

Minutes of Meeting
May 2, 2024 9:00 AM
3012 Island Ave.
La Grande OR
Virtual MS Teams

Members and Alternates present:

Nolan Perkins, Barry Murphy, Commissioner Jeff Wenholz, Eric Imes, Jacob Cain, Brandon Hammond, Byron Smith, Commissioner Dan Dorrان, Ben Burgener, Tom Fellows, Commissioner Paul Anderes, Dough Wright, Kyle Carpenter, Commissioner Susan Roberts, Larry Wightman, Patty Perry, Justin Northern, Dani Schulte, Mavis Hartz,

Guests Present:

OTC Commission Jeff Baker, Andy Gomez, Andy Lindsey, Maureen Bock, Bruce Carswell, Curtis Butterfield, Haley Walker, Mansee Chauhan, Wade Rynearson, Courtney Crowell, Justin Walker, David Van Atta,

ODOT Staff:

Sheri Folsom, Michelle Owen, Ken Patterson, Sean Maloney, Jen Bachman, Vicki Moles, Angie Jones, Jane Kerr, Jillian Trinkaus

Opening Meeting:

- Commissioner Susan Roberts called the meeting to order
- Roll call of voting members – Quorum present
- Announcements: N/A
- May Minutes: Hold over until July meeting for approval

Public and/or Stakeholders Comments: If Any:

Standing Items & Reports:

OTC/Regional Updates – Ken Patterson

- ✓ The May OTC meeting will be held in Ontario on May 8th & 9th. They will be touring project sites on the 8th. One of the main topics of discussion will be rebalancing the STIP. Both the Punkin Center and Hwy 11 projects have been moved out a year. Design and engineering will continue
- ✓ With the addition of funding the repainting of fogs line will start soon in Grant County
- ✓ Chip Sealing will begin next month

Construction Update – Sean Maloney

- ✓ There are 25 projects for \$187M
 - OR 82
 - I82-I84 from Umatilla to Pendleton

- 10th St. and Hughes Lane upgrades
- I82 exit 216 has been awarded, construction to begin this summer
- Pendleton signal upgrades, phase 2
- Morgan Lake safety road improvements
- Signal upgrades in Baker and Union Co.
- Eastern Oregon roadside weather and roadside cameras, 18 new locations
- La Grande to Baker City sign upgrades
- VSL by Durkee
- Multiple ADA projects

Local Program Update: Michelle Owen

- ✓ SCA: Same rules this year, must close out previous grants, max \$250,000. Next round June-July applications
- ✓ Project progress: Irrigon HB2017 wrapping up this month, 3 local bridge projects moving forward in design, Pendleton is working on the Goad Rd/SE Kirk connector road for housing access, Umatilla County in the beginning phase of River Trail and Ontario 5th Ave sidewalks have started

RST Update – Courtney Crowell

- ✓ The B2H discussions are ongoing, regarding the impacts
- ✓ Wildlife Crossing Project has not yet started
- ✓ Governor Kotek was in NE Oregon visiting the CTUIR and Thorn Hollow Bridge project
- ✓ RST is refreshing the Advisory Committee and is looking for new people to become involved

Transit Update – Angie Jones

- ✓ 5 Agencies that submitted 5310/5339/vehicle replacement grants-the applications are being scored currently and an announcement should be going out in June/July on awards
- ✓ STIF Discretionary/STIF Intercommunity/5311(f) grants will open in June. STIF Formula and 5310/5311 Formula will open in August
- ✓ ACTs will be asked to review the STIF D & STIF IC grants this Fall
- ✓ Agencies have received multiple notices about new grant opportunities separate from the previously mentioned grants. Some agencies are choosing to apply for these additional funds, including through the Innovative Mobility Program

New Business

Connect Oregon Grant Presentations

- ✓ Grant Co. Airport Fuel Upgrade – Haley Walker
This project aims to ensure a steady supply of fuel to meet the demand from various sectors including general aviation, fire aviation suppression, medical transport aviation, and residential consumers
 - Replace two fuel tanks on the main ramp apron
 - Removing and decommissioning two existing underground fuel tanks

- Acquisition and installation of two new, larger 15,000 gallon capacity fuel storage tanks
- ✓ Burns UAS Range Infrastructure and Development

The airport offers an attractive area for UAS testing because of the remote privacy and very few flight operations. Infrastructure is needed to serve these customers such as:

 - 3 concrete and 3 gravel launch pads for safe launching & landing
 - Power at each launch pad for charging & powering drones & related equipment
 - High-speed internet at each launch pad for data transmission & communication
 - Water at each launch pad
- ✓ Oregon Eastern Railroad – Bruce Carswell
 - Project overview – 1 mile of rail upgrade from MP 21.5 to 22.5, track rehab consisting of installing 1400 rail ties, 750 tons of ballast.
 - Funding requested from Connect Oregon is \$657,380 with OERR matching with \$456,824
 - Eliminating 31% of remaining 75-pound rail on the western end of the line is critical. Capacity expansion allows 286,000 pound railcars to be extended from MP 21.5 to MP 22.5
 - Safety Enhancements raise the track class from excepted to Class I and reduces the risk of derailments in the Vale yard
- ✓ Ontario Airport Project – Andy Wood
 - Staged Development – West side install 4,505' of 7' chain link around the perimeter and remove 4' chain link which is funded by the City of Ontario. East side will involve expanding jet parking apron, BLM Way Road & utilities and East perimeter fence and access gate project

ODOT Budget/Transportation Funding/Legislative Lead Up – Ken Patterson

- ✓ With the tolling project off of the table, ODOT now has a gap to fill with funding
- ✓ Legislative Joint Committee will be touring Oregon this summer holding Town Halls to discuss the shortfall. They will be in Ontario on August 28th and Hermiston on August 29th
- ✓ ODOT has hired a third-party consultant to review how ODOT is managing their funds

Road Usage Charging – Maureen Bock

- ✓ Oregon's economy depends on a good transportation system. It is more affordable to maintain transportation infrastructure than it is to rebuild it.
- ✓ Future fuels tax revenue is declining while we are experiencing a record inflation rate
- ✓ A road usage charge is a return to the "user pays" approach
- ✓ The first RUC program in the US went live in 2015. The rate is set at 5% of fuel tax in law-equivalent to 20 mpg vehicle. Volunteers pay 2 cents per mile and receive a non-refundable credit for fuel tax paid. Vehicles over 40mpg do not pay tiered registration fees if they join OReGO
- ✓ Proposed RUC bill (HB3297) requires vehicles rated at 30mpg or greater to enroll in OReGO, starting July 1, 2027

Innovative Mobility Program – Bridgette Bottinelli

- ✓ Oregon Transportation Commission approved \$20M for the creation of the program in 2022. \$10M Federal and \$10M State. Microgrants use state funding and are a portion of the overall IMP funding strategy
- ✓ Program objectives are to improve historically underserved groups' access to public and active transportation, reduce the number of drive-alone trip and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- ✓ Microgrant Projects (cycle 1) has 59 projects across Oregon and \$275,690 total funding dispersed
- ✓ Cycle 2 is accepting applications. Grants available for up to \$15,000

Roundtable:

- ✓ Commissioner Anderes noted that the Eastern Oregon Women's Coalition will be meeting June 20-21st. There is discussion about charging units at the airport and SRTS talk – beacons by schools are needed
- ✓ Commissioner Dorran stated that the Hwy 11 Safety project has received a grant to move forward. They are starting on their TSP
- ✓ Wallowa County has a crew of eleven (11) employees where previously there were about twenty (20) employees and are doing a good job
- ✓ Bike/Ped – Mavis states that E-Bikes are selling more than everything else and she is seeing more visitors stopping and riding in the local area
- ✓ CTUIR- SRTS projects have started. Kayak is looking for a program manager. JD Tovey has been promoted to the Executive Director position
- ✓

Meeting adjourned 12:00pm

Next meeting will be a joint ACT meeting on July 25, 2024

Location TBD