

South East Area Commission on Transportation *Grant, Harney, and Malheur Counties*

BOARD MINUTES
May 30, 2024
Hybrid meeting VIA TEAMS Meeting
Grant County Regional Airport

Board Members Present:

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Grant County: | Harney County: | Malheur County: | At Large Positions: |
| Jim Hamsher | Rick Paul | Judge Dan Joyce | |
| Haley Walker | | Mike McLaughlin | |
| Bryan Montague | | Jim Maret | |

State/Regional Agencies:

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Ken Patterson, Region Manager ODOT | Michelle Owen ODOT LAL |
| Sheri Folsom, Executive Support Specialist | Vicki Moles, PIO |
| Angie Jones, Transit, ODOT | |
| Sean Maloney, Area Manager | |

Guests:

Chantal City of Mt. Vernon
Justin Walker
Kim Curley
Devin Montgomery
Andy Perry
Kathleen Cathey
Alesa Molyneux
Brittany White

Presenters:
Jeff VanSchaick - OERR
Maureen Bock - ODOT
Toby Epler – Ontario Airport

Public and/or Stakeholder Comments: N/A

Approval of Minutes: No quorum present, move approval of minutes to July 25th meeting

Regional Updates – Ken Patterson

- Maintenance has moved into Summer activities
- Restriping of fog lines has started
- The Wildlife Crossing project discussions are ongoing with the Burns Paiute Tribe

Local Area Liaison – Michelle Owen

- SCA grant applications are open, projects up to \$250k are allowed. The application period has been extended to three (3) months.
- District Manager approval is needed if the project is butted up to a State Highway

Construction Updates – Sean Maloney

- Three (3) ADA projects will be completed this Fall
- The Roundabout at Hwy26/201 is expected to be completed by mid-July
- Hwy 95 project – Idaho State line to McDermitt, the paving is to be done this year, painting will take place next year
- I84 Benson Creek/Moores Hollow bridge projects should be completed this year
- Additional cameras will be installed in August
- Signal detection upgrades in Malheur County will begin in August

Regional Solutions – Courtney Crowell

- Oregon Solutions is working on the Wildlife Crossing project which is about to kick off
- Conversations are ongoing with ODOT Transit regarding transit needs in Malheur County
- B2H ongoing with conversations regarding issues with material sources
- RST is now 10 years old, they are refreshing the advisory committee; applications are in and the Governor will review and make decisions within the month

Transit – Angie Jones:

- Opening of the STIF Discretionary and STN grant applications has been pushed to July. Formula 5310 & 5311, as well as STIF Formula will still open in August. ACT and Qualified Entity reviews of the STIF D & STN applications will still occur between September and November. Training for this grant cycle will occur in July as well. QEs should know by the time their STIF Formula applications are due if they're likely to receive the STIF D or STN grants. Grants will still be execute for July 1, 2025 and expire June 20, 2027. QEs are able to write the STIF Formula Plans to cover 4 years instead of two, if they wish to do so. QEs cannot spend more than their plan maximum, so additional funds would rollover. This may be a reason for QEs to stay with two year plans.
- The driver shortage continues to plague many agencies, including in the SEACT area. Multiple discussions are occurring as to how PTD might be able to assist. This is a nationwide issue

Roundtable Updates:

No new items to present

New Business

Road Usage Charging – Maureen Bock ODOT

- 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

Full presentation available upon request

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

- Priority focus: Delivery of core critical services
- Investment focus: Safety and service restoration & capital improvements and modernization
- Maintain; ensure a safe system; develop a connected multimodal statewide network
- Joint Legislative tour will be Region 5 on August 28th and 29th, meetings will be in Ontario and Hermiston

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 – Haley Walker
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
 - ✓ Safety Enhancements raise the track class from excepted to Class I and reduces the risk of derailments in the Vale yard
- Ontario Airport Project – Jeff VanSchaick
 - ✓ Staged Development – Install 4,505' of 7' chain link around the West 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

Full presentations available upon request

Next meeting: Joint ACT Meeting

July 25th, 2024

OTEC

Baker City, Or

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheri Folsom

DRAFT