City plans to go for Federal Earmark funds for the airport improvements and doesn't plan to involve ODOT.
- John Elliott said he doesn't want to see the same shenanigans as what happened in Portland that if something drops off, project 31 gets bumped down the list for a lower project to get funded.
- Butch noted it has a similar process from the OTC – but, if the project that dropped off was for less than the funding of this project, he is not sure if they would offer partial funding, or fully fund a lesser priority project.

Approval of Past Meetings Minutes:

Christina had noted in several of the past meetings, approval of the minutes was postponed so the Board has minutes from the February 20, 2008, May 19, 2008, and June 13, 2008 meetings to approve. The Board noted that they had received these minutes before and had ample opportunity to review them.

Moved: John Elliott, Second: Ray Simms, To approve the minutes of the February 20, May 19, and June 13, 2008 meetings as presented.

Ayes: All Nays: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment:

None

Other Business: Christina has received a request from Teddie Baker to have the meeting in September be the full Board meeting – they would like to come give the final presentation on the Highway 140 study. This would mean the next meeting will be an Executive teleconference, and the September teleconference would be the full Board meeting in Lakeview.

The Board agreed to the changes.

Next Meeting: August 18, 2008 Executive Teleconference

Adjourned: 11:12 by: Brad Winters, Chair