

ODOT - Oregon Transportation Commission

Meeting Summary ~ May 9, 2024 Hybrid ~ In-Person & Zoom

Recording and materials: Listen to the [recorded meeting](#) and [access all support materials](#) for details.

Commissioners Present: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Beyer, Commissioners Smith, Chapman, and Baker

Presenters: ODOT Director **Kristopher Strickler**, Transportation and Infrastructure Advisor **Kelly Brooks**, Assistant Director for Revenue, Finance and Compliance **Travis Brouwer**, UMO Director **Brendan Finn**, Policy, Data, and Analysis Division Administrator **Amanda Pietz**, Assistant Director of Government and External Relations **Lindsay Baker**, Delivery and Operations Division Administrator **Mac Lynde**, Delivery and Operations Deputy Division Administrator **Tova Peltz**, Region 5 Manager **Ken Patterson**, Region 5 Area Manager **Sean Maloney**, City Manager of Ontario **Dan Cummings**, SEACT Rep **Mike McLaughlin**, Region 1 Manager **Rian Windsheimer**, Region 1 Project Delivery Manager **Matt Freitag**, DMV Administrator **Amy Joyce**, and Public Transportation Division Administrator **Suzanne Carlson**.

Public Testimony: Three individuals provided virtual testimony; One individual provided testimony in-person, written comments are available on the [OTC website](#).

Decisions/Actions:

- **Motion Approved:** Consent Agenda en bloc; 1st Beyer, 2nd Baker, approved unanimously
- **Motion Approved:** Approve a Construction Authorization Increase from \$514,800,000 to \$600,000,000 for a total increase of \$85,200,000 for Construction of I-205: I-5 to OR213, Phase 1A (Abernethy Bridge) project – 1st Smith, 2nd Beyer, approved unanimously.
- **Motion Approved:** Approve adding \$15,388,672 to the OR217 project which includes \$11.9M from the cancellation of the I-5: Capitol Highway – OR217 construction phase (K22719) and \$3.5M in Bridge Program Funds – 1st Smith, 2nd Chapman – approved unanimously.
- **Motion Approved:** Approve the recommendation to adjust projects in the 2024-2027 STIP to align with forecasted annual federal and state funds – 1st Smith, 2nd Beyer – approved unanimously.

Agenda Item Summaries (in the order heard, adjusted mid-meeting for time):

- **Agenda A - Chair's Report:** Chair Brown thanked Region 5 for hosting the Commission and commented on the tour that occurred the day prior.
- **Agenda B - Public Comment:** Three individuals provided virtual testimony; One individual provided testimony in-person.
- **Agenda C – Director's Report:** ODOT Director Kris Strickler thanked Region 5 for hosting the Commission. Director Strickler highlighted the DMV printer outage that occurred on Monday, April 22nd, around 8:00am. A large ODOT Information Services and DAS Information Services team was brought in to help address the outage, and verified systems were up and working properly by Thursday. ODOT and the Vendor are working on an After-Action Report. Director Strickler also highlighted the Region 4 Manager Hire, Tiffany Johnson, who will officially join the agency starting on May 28th. Ms. Johnson most recently served as a regional director of Operations in one of the world's largest transportation companies.
 - Transportation and Infrastructure Advisor Kelly Brooks gave an update on the Joint Committee on Transportation's (JCT) work on an outreach plan to prepare for the 2025 Transportation Package. The Senate President, Speaker, and Governor sent a letter to the JCT informing that they see the need for a transportation funding package and would like to focus on maintenance and safety along with engaging with the communities on their needs. The JCT is scheduling tour stops that will be occurring between June-September 2024 throughout the state.
 - **Consent agenda:** 1st Beyer, 2nd Baker– unanimously approved en bloc
- **Agenda D – Committee Updates:**
 - **Commissioner Baker** spoke about the Travel Information Council (TIC) and its need for a new Executive Director. The TIC expects to have a new director appointed within 90 days and have an interim director in place. Region 1 ACT has a new chairman, Paul Savas, who is replacing Roy Rogers. Baker commended Roy Rogers and his work. Baker commented on the recent NEACT meeting, which included a discussion about Connect Oregon among other topics.
 - **Commissioner Smith** spoke about the Continuous Improvement Advisory Committee (CIAC) and their upcoming meeting on May 15th. The committee is still looking for an additional committee member. The CIAC is reviewing issues of strategic and operational importance.
 - **Chair Brown** noted that the ACT Chairs recently met and are working on the highway plan and have been discussing the ACTs' workplans. Everyone is concerned about what is happening with The Joint Commission on Transportation and preserving what we got. Chair Brown concluded with thanking the Commissioners for all their work.
 - **Vice Chair Beyer** provided additional comments on the ACT Chair meeting in April. Beyer noted the I-5 Bridge Bi-State Tolling Subcommittee had its third meeting in April and will be meeting again in-person soon.
 - **Commissioner Chapman** congratulated the Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee (EMAC) on the Rosa Parks Diversity reward that was received last month. Commissioner Chapman also thanked members of the Historic Albina

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Advisory Board and Albina Vision Trust for helping host the federal DOT partners last week regarding the grant that was received for the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project. Chapman ended with thanking the federal DOT partners.

- **Agenda E – Agenda Planning Look Ahead:** Assistant Director for Government and External Relations Lindsay Baker noted a few changes that have been made to the calendar since the March OTC meeting in Medford. Baker mentioned that more discussion about the 2025 legislative package has been included in the planning for the upcoming months. Next month in June, there is a placeholder item for a workshop and asked if the Commission would like to keep this workshop or if they had any recommendations on topics for the workshop. Baker concluded with asking if this planning calendar is useful.
 - Commissioner Smith confirmed that the planning calendar is very helpful and recommended the topic of the 2025 legislative package for the workshop in June. Vice-Chair Beyer agreed that the planning calendar is helpful and confirmed with the Chair that she will be available virtually for the June workshop. Commissioner Baker suggested the workshop be related to funding and the options available. Chair Brown recommended that the June OTC meeting does not get rescheduled.
- **Agenda F – Operational Report:** Assistant Director for Revenue, Finance and Compliance Travis Brouwer provided an overview of ODOT’s Biennial Budget Performance as of March 31, 2024, noting all areas are currently spending below their linear trend line. AD Brouwer provided a forecast of the state highway fund. Delivery and Operations Division Administrator Mac Lynde provided an update on the supplemental cleanup funding allocated from the legislature and highlighted recent safety updates on I-5, and work zone safety awareness efforts.
 - Vice-Chair Beyer mentioned the weathering of roads in the Eugene/Springfield area and his appreciation for updates and repainting of white lines on the road. Chair Brown raised questions about graffiti cleanup efforts. Commissioner Baker commended businesses in the Portland area for helping and partnering with ODOT regarding the graffiti cleanup.
- **Agenda G – Southeast ACT (SEACT) Update:** Area Manager Sean Maloney spoke on the SEACT geographic makeup and the challenges that they face. Dan Cummings thanked the Commissioners for joining the OTC tour May 8. Cummings described the SEACT Work Plan and areas of interest. Cummings praised the NEACT and SEACT for working together so well and partnering towards the same goal. Cummings concluded with speaking on a funding exchange program and projects he hopes will be funded. Mike McLaughlin gave kudos to the local ODOT employees for all their hard work and asked what the SEACT can do to help support the Oregon Transportation Commission.
 - Chair Brown suggested that the ACT continues to stay in communication with the Commission and the projects that are occurring. Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Smith agreed that hearing about local impact and the stories behind these issues are important.
- **Agenda H – State of the System Dashboard:** Policy, Data, and Analysis Division Administrator Amanda Pietz gave an introduction on the State of the System Dashboard and asked the Commission for initial feedback. Administrator Pietz walked through aspects of the website and the real data and information that will be provided. Pietz explained that there have been updates made to the dashboard that the Continuous Improvement Advisory Committee (CIAC) suggested such as plain language and fewer paragraphs. Pietz discussed the customer service aspect of the dashboard including DMV, Commerce and Compliance, and Maintenance and Operations. Administrator Pietz ended with the topic of Project Delivery and the related statistics and data. Pietz thanked the staff and managers across the agency for all their help with the dashboard development.
 - Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Baker made a comment that it is important to clarify the organizations that are responsible for specific roads. Pietz questioned if creating a map on the website would be helpful. Chair Brown and Commissioner Smith asked questions about freight. Commissioner Baker asked how often this website will be updated. Peitz responded that they will look through the website each quarter and make necessary updates. Vice-Chair Beyer suggested that Administrator Pietz had non-transportation individuals review this dashboard while still in the process of finalizing the site – Pietz agreed. Commissioner Smith commended Pietz for taking CIAC’s suggestions and implementing them. Chair Brown would like to review the dashboard again before it goes live.
- **Agenda I – Urban Mobility Strategy Finance Plan:** Assistant Director Travis Brouwer started with an update on the tolling winddown plan and spoke on the Regional Mobility Pricing Project (RMPP), I-205 Toll Project, IBR, Statewide Systems, and Policy and Rules. There will be a significant impact to initial finance plans due to the removal of tolling. Urban Mobility Office Director Brendan Finn discussed the funding grant opportunities for the I-5 Rose Quarter project and stated that a grant application has been submitted - this grant would significantly close the gap that is currently present with the project. Brouwer and Finn provided funding allocation options related to projects originally set up as part of the RMPP. Assistant Director Brouwer shared the two scenarios for closing the I-205 Abernethy funding gap, the projects that would potentially have to be deferred or cut, and the pros and cons of each scenario. The Commission held a discussion around closing the funding gap and the questions that Brouwer and Finn have put forward for the Commission to consider.
 - Commissioner Baker, Chapman, and Smith all raised questions regarding funding and different scenarios involving the possibility of not receiving the grant.

ODOT - Oregon Transportation Commission

Meeting Summary ~ May 9, 2024 Hybrid ~ In-Person & Zoom

- With consensus from the commissioners, Chair Brown would like to move forward with the USDOT grant and finding the money to match.
- **Agenda J1 – Project Delivery Program Update:** Delivery and Operations Deputy Division Administrator Tova Peltz shared the improvement actions since March and the progress that has been made including more regular meetings to discuss projects, improved expectations, and clarity, and having more open dialogue about projects. Later in 2024, there will be additional updates to OTC and CIAC on improvements measures, accountability monitoring, audit/review results and actions. Chair Brown asked about STIP projects and funding.
- **Agenda J2 – I-205 Construction Authorization Increase:** Urban Mobility Office Director Brendan Finn discussed the I-205 Abernethy Bridge project benefits which included an earthquake ready bridge and fewer crashes. Finn gave a summary of past project amendments and the factors affecting current cost increase. Commissioner Baker raised questions and shared his concern about the funding amount. The Commission discussed and asked questions about the amount of funding costs. ODOT Director Kris Strickler joined the conversation to answer additional questions. The increase that is being requested pays for project changes including structural engineering elements and unanticipated project changes. The increase will be paid for by actions identified in the Urban Mobility Strategy Finance Plan update.
 - **Motion:** Approve a Construction Authorization Increase from \$514,800,000 to \$600,000,000 for a total increase of \$85,200,000 for Construction of I-205: I-5 to OR213, Phase 1A (Abernethy Bridge) project – 1st Smith, 2nd Beyer, approved unanimously.
 - Commissioner Chapman recused herself from voting on this agenda item.
- **Agenda J3 – OR217 Construction Authorization Increase:** Region 1 Manager Rian Windsheimer gave an overview of the OR217 project and the benefits it gives. Region 1 Project Delivery Manager Matt Freitag discussed OR217 project challenges including those of bridge retrofits and public safety regarding traffic control. The challenges of a 5-year contract duration include long term availability of subcontractors, contractor labor and inflation costs increase in negotiated contract change orders, fuel and asphalt cost escalations, and more.
 - **Motion:** Approve adding \$15,388,672 to the project which includes \$11.9M from the cancellation of the I-5: Capitol Highway – OR217 construction phase (K22719) and \$3.5M in Bridge Program Funds – 1st Smith, 2nd Chapman – approved unanimously.
- **Agenda J4 – 2024-2027 STIP Rebalance:** Assistant Director for Revenue, Finance and Compliance Travis Brouwer provided background on where we are with the STIP and the operations and maintenance budget gap. There are a variety of reasons for the State Highway Fund having a tight budget including an error in budgeting and higher expenditures. Brouwer mentioned that they take the budget error very seriously and have been rebuilding the funding allocation model. Director Strickler has asked ODOT’s audit group to check on the steps that are being taken. Delivery and Operations Division Administrator Mac Lynde discussed the corrective action that is to take place in the STIP. The proposed amendment includes shifting project schedules to align with availability of funding and distributed more evenly across the STIP and identified projects that were expected to slip to future years or could be slipped with minimal impact.
 - **Motion:** Approve the recommendation to adjust projects in the 2024-2027 STIP to align with forecasted annual federal and state funds – 1st Smith, 2nd Beyer – unanimously approved.
- **Agenda K – Safety Update:** DMV Administrator Amy Joyce described the vision and goals for safety. Policy, Data and Analysis Division Administrator Amanda Pietz highlighted the current status of safety and that today’s funding addresses only a fraction of the most unsafe locations; more funding is needed. Pietz also spoke on the overview of data and trends with pedestrian safety continuing to be a pressing issue. The current efforts to improve safety include leveraging policies and plans, behavioral resources, guidance and tools, and capital investments. In early January 2024, the Initial Fatal Crash Information Viewer went live and is updated nightly with the most recent fatal crash information. Delivery and Operations Deputy Division Administrator Tova Peltz concluded with projects that have used federal and state highway dollars.
- **Agenda L – DMV Update:** DMV Administrator Amy Joyce gave an update on DMV’s operations, as well as preparation for Real ID federal enforcement starting on May 7, 2025. DMV’s goal is to help 80% of customers within 20 minutes. One barrier to achieving this goal is staffing. A recent DMV success is their fast queue lobbying system which allows customers to receive a text when it is almost their turn to be helped. Coming this biennium is a DMV Kiosk that will be located in a variety of places, but not in the DMV offices, to expand access to DMV services. Administrator Joyce highlighted Real IDs and the upcoming enforcement.
- **Agenda M – Public Transportation Division Update:** Public Transportation Division Administrator Suzanne Carlson gave an informational update on the Public Passenger Rail Program. Administrator Carlson shared several success stories from the STIF program and gave an update on the Innovative Mobility Program. In conclusion, Administrator Carlson gave an Amtrak Cascades Passenger Rail update which involves record ridership since 1994.

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Consent Agenda:

1. **Approve the summary of the March 14, 2024 regular meeting.**
2. **Approve the future commission meetings:**
 - a. June 12-13, 2024 ~ Hybrid, Salem area, Transportation building
 - b. July 31 - August 1 2024 ~ Hybrid, Florence area, location TBD
3. **OAR's, Approve the following: Approve the following rules:**
 - a. Rules proposed: Amendment of 731-005-0420, 731-005-0430, 731-005-0440, 731-005-0460, 731-005-0470, 731-005-0490, 731-005-0505, 731-005-0510, 731-005-0520, 731-005-0530, 731-005-0540, 731-005-0550, 731-005-0560, 731-005-0590, 731-005-0600, 731-005-0620, 731-005-0650, 731-005-0660, 731-005-0670, 731-005-0690, 731-005-0700, 731-005-0710, 731-005-0740, 731-005-0760, 731-005-0770, 731-005-0800, 731-007-0500, 731-007-0520, 731-007-0530, 731-007-0540, 731-007-0560, 731-007-0570, 731-149-0010; and the repeal of 731-005-0410, 731-005-0500, 731-007-0200, 731-007-0210, 731-007-0220, 731-007-0225, 731-007-0230, 731-007-0240, 731-007-0250, 731-007-0260, 731-007-0340, 731-007-0350, 731-007-0360, 731-007-0370, 731-007-0380, 731-007-0390, 731-007-0400, 731-007-0510 relating to public improvement contracts for construction.
 - b. Rule proposed: Temporary amendment of 732-042-0045 relating to amending the 2023-2025 STIF Plan.
 - c. Rule proposed: Amendment of 735-070-0030 relating to suspension or revocation for out-of-state convictions.
 - d. Rule proposed: Amendment of 735-070-0170 relating to CDL out-of-service violation civil penalties.
4. **Internal Audit Report #24-01 on Active Transportation:** Accept the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Internal Audit Report #24-01 on agency efforts to build bicycle and pedestrian facilities on state highways.
5. **Strategic Action Plan Progress Report:** Receive the May 2024 Strategic Action Plan (SAP) Progress Report.
6. **2024-2027 STIP to ass funding for the Northwest Oregon 2024-2027 ADA curb ramp design, phase 2 project and modify the project name:** Approve amending the 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to add right of way, utility relocation and construction funding for the Northwest Oregon 2024-2027 ADA curb ramp design, phase 2 project in the amount of \$117,222,000 and change the name to Northwest Oregon 2024-2027 ADA curb ramps, phase 2.