

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

Date: September 25, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: 317 S 7th Street, 2nd Floor Klamath Falls, OR (Post Office

Board Members Present: = by phone

X Brad Winters	X Al Switzer	X John Elliott	?Cheryl Hukill?	Ken Kestner
?Dan Shoun	X Butch Hansen	?Frank Villagrana	?Tom Chester	?Mark Douglas
? Jeff Ball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ray Simms	? Betty Tyree	? Mark Cobb	X Malin - Dave Caska
? Rhonda Lyon	?Larry Holzgang	X Ernie Palmer	? Jared Hall	? Caro Johnson
? Chip Massie	?Randy Norris	? Derek Martin		
? Senator Whitsett	? Representative Gilman		? Representative Garrard	

Staff:

?Deanna Wilson ? Shilo Spurlock X Christina Ingram ?Betty Riley X Pamela Ruddock

Partners:

X Mike Stinson ?Trey Senn ? Devin Hearing
X Stan Strickland

Public:

X Robert Maestre – ODOT – Tolling Presentation

Meeting Called to Order at: 10:10 a.m. **by:** Brad Winters, Chair

Introductions – Roll Call:

Review and Accept Minutes of June 19 and August 21, 2009:

The Board reviewed the minutes of June 19, 2009 and August 21, 2009 meetings. Minutes for June were provided for the August meeting, acceptance was postponed due to lack of quorum.

Moved: John Elliott, Second: Ernie Palmer, to accept the minutes as presented.

Ayes: All Nays: None

Motion Carried

Area Member's Reports:

*Brad Winters, Lake County – Lake County has hired a consultant for the TIGER grant for the railroad and that grant application has been turned in. The grant request is for \$18 million. Klamath County helped to pay for the consultant. This is for the Lake County to Alturas Railroad that will connect Modoc County, Siskiyou County, Lake County and Klamath County. We're very optimistic. Won't know anything until February 2010 whether we got the grant. Lake County has received \$1.7 million in stimulus money for Fort Rock overlay and Christmas Valley. Brad also wanted to thank Betty and SCOEDD staff for helping with the TIGER grant.

*Al Switzer, Klamath County –Klamath County road shop is progressing, concrete has been poured to erect the lean to– they are on target. The footings for the lead shop (Phase I and II) are in. Stan Strickland stated that the well fields are complete and the cite work has been progressing. There is a lot of behind the scenes work going. Making sure that that fittings and conduit are the right size. Al also stated that this will be a GREEN building when completed. Ground source heat pumps with Solar panels will be installed so that

energy costs will be low. There will be some tax credits for the work being done on this building. Will be selling some of the credits back. John Elliott, Klamath County – Washburn Way paving is almost done. Al Switzer wanted to give KUDOS to ODOT for the passing lanes on Hwy 97 N. Very nice job and you kept on schedule.

*Ernie Palmer, BTS – they have 24 projects from Federal stimulus money that are almost completed. Has received stimulus monies and with that money has purchased 6 new busses with delivery in about 30 days. All will have Video surveillance installed. Ernie stated that they spending \$31,000 to replace base repeater and 18 mobile units. They currently reach to Wocus Rd, with the new system they will be able to reach Chiloquin. Improvement of the lot – Historical significance review of the lot in Mills Addition showed no historical significance and putting a roof over a parking lot will have little or no environmental impact. He has contacted a local contractor and will be moving forward on this project. John wanted to know the cost for the Historical review. Ernie stated that there was no cost. He also wanted this board to know that they have a surplus of equipment and is willing to transfer to another government entity at little or no cost. Will be creating a catalog of items and get it out to everyone. ODOT has sent information that the State Legislator has \$10 million in general funds for transportation projects for person with disabilities and the elderly. Has \$182,000 for operating projects and \$380,000 for capital projects (federal monies) to increase service for persons with disabilities and the elderly. Lots of opportunities in transportation for Disabled and Seniors. Brad wanted to know if there was funding for Lake County. Yes. Brad stated that there is a need in Lake County for elderly persons wanting to make the trip over to Klamath Falls. Ernie stated that it's usually an "on demand" service for Lake County.

*Ray Simms, Town of Lakeview – Stimulus has been spent on the N 2nd Street project (sidewalks and curbs). They have applied for another Small Cities grant for \$25,000 for work on N 2nd street to the Railroad. They will know in spring whether or not they got the money.

Area Manager Report:

Butch, ODOT – Hwy 140/Lake of the Woods, Gilchrist to LaPine, and Bly are all projects that are wrapping up. These will be considered GREEN roads. Used "warm" asphalt on the Gilchrist to LaPine project. Chip Sealing will happen next year because we're running out of season. John Elliott asked if Hwy 97 N was too smooth. Butch stated the reasoning for it being smoother was that they are using a smaller rock in the "C" mix so that there is not so much space on the asphalt and not a lot of damage by studded tires. Mike Stinson, ODOT stated that it just looks smoother the way that it's finished off. Butch stated that MP 262 at Hagelstein on Hwy 97 N has gone out for bid. Project will start in November. Al Switzer asked about the Bly sidewalks? Butch stated that it should be done by the first week in October and that the Market there had put in a walkway. He also stated that ODOT did a lot of public outreach in Bly. That it is a small rural community with 3 competing markets. John Elliott stated that he had gotten a call regarding an almost head-on collision on Hwy 39 just ¼ mile south of Wong Rd. that there is no double striping out there. Mike Stinson stated that Regional is coming down and will have them take a look. Al Switzer stated that the Southside Bypass has asphalt all over the road way at the Hwy 97 ramp. ODOT will look into who is doing paving out there and get it taken care of.

Tolling Presentation:

Robert Maestre of ODOT gave a presentation on tolling. Spoke about the pros and cons of putting in toll roads in Oregon. The main discussion was of Hwy 97 N and how tolling could be effective. Robert said there are four reasons for tolling a roadway – Congestion, to Raise Money, Help the Environment, and Help the Economy. Robert stated that tolling is charging a fee for use of roads and changing behaviors of drivers. Butch Hansen stated that there would need to be communication between California and Washington State about Hwy 97 N in making this an interstate highway. Robert stated that the information at this meeting will be added to his report. The general consensus was that at this point, there just is not enough traffic on 97 to make tolling work on this highway.

Discussion of Connect Oregon III:

Butch Hansen, ODOT – Spoke about Connect III – application is available on-line. The application process opens on October 1 and closes on November 20th. Regional review is expected to be around March 2010. Al Switzer stated that there needs to be follow through and that this body needed to set priorities for the State for the Oregon Connect III. Butch stated that he believes that Rail and Air will be the priorities. Dave Caska, Malin Airport stated that they are looking at improvements at the Malin airport that include parking and paving. The City just paid \$26,000 to put in a gravel base. This is one of the major assets for the City of Malin. Currently this airport handles light and ultra-light aircraft and needs developing. John Elliott asked what the cost would be for paving. Dave stated that it was unknown at this time. Butch and Mike asked for specs for this project of which Dave gave (60' wide x 2800' long x 4" deep). It was estimated that asphalt alone would cost \$330,000.

Al stated that there is supposed to be four “cross walk” facilities going in Klamath County and was told that this would be a part of the Connect III project. Butch stated that the State was still trying to figure things out and had not heard anything about this but will check into it.

John Elliott suggested that this body continue to pursue Phase II of Chemult as a part of the Connect III. Paving of parking lot? Butch understands that Amtrak is going to pay for Station and Sidewalks. John stated that the County has received \$200,000 for the paving the strip between the station and the loading dock as part of Phase II of the Chemult project. The ODOT in-house and consultant review period is December 1, 2009 through January 22, 2010. The Modal Committee review period is February 1, 2010 through March 15, 2010 and the Regional committee review period is March 24, 2010 through May 5, 2010. OTC approval of projects will be at the August, 2010 OTC meeting. Mike stated that after the consultant review (December 1, 2009 through January 22, 2010) the ACT would be contacted for additional information. During the consultant review, they are looking for completeness and benefits of the project information. Rail and aviation have to look at the information.

Al asked Butch for clarification of the Rural Development and Oregon Transportation Issues the adoption of the Rule. Butch said it was to add the Airport Rule. Butch stated that he has sent everything that he knows on this project. Butch stated that he has tried to contact Ted but has gotten no response.

Butch also stated that the Chair and Vice-Chair of this body be the SCOACT representatives for Connect III for all discussion on Connect III (Brad Winters/Chair and Al Switzer/Vice-Chair). Al stated that they needed to be at the table when items are presented so that our area is represented.

Motion that the Chair and Vice-Chair of this body be the representatives for Connect III process:

Moved: John Elliott, Second: Ernie Palmer, to accept the Chair and Vice-Chair to be the representatives for all discussion on Connect III.

Ayes: All Nays: None

Motion Carried

Brad Winters, Lake County said that they are through the process on Connect II for the rail line and have signed contracts. Stated that there is a 20% match which is \$160,000 from the Ruby pipeline and the project will start in the fall. Total for the project is \$810,000. John Elliott asked if any of that would be CDBG. Brad stated not at this time.

Discussion of 2010 – 2013 STIP:

Region 4 Potential MODERNIZATION Projects table was presented. All Tier I projects are priorities. Tier II are not funded but are priorities. Butch stated that the LaPine Traffic Signal project and the Gilchrist passing lanes that used to be in Tier I will now be moved to Tier II. They are still priorities but they are currently unfunded. He also wanted to let the group know that Tier II items are still priorities and that they are currently in Tier II as a “holding pattern”. Al Switzer asked if the roundabouts have been funded. Brad

Winters stated that they would know on Monday. Mike Stinson stated that there is \$1.4 million that has been freed up and that \$851,000 will be used for “signal software”. This software will count vehicles to minimize time vehicles will spend an intersection. Signals are networked with one another and are always assimilating. John asked about the Gettle St signal. Mike stated this is an antiquated signal and needs to be replaced. There was discussion that the Fire Department would be moving but now that is not a possibility as they have not received any monies. Mike also stated that they will be placing a hot chip seal on 97. There is \$2.5 million for additional hot chip seal Modoc at Shady Pine. They are looking to seal Shady Pines to the California border. Mike also stated that chip sealing is a big deal and will eat up a lot of money. They are being very careful of all estimating. Butch stated that most of the projects on this list are in our area. Ernie stated that there is \$10 million for Transit and is hoping this money will be used for roads. Mike said that there is \$800,000 for Adel chip sealing. This will be from 28 to 38 and also 15 miles at MP55 to MP 72 in Lake County.

Next Meeting: ACT Exec Committee

Date: October 16, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Teleconference

Adjourned: 12:20 p.m. **by:** Brad Winters, Chair

MP = mile post

ROW = right-of-way