

ODOT - Oregon Transportation Commission

Meeting Summary ~ June 12, 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**, Assistant Director for Revenue, Finance and Compliance **Travis Brouwer**, UMO Director **Brendan Finn**, Assistant Director of Government and External Relations **Lindsay Baker**, Delivery and Operations Division Administrator **Mac Lynde**, Interim Climate Office Director **Susan Peithman**, State Construction and Materials Engineer **Justin Moderie**, Region 2 Manager **Savannah Crawford**, Area Manager **Anna Henson**, MWVACT Chair **Ken Woods**, and Budget Manager **Russ Casler**.

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

Decisions/Actions:

- **Motion Approved:** Consent Agenda en bloc; 1st Baker, 2nd Smith, approved unanimously.
- **Motion Approved:** Agenda Item H – Request to add funds for bid award: 1st Smith, 2nd Baker; motion approved unanimously.
- **Motion Approved:** Agenda Item I – Request to approve a conceptual plan to close the funding gap for the Urban Mobility Strategy – 1st Baker, 2nd Smith; motion approved, not unanimous.

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

- **Agenda A - Chair's Report:** Vice-Chair Beyer sat in the Chair's position due to Chair Brown being virtual. Chair Brown thanked everyone for joining the OTC meeting and thanked Vice-Chair Beyer for running the meeting.
- **Agenda B - Public Comment:** Eight individuals provided virtual testimony; Two individual provided testimony in-person.
- **Agenda C – Director's Report:** ODOT Director Kris Strickler highlighted the Commerce and Compliance Division (CCD) for meeting with visitors from Thailand who were here to learn more about efforts to combat human trafficking. He also noted that CCD staff have signed an IGA with Oregon State Police after multiple years of effort to rebuild a vibrant partnership. Director Strickler mentioned two Region 5 updates which included Region 5 participating in a December 2023 outreach and their teamwork to organize a community safety committee, and STEM outreach with Greenwood Elementary 5th grade classes. Lastly, Director Strickler spoke about the 2024 Environmental Excellence Award from the Federal Highway Administration that was awarded to the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project and how they will continue to work with the Historic Albina Advisory Board, community, and project partners.
 - **Consent agenda:** 1st Baker, 2nd Smith– unanimously approved en bloc
- **Agenda D – Committee Updates:**
 - **Commissioner Baker:** The Travel Information Council has a lot of change underway right now and are looking for a new Executive Director. DAS is helping with the recruitment process. There are also four council positions available. Commissioner Baker mentioned that he attended the last Region 1 ACT, but has not met with the NEACT since before the May OTC meeting.
 - **Commissioner Smith:** Continuous Improvement Advisory Committee (CIAC) recently met and reviewed Key Performance Measures. There were a lot of suggestions that will hopefully benefit the agency. The CIAC will be taking a break in July and will meet again in August.
 - **Chair Brown:** Thanked all the Commissioners for their hard work with their regular business commission work, but also making time to attend the Joint Committee on Transportation tours. Chair Brown hopes people continue to participate in the tour.
 - **Vice Chair Beyer:** Attended the Bi-State I-5 Tolling Subcommittee meeting in Vancouver with Commissioner Chapman. The Road User Fee Task Force meets later this month. Vice-Chair Beyer concluded with mentioning his, Chair Brown's, and Commissioner Baker's attendance at the Joint Committee on Transportation tour in Portland last week. He noted that they had a good public hearing while in Portland. The next tour will be held in Tillamook next week.
 - **Commissioner Chapman:** Thanked the Street Trust for organizing OTA Summit which Commissioner Chapman attended. The summit addressed several concerns regarding funding, programs potentially being cut, and future goals.
- **Agenda E – Long Term OTC Agenda Planning:** Assistant Director for Government and External Relations Lindsay Baker called specific attention to the upcoming workshop that was mentioned at the Ontario OTC meeting. The safety workshop will take place as part of the August 1 OTC meeting. Assistant Director Baker will be speaking at the OTC meetings moving forward to discuss more on the JCT Tour and the Legislative package.
- **Agenda F – Climate Efforts Update:** Interim Climate Office Director Susan Peithman gave an update on agency progress to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the transportation sector, with a focus on existing practice and future opportunities regarding low carbon materials. State Construction and Materials Engineer Justin Moderie spoke on the life cycle carbon reduction, materials being used to help with the reduction, and how we measure carbon emissions. ODOT is currently

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in step three of the implementation process of HB 4139 – establish program rules/update specs. Last week, ODOT submitted an application with Federal Highway Administration’s Low Carbon Transportation Materials Program, in hopes to receive at least 22 million dollars.

- Vice-Chair Beyer asked if there is a cost difference when recycling the asphalt. Engineer Moderie answered affirmatively, stating that cost savings was the initial reason for utilizing recycled asphalt.
 - Commissioner Smith requested a follow-up on her question regarding the life expectancy and viability of the new pavement at the Meachum Maintenance station.
- **Agenda G – Mid-Willamette Valley ACT Update:** MWVACT Chair Ken Woods gave a presentation on the Mid-Willamette Valley Area Commission on Transportation’s 2023-2025 Work Plan. MWVACT’s areas of interest are climate and emissions, economic vitality, safety, equity, public transit, urban and rural needs, and maintenance and operations.
 - Chair Brown mentioned that she would like to set up a tour for the Commissioners to go around the Mid-Willamette Valley and to look at some of their projects.
- **Agenda H – 2024-2027 STIP Amendment: I-5 – Kuebler Blvd. To Delaney Rd.:** Region 2 Manager Savannah Crawford gave a project overview which included the project finances and bid analysis. The request is to add \$5.6 million to award bid for this project. Delivery and Operations Division Administrator Mac Lynde spoke on the lessons they have learned and how ODOT will improve in the future when it comes to bids.
 - Chair Brown asked Division Administrator Lynde about the cost estimating approach and how often the project list is being reviewed and updated.
 - **Motion:** 1st Smith, 2nd Baker, approved unanimously
- **Agenda I – Urban Mobility Strategy Finance Plan:** UMO Director Brendan Finn gave an overview and update on the INFRA Grant request and that they expect an award announcement in late August/early September. Revenue, Finance, and Compliance Assistant Director Travis Brouwer provided a brief overview of what was discussed at the last OTC meeting. Assistant Director Brouwer spoke on ODOT’s hybrid proposal (Scenario 3) which includes redirecting \$100 million in 2025-2027 STIP funding to Abernethy Bridge by deferring painting of I-405 Fremont Bridge indefinitely. Delivery and Operations Division Administrator Mac Lynde reviewed funding recommendations for the future debt service – project list. Assistant Director Brouwer noted that they will be back at the August 1st to bring forward scenarios for completing the funding needed for the Rose Quarter, depending on outcome of INFRA grant. UMO Director Brendan Finn concluded with options for closing the funding gap and completing the I-5 Rose Quarter.
 - Commissioner Smith asked how we can fill the large funding gap. Commissioner Baker asked why we are needing to move so quickly and how do we incorporate the views of the ACTs in developing this plan. Commissioner Baker also asked for clarification on the projects being cut. Division Administrator Lynde responded that they are not being cut, but instead being deferred. Commissioner Smith asked what the impact is of deferring the Fremont Bridge if we defer it too long. Commissioner Chapman noted that deferring the Fremont Bridge seems strategic to her due to the price of paint estimated to go down in the future.
 - **Motion:** 1st Baker, 2nd Smith; motion approved, Yes – Baker, Beyer, Brown, Chapman; No – Smith
- **Agenda J – Legislative Joint Committee on Transportation 2024 Tour:** Assistant Director for Government and External Relations Lindsay Baker provided information on the Joint Committee on Transportation’s (JCT) Statewide Tour. Assistant Director Baker highlighted the first tour stop in Portland and the demonstrated support. Baker spoke about the impact that Oregonians will feel with service cuts without sufficient and reliable funding. With stable and sustainable funding, ODOT will deliver excellent service and keep Oregon’s transportation system safe, accessible, and reliable.
 - Vice-Chair Beyer suggested that ODOT should include their new budget video on the front of ODOT’s website in order to educate the public.
 - Chair Brown commented that they did not hear much feedback from the public at the roadshow in Portland. She also suggested that ODOT employees attend public hearings and do their best to speak at them.
- **Agenda K – 2025-2027 Budget Development:** Revenue, Finance, and Compliance Assistant Director Travis Brouwer and Budget Manager Russ Casler gave an update on the ongoing budget development for the 2025-2027 biennium, including a breakdown of the anticipated State Highway Fund revenue shortfall with an overview of major cost drivers. Manager Casler reviewed revenue shortfall packages and restoration policy option packages. Assistant Director Brouwer spoke on high-level impacts of O&M Budget Reductions and the departments the reduction will affect such as maintenance, project delivery, local governments, and administration. Brouwer concluded with saying that they will be bringing the full ARB details and Transportation Operating Fund (TOF) allocation recommendations to the August OTC meeting for review and approval.
 - Commissioners asked follow-up questions regarding the budget and anticipated revenue shortfall.
- **Agenda L: Operational Report:** Revenue, Finance, and Compliance Assistant Director Travis Brouwer and Delivery and Operations Division Administrator Mac Lynde gave a report on ODOT operations, including project delivery, customer service, and budget. Assistant Director Brouwer noted DMV call wait times and how they have decreased each month since January 2024, DMV Title Processing time has decreased to under four weeks, and the DMV field office wait times are still being worked on. Administrator Lynde spoke about how Governor Kotek approved 19 million dollars in supplemental funding to

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ODOT maintenance for the 2023-2025 biennium and signed a 20-million-dollar general fund request dedicated to graffiti, litter, and campsite cleanup in and around Portland. Lynde concluded with mentioning that we have entered summer construction season and briefly spoke on some notable projects.

Consent Agenda:

- 1. Approve the summary of the May 9, 2024 regular meeting.**
- 2. Approve the future commission meetings:**
 - a. August 1, 2024 ~ Hybrid, Florence Events Center, Florence, OR
- 3. OAR's, Approve the following: Approve the following rules:**
 - a. Amendment of 731-147-0055 relating to sole-source procurements.
 - b. Amendment of 731-148-0215 relating to terms used to refer to veterans.
- 4. Oregon Highway Plan Amendment** – Adopt a minor amendment to the Oregon Highway Plan Appendix I to update targets that demonstrate compliance with federal performance-based planning requirements from the Federal Highway Administration.
- 5. 2024-2027 STIP Amendment: EVC RAA** – Approve amending the 2024-2027 STIP to add a Statewide Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator (EVC RAA) program- project.