

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

Date: June 13, 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: 317 South 7th St., Second Floor, Room 220, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Board Members Present:

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

Staff:

Deanna Redd Shilo Ogilvie X Christina Ingram X Betty Riley

Partners: X Mike Stinson, X Pat Fisher, X Travis Brouwer

Public:

Meeting Called to Order at: 10:02 **by:** John Elliott, Chair

Introductions – Roll Call:

Due to losing Quorum Minutes were postponed to next meeting –

Election of Officers:

Nominations for Chair: Due to Chair requirement being a commissioner and rotating the chair between counties, it is Lake County's turn for Chair. Discussion was for Brad Winters to be Chair.

Moved: Dan Shoun, Second: Ken Kestner, to nominate Brad Winters to be the Chair of the ACT

Discussion – A question from the Board about whether Dan Shoun as the Chair of the EDD Board was the Chair of the ACT – they are two separate Boards with separate Bylaws or Charters – in the past it has been the same person, but that is not a requirement – Dan said he was good with Brad being the Chair of the ACT.

Vote Called

Ayes : All Nays: None

Motion Carried

Nominations for Vice Chair – Al Switzer

Moved: John Elliott, Second: Ken Kestner, to nominate Al Switzer to be the Vice Chair of the ACT

Discussion – None

Vote Called:

Ayes: All Nays: None

Motion Carried

Presentation of Transportation Enhancement Program and overview of Selection Process:

Pat Rogers Fisher gave the Board an overview of the Transportation Enhancement (TE) program and the selection process. It is run like a competitive grant process. Projects can be stand alone or part of another project. We have two applications from this area.

1. Small Mammal Crossing Highway 140
2. Bonanza Visitor Center

Where we are now – is the review/ranking of all projects. At the end of September the list will be cut to 30 projects that will be forwarded to the Transportation Commission. There are a lot of good projects submitted and funded through this program.

Discussion:

Does Pat have an idea of how many projects have been done in this area? The OC&E conversion, Lakeview Downtown Streetscape, also approved and in development is the City of Klamath Falls pedestrian walkway enhancement from the Train Depot to the Bus Station (Shuttle) and on up to Main Street.

Pat is also the staff for the Forest/Highway interface program – she gave the Board an overview of the program and brought applications to submit for funding.

Discussion of TE continued:

Jeff wanted to know what is the funding prospect with the ODOT budget shortfalls – it is secured through 2009, there are projects selected through 2011.

Bill Brown had a question and cited Bonanza project as a good example – who is responsible for upkeep and maintenance of completed projects? – It depends, generally it is the applicant unless they have specifically negotiated with ODOT for that. Mike Stinson informed the Board that ODOT just widened the shoulders through town with Bike quick fix funds and the Town has plans for lights and planters.

Discussion of Forest/Highway interface program:

What roads are eligible? – The program addresses roads that lead to or through National Forest. It can be for roads not in the Forest Service jurisdiction – it can be that Forest use brings a lot of traffic to the road. To get a road into the program – it has to be nominated.

The call for projects is now through July 28.

There was discussion of a specific project already on the list – the ACT Board and Klamath County Government representatives were not aware the project had been bumped down in order to be completed. There were questions of who made this call – there are three votes, the other two were Forest Service and Federal Highway program staff. Mike Stinson explained that the funds in this program move quite often – there was another project that if it could be moved forward it gained \$ 6 million.

There was a feeling from ODOT staff that the County did not have additional resources to put into the project at this time – the County was concerned that the decision was made without even asking them if this was the case. John Elliott asked which project is more likely to get funded – one that has unlimited funding support, or one that has \$XX to commit?

Discussion ended with Butch and Pat to get an update of this project out to the Board

Presentation of ODOT Earmark policy and requirements:

Travis Brouwer gave the Board an overview of the ODOT Earmark policy – since ODOT is overbudget and cutting projects they want to make sure everyone knows that they will not agree to provide match to any earmark they don't request. Communities are able to request on their own, but ODOT is not obligated to provide match unless they have agreed to the earmark in advance. Travis explained the process and what potential funding may be available. ODOT is trying to develop the “Best Projects” list to give to the Oregon Congressional Delegation. They are trying to get at least one or two (up to five) projects from each area to look at.

The Board entered into discussion of potential projects: Deadlines for project submission – preliminary review is due by July 7th – finalize the list in September – November/December approve the list to send to the congress in January.

Highway 97 and Algoma – Butch needs to have UPRR cooperation to move past scoping phase
Highway 97 Passing Lanes – Butch proposed adding two passing lanes, the Board also inquired about extension of two of the existing lanes – Butch is to look at that.

Dougherty – Lake County sees that as a number one priority

Highway 140 - Frank Villagrana would like to see the ACT put all of the focus to Hwy 140 and removal of length restrictions on the entire route.

Bly Mtn. and Beatty Curve – Bill Brown suggested bundling this project for an earmark

Travis suggested the Board show priority and scaling in each project in case it could be partly funded, what would that allow for?? – The Board wanted to know if support from our bordering counties would help (the Hwy 97 passing lanes will be as helpful for Deschutes as for Klamath) – Travis said more support is always better.

There was discussion of the Homedale Interchange project – the City of Klamath Falls is interested in separating out Wings Way and making a Southside Bypass project to pick off small projects off of STIP.

Butch to put proposal together for:

Dougherty

Beatty Curves & Bly Mountain – Beatty is priority in that project

Highway 97 passing lanes – one each at mp 230 & 178 and extension of existing lanes ½ mile each

Priority for 140 is Beatty/Bly

Only Priority for 97 is passing lanes.

Our (Klamath) Board of County Commissioners will be asking neighboring counties for letters of support.

Welcome to New Member

Randy Norris is the replacement for Terry Carroll – he was the manager for Kmart for the past 8 years.

Area Manager's Report:

mp = Mile Post

ROW = Right of Way

- ◆ Highway 140 near Medford has work ongoing with 24 hour flagging – to mp 18 – expect up to 20 minute delays.
- ◆ They have started on the Drews Creek fish passage project.
- ◆ Our next meeting is an Executive ACT meeting on July 11 – it is a teleconference.
- ◆ Butch spoke to the Environmental person regarding Senator Whitsetts' question about introduction of Salmon – due to the sucker fish listing – ODOT is already meeting the guidelines for reviews for endangered species

Area Member Reports:

- Betty brought up the NADO Rural Transportation Conference – it is a good program
- July 2nd the Assistant Secretary to the EDA will be in Lake and Klamath Counties.

Public Comment:

None

Adjourned: 11:50 **by:** John Elliott, Chair