

SOUTH WEST AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION (SWACT)
Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2024
Teleconference

❖ Roll Call ❖

Chair Nikki Messenger called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Roll was called, and a quorum confirmed. (17 voting members present. V = voting member for this meeting. Quorum = 11 (50% of filled [currently 21] primary membership positions.)

Commission Members and Alternates in Attendance (alphabetical)

Adams, Scott	Douglas County (Alternate)	V
Alcorn, Brad	Curry County (Primary)	V
	Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	
Allaway, Julie	(Primary)	V
Baron, Tony	City of Brookings (Alternate)	V
Bernhardt, Kathryn	Transit (Primary)	V
Boyer, Brant	Douglas County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Burns, John	Freight/Rail (Primary)	V
Cheas, Cheryl	Douglas County Stakeholder (Alternate)	V
Craddock, Rodger	Aviation (Primary)	V
Dolgonas, Dick	Bicycle & Pedestrian (Primary)	V
Gilbert, Kristi	Douglas County City-At-Large (Primary)	V
Hunter, Chris	ODOT (Primary)	V
Jensen, Matthew	Coquille Indian Tribe (Primary)	V
Kutch, Ron	Coos County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Malmberg, Clayton	Curry County Stakeholder (Primary)	V
Medeiros, Brandi	Douglas County City-At-Large (Alternate)	
Messenger, Nikki	City of Roseburg (Primary)	V

ODOT Staff in Attendance

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Boardman, Jennifer | Region 3 Transit Coordinator |
| 2. Cornutt, Lisa | Region 3 Principal Planner |
| 3. DeWald, Teresa | Region 3 Local Agency Liaison |
| 4. Latham, Dan | Region 3 Public Information Officer |
| 5. Neavoll, Darrin | Region 3 Manager |
| 6. Thompson, Sarah | Region 3 Executive Analyst |
| 7. Trinkaus, Jillian | ODOT Statewide Intercity Network Coordinator |

Guests in Attendance

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Beyer, Lee | Oregon Transportation Commission Vice Chair |
| 2. Lemon, Jamie | Federal Highway Administration, Western Federal Lands Highway Division Transportation Planner |
| 3. Metz, Melissa | Coos County Area Transit |

❖ **Public Input** ❖

Melissa Metz with Coos County Area Transit requested a letter of support from the SWACT for their project called “Coos County Transit Center and Hub” for which they are applying for a \$7.8 million grant.

- **Motion made and seconded to provide a letter of support. (Rodger Craddock/Cheryl Cheas)**
- Discussion: None.
- *Motion carried.*

❖ **Approval of Minutes** ❖

- **Motion made and seconded to approve the January 12, 2024, SWACT Minutes. (Brant Boyer/Cheryl Cheas)**
- Discussion: None.
- *Motion carried.*

❖ **Membership Updates** ❖

Janell Howard is no longer with the City of Brookings. We will await a new city manager to fill that position. In addition, Ralph Dunham (Coos County Stakeholder; Alternate) will be applying to fill one of the vacant primary representative positions.

❖ **2027-2030 STIP/Great Streets 2.0** ❖

Presentation: Chris Hunter gave an overview of the 27-30 STIP funding categories and major changes. The changes include a 40% reduction in Fix-It funds, doubling of ADA funding, a 30% decrease in Public and Active Transportation funding, zeroing out Enhance and Mass Transit programs and a reduction in the elderly and disabled program. This leaves a total of \$70 million in unallocated funds. Due to budget reductions and inflation, only interstates will be paved, more bridges will be load rated, a significant reduction in asset maintenance and preservation across all modes will take place. ODOT will be more reactive versus proactive with investments. The unallocated \$70 million will be utilized for the Great Streets 2.0 program to advance safety, climate and equity outcomes in corridors and communities. The program has identified “hot spots” across Oregon that overlap top priorities for safety, bicycle and pedestrian needs, areas of high disparity, climate adaptation and mitigation, electrification, seismic resilience, preservation and operations, among other layers.

Discussion: Ron Kutch asked with the reduction of gas tax due to electric vehicles are we getting anywhere on funding through other mechanisms, and also would like to know when the ADA ramps are expected to be complete. A: ODOT is currently working on augmenting federal funding through the road user fee, OReGO and tolling. ODOT will also be seeking a

transportation package in the 25-27 legislative session. Region 3 ADA ramps will be complete in 2027. Statewide will be out to 2032. Dick Dolgonas asked what is considered “other” funding? Nikki Messenger asked if all of the \$70 million was going to the Great Streets program, and none to other “hot spot” repairs. A: Yes, all of the funding is allocated to the Great Streets program.

❖ Federal Lands Needs Assessment ❖

Presentation: Jamie Lemon with Federal Highway Administration gave an update on the Oregon Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Statewide Needs Assessment. This assessment is an opportunity to strategically plan for future FLAP investments, and promotes integrated planning. The purpose of this assessment is to effectively plan for Federal and Tribal transportation systems that are fragmented and establish a shared vision for enhanced access to Federal and Tribal lands that is in alignment with state and local transportation needs and priorities. The goal of the plan is to inform future FLAP calls for projects and align and connect transportation priorities and programs across federal, state and local jurisdictions. The next call for projects will be in 2026.

Discussion: Chris Hunter understands the assessment doesn’t guarantee funding, however, if a project is high on the list, does it give more weight for an application? A: Yes, slightly. Ron Kutch asked Jamie to drop her email in the chat. Loree Pryce used the QR code to the map and looked in Ashland and saw EV and multi-modal opportunities. She would like to know how a bike/ped representative could get involved to advocate for more projects in the region? A: Jamie suggested that if there were specific ideas, to reach out to her directly. Nikki Messenger informed Jamie that Douglas County is 70% federally owned land.

❖ SWACT Work Plan ❖

Presentation: Chris Hunter went over the final draft of the work plan and asked for a motion to approve.

- **Motion made and seconded to approve the SWACT Work Plan. (Brant Boyer/Clayton Malmberg)**
- Discussion: None.
- **Motion carried.**

Discussion: None

❖ Region 3 Construction Updates ❖

Presentation: Dan Latham gave an update on projects currently under construction in Coos, Curry and Douglas County.

1. I-5 Exit 125 NB at Garden Valley – adds a dedicated right turn lane, widens off-ramp, replaces traffic signals and pedestrian beacons, and upgrades ADA curb ramps. Estimated completion is Summer 2024.

2. Oakland Bridge – replaces one lane historic bridge with a two-lane bridge that aligns with the current roadway. Estimated completion is Summer 2024.
3. Conn Ford Bridge – replaces 1964 bridge in Melrose on same alignment. Estimated completion is Summer 2024
4. Coos Bay and North Bend Curb Ramps – will replace 113 ADA ramps on OR241 and OR541. Estimated completion is August 2024.
5. US101 East Bay Road – construction of a southbound left turn lane, addition of a northbound right turn lane and replacement of the traffic signal. Estimated completion is September 2024.
6. US101 Garrison Slough to Cemetery Loop Road – paves the highway, replaces ADA curb ramps, adds streetlights and installs pedestrian islands and beacons. Estimated completion is Spring 2024.
7. Retz Creek – will excavate slope down to the beach, place stone embankment, rebuild and pave the road in the landslide are three miles south of Port Orford.

Discussion: Ron Kutch asked about the Lucky Lane project. He saw that a bid on the project was awarded and then un-awarded? A: Chris Hunter stated the project was never awarded. We are currently looking at the scope of the project. Will cut some scope and put the project back out to bid.

❖ Region 3 Updates ❖

Presentation: Chris Hunter spoke about Region 3 on Darrin’s behalf.

Region Updates:

1. The Governor’s office and the legislature approved a \$19 million package for the biennium for maintenance.
 - a. \$8 million for winter ops (\$1.1 million to Region 3 for High Cascades, GP – Canyonville and Siskiyou)
 - b. \$7 million for fog lines (\$700,000 to Region 3 for 138E, OR99 and US101)
 - c. \$4 million for purchase of 10 yd trucks (statewide)

Funding Opportunities:

1. PROTECT Grant was submitted in November for \$70 million for the Arizona Slide. Should hear back in early Spring 2024
2. Earmarks requests are being accepted. For SW Area, we are discussing which projects to submit, but think Harbor Sidewalks may go in again.
3. RAISE Grant was submitted at the end of February for the Bullard’s Bike and Pedestrian Bridge.
4. National AOP Culvert grant is coming our way. Will be submitting for the failed culverts on US101.

OTC Updates:

1. March 13 – 14th, OTC will be in Medford
 - a. Connect Oregon
 - b. Strategic Action Plan

- c. RVACT Update
- d. Exit 27 IAMP in Rogue Valley
- e. ADA Program Updates
- f. Legislative Summary and 2025 Legislative Concept
- g. Tolling update
- h. Region Mobility Pricing update
- i. Urban Mobility update

Discussion: None

❖ **NOA's and Adjournment** ❖

Nikki Messenger adjourned the meeting at 11:32 am.

Next SWACT Meeting: Friday, May 10, 2024, at 10 am. Meeting will be virtual.