

**South East Area Commission on Transportation
Regional Partner with
South East Regional Alliance
*Grant, Harney, and Malheur Counties***

BOARD MINUTES

July 27, 2015 Ontario, OR

Board Members:

Grant County:	Harney County:	Malheur County:	At Large Positions:
Boyd Britton Patrick Bentz Peggy Gray Doug Ferguson	Kenton Dick Randy Fulton	Dan Joyce Linda Simmons Lynn Findley Ken Freese Roberta Vanderwall	Angie Jones

State/Regional Agencies:

Craig Sipp, ODOT Mike Berry, ODOT	Scott Fairley, Regional Solutions Cliff Bentz, State Representative
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GEODC Staff

Judy Moore	
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Guests:

Larry Wilson, Malheur County Commissioner Joe Heinz, Eastern Oregon Cycles	Larry Meyer, The Argus Dan Cummings, Ontario Economic Dev.
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The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Boyd Britton. Self-introductions were made; Quorum present.

Approve the minutes of May 18, 2015 meeting, as distributed:

Motion: Linda Simmons

2nd: Peggy Gray

Motion Carried: Unanimously.

Legislative Updates; Cliff Bentz, State Representative, District 60;

- The 2015 Legislative session is over and Rep Bentz came to give us some explanation on the Low Carbon Fuel Standards Bill that passed and the Transportation Bill that didn't pass.
- A jet fuel tax passed for 4 cents a gallon that will benefit rural airports.
- Connect Or passed for \$45 million
- Speed limit bill passed
- The self-serve bill passed for all counties with a population base less than 40,000.
- Three new license plates

Q: Is there a 30% match for Connect Or 6?

A: Yes, that's correct.

Q: Is there going to be an environmental benefit to the low carbon fuel standards?

A: The Low Carbon Fuel Standards function is to drive up the cost of fuel to drive down the use. In the 2nd half of the 10 year period, the cost of diesel will go up substantially, forcing people to use other means of transportation. The other thing it does is create a market system. It will generate fuel credits that people will be able to buy and trade.

Q: What about red fuel?

A: That wasn't discussed.

Health in Transportation-Jerri Bohard, Transportation Development Division Administrator, ODOT and Michael Tynan, Policy Officer, Oregon Health Authority/Public Health Division: See Handouts and power point presentation below:



OHA ODOT ACT fact sheet Final.pdf



MOU Health and ODOT.pdf



Health and Transportation.pdf

Small Cities Allotment update; Mike Berry, ODOT –

- Need to get the SCA applications in. Would like to have a minimum of 30.
- Harney County bridge project going good.
- JTA projects are done for the SE area. Great projects.

District Update and Local Projects; Craig Sipp, ODOT –

- US20 Black Canyon to Harper we are currently paving with the chip seal to start in 2-3 weeks..
- I84 Nelson point to Lime is about 2/3 done. Most of the work is being done at night for little traffic impacts. Hope to be wrapped up before Cycle Oregon goes through there.
- Huntington to Farewell bend is a concrete patching project on I84 will be starting that in a week or two.
- US395 paving project between Dale & Bully Creek just finished up.
- Sign upgrade project on US395 from John Day to the US20 junction. In conjunction with the new speed limit bill, we will be updating the new speed signs along this route as well as others in the region.
- Burns signal improvement is underway. Moving the signal pole at Monroe & Broadway, replacing the signal on Highlander and upgrading the signals at three locations.
- Paving on US20 from Vale to Cairo Junction project will probably start up in the next 2-3 weeks. It's a grind and inlay project, will have centerline rumble strips, no rumble strips on the shoulders due to current standards.

2018-2021 STIP Schedule/OTC/Region Updates– Craig Sipp

OTC meeting last week resulted in some changes to the 2018-2021 STIP. They decided to concentrate on the preservation of the system we have due to not having a transportation package passed by the Legislature, In the past we broke up the funding between the Fix-it (preservation) and the Enhancement projects. For this new STIP Schedule the ACT's will have \$30 million for enhancement non-highway projects. The application is out there but the criteria is going to change to focus more on bike/pedestrian, transit, etc. If you do have projects that are highway related, keep them on the shelf for now. If you have projects that are non-highway in nature, they are valid projects and contact Craig, Monte, Mike or Sean. District 5 will get \$3 of \$30 million. The process for choosing the projects will be similar as to how the ACT's did it in the past. The application deadline will be extended not sure of the date yet but probably sometime in November. About \$27 million will be a dedicated fund for bus purchases. There is also \$1 million dedicated for ADA improvements.

OTC will be meeting in La Grande August 20, & 21st. Lynn Findley and Sean will be presenting our Charter and Bylaws to OTC.

The pilot project for OReGo is underway it's not too late to sign up and participate.

MAP21 is the current Federal Transportation Bill and basically it runs out of money the end of July. They are planning on taking enough money out of the Federal General Fund to keep the transportation department running until December 31st. MAP21 could possibly get replaced with a 6 year transportation plan.

Connect Or 6 was funded for \$45 million with each region getting 10% or \$4.5 million. The bicycle component is still included. Legislature changed the match to 30% from last year's 20%. Loans are no longer a funding option. Project life expectancy has been added to the criteria of the projects. The timeline will be similar to the STIP. NEACT and SEACT will be working together on both funding mechanisms

Q: Will the process for selecting projects be the same as last time?

A: The process will still go through a module review committee and the regional review process. It still needs to rank well within those committees.

Comment: We need to have some people from our region at the meetings to help explain why the projects are so important. The support behind the projects is important.
Discussion followed

City of Nyssa-Roberta Vanderwall:

- Still working on the water treatment plant. The plant will be built across the river in Idaho, currently working with ODOT for permits on running lines under the river and working on the negotiations for purchasing the land. The City received a letter last week that states they have to check to see how many snails will be affected in the water.
- Had a very successful Thunder Egg Days
- Staff was cut back for budget reasons
- The City will be sending Mike Berry an SCA application
- Working on some street projects right away
- Completed some sewer projects earlier this year.
- The City will be shopping for a new sweeper soon.
- City Council will be making a decision on the marijuana issue at the next city council meeting.

City of John Day-Peggy Gray:

- Construction on the new Fire Station will begin 4-6 weeks.
- New banners and planters are up downtown.
- Working on a water conservation plan
- City Council voted to opt out of the recreational and medical marijuana

City of Vale-Lynn Findley:

- City Council put a ban on the commercial uses of marijuana
- Looking at doing some crack sealing on a few streets
- City of Vale had a one stop meeting to figure out how to fund the water project. Was very productive. Currently working on applications for grants and loans. It will be an \$8 million project.
- Winding down on pool season. The pool has been getting a lot of good use.

- The low to moderate income survey came out positive for applying for grants. The City's low to moderate index is at 62.45%. They had a positive experience with OSU.

Burns Paiute Tribe-Kenton Dick:

- Still pursuing the 256 acres to put it into deed of trust. Phase one, the Environmental assessment was just completed. It was discovered that 40 acres on the west end was used as an old dump site so that section of the property will be excluded from the trust for the time being. Looking to EPA for funding to put the 40 acres into a superfund site.
- Working on the right of way on the East side of the property.
- The Tribal Council just approved a Community Comprehensive Strategic Plan. In August a consultant will work on business plans for the casino, creating an economic development office, and tribal farming.
- The Tribe owns a building in town that has been used for storage. They have plans to use the space for tourism.
- Working on a 10 year transportation plan for the tribe.
- Working with the National Commerce of American Indians to get funding to improve roads, trails and bridges.
- The Tribe might be purchasing 2400 acres on Beach Creek in Grant County.

Q: Do you still have a Natural Resource Department?

A: Yes you can see where some of the trees they planted on US20 are coming up.

City of Ontario-Dan Cummings:

- City of Ontario voted on putting a ban on the medical and recreational marijuana.
- St Alphonso, the local hospital, is in the middle of remodeling.
- A tractor store is moving into the old mall, and a possibility of 2 other leases signed.
- There's been some interest on the old Kmart building

Grant County Regional Airport-Patrick Bentz,

- Battled fires the last 2 weeks of June, they've been putout and now we are catching up.
- Will have a public hearing meeting for the Airport Masterplan on September 14th.

Transit Representative-Angie Jones

- The construction project is going slow.
- Attended a bus procurement training for people that will be purchasing new busses, Chevy and Ford are not producing the diesel chassis so we are limited on what can be ordered. A little disappointed because the engines that burn the unleaded fuel are more expensive to operate. The district is excited about the new buses.
- Heard from Federal Motor Carriers Authority we should receive the approval letter on August 2nd, they are going to let People Mover's use their special district insurance risk pool. According to Senator Wyden's office People Mover's will be the first agency in the nation to receive there approval.

Harney County- Randy Fulton:

- The Sage Grouse issue is closed to coming to an end. September 27th is the day the Federal Gov. will decide on whether or not they'll list the bird. The regulations that ODFW and LCDC are trying to implement will do more damage than listing the bird.
- Pacific Foods is now waiting on coming to Burns until there is a decision on the Sage Grouse issue.

Regional Solutions Team-Update-Scott Fairley:

- LCDC approved the rules last Friday that are aimed at allowing mitigation for impact on large scale developments that impact Sage Grouse habitats. LCDC and ODFW are trying

to come up with rules that will give Oregon an out in the event of a Sage Grouse listing that will allow state control rather than federal control. Those rules will go before the ODFW commissions today. The whole idea is in the event of a federal listing, Oregon will have some kind of local control of how we manage Sage Grouse and not turn it over to US Fish and Wildlife.

- Each Advisory Committee across the state was given \$2 million for projects. For this part of Eastern Oregon we are getting \$1.5 million. A Biomass project in Grant County will receive \$750,000 and the other \$750,000 will be used to increase irrigation infrastructure in the Umatilla Basin as part of a larger water project that was funded from the legislature. The funding comes from selling lottery revenue bonds.
- Other priority funding that came from the legislature for this region: 1. Five million to continue to support the forest collaboratives. 2. A Career Technical Educational Program (CTE) received \$28 million, almost double from last year.
- Business Oregon got money in their Special Publics Works Fund for patient capital for Regionally Significant Industrial Areas. Malheur County has almost 1,000 acres of land in that program which needs infrastructure to it.
- Eagle Pitcher has a processing plant close to Vale in Malheur County and the diatomaceous mine in Harney County, between the 2 there is 148 jobs. The road that connects the mine to the processing facility is in bad shape. They can't run up to the production level they could and they'd like to expand but they can't because of the condition of the road. Malheur County Economic Development applied for \$5.9 million in Federal Land Access funding, with help from ODOT and Business Oregon we are trying to get this funded. They think it'll get some funding but they recommended getting more match money to go with the \$5.9 million request. ODOT is supporting a maximum Immediate Opportunity Award for \$1 million, Business Oregon is working on bringing additional funding to this project, tied to job creation and retention. And Malheur County Economic Development is working with Malheur and Harney Counties and Eagle Pitcher Mine to see if there is any additional funding to that project. If this is an important project for this region, which we feel it is, than we would like to see a lot more non-federal funds put into this project.
- Calico Mine is moving along. They will be doing an environmental impact statement through the BLM. They might be done with all their pre-permitting work by spring. They are proposing creating 180 jobs outside of Vale.
- Worked with Senator Wyden's office and People Mover's on the approval from the Federal Motor Carrier Authority. Sounds like it's going to happen.
- Regional Solutions had a RARE intern last year, Isaac Dalke, funded by Infrastructure Finance Authority. Part of the reason for the RARE student was to provide additional capacity for the small cities. Regional Solutions will be getting another RARE student beginning the middle of September. Be sure and thank Lynn Schoessler of IFA for making this happen.

Q: The 2 projects, how did they come up with the \$750,000 funding for each?

A: Originally it was supposed to be \$1.1 for the Biomass project and \$900,000 for the water project, when it got to the Legislature somehow the numbers were \$900,000 for both projects. The Legislature funded the projects and gave 82% of total requested funds.

Q: At what point will the funds be accessible?

A: Business Oregon has started writing the rules of how the funds can be spent. Regional Solutions will meet with the applicants and discuss the rules. The Advisory Committee will meet again and officially designate a project and officially say how much money each project gets. The Advisory Committees can approve other projects but it would require Legislative approval from the E board. They can also move money around the region. They could move money from one project to the other just as long as they fund the two projects that were called out in the

Legislature. This should all be completed by late fall. Scott has already met with the applicants so they are informed on what is going on. The money won't be available for a few more years.

Q: Who are the applicants in this area?

A: For the Bio Mass project the applicant is Iron Triangle and for the water project it's the North East Oregon Water Association.

Also want to thank Doug Ferguson for his help on the Jentura Cutoff Road issue.

Judge Dan Joyce:

- A recent issue regarding fence repairs between Idaho land owners and ODOT. AOC and District 1 are looking into it.
- Was in Burns testifying on the Sage Grouse hearings particularly wanted to mention the study that was done in 1948 for the records.

Judy Moore, GEODC Staff Report:

- Working with BMCC to apply for an EDA Grant to start 3 accelerators in Eastern Oregon.
- If all goes well we might have a new Executive Director starting in August.
- Working on one CDBG project in Milton-Freewater for a Water Improvement Facility.
- Working with the City of Pendleton in applying for a CDBG grant for Housing Rehabilitation.

Business:

Vacant Bike/Ped At Large position:

- Joe Heinz has sent all the information into Sean Maloney. Joe gave us a brief history. It was suggested for Judy to send out all the information of both applicants to the SEACT voting members. The voting members agreed to vote by email.

Updated SEACT Charter & Bylaws-Lynn Findley:

- Met with Sean and Linda Simmons to review the SEACT Charter and By-Laws for any updates and also it was expressed to make sure they are consistent with NEACT's documents. The only thing we added was for the Freight Representative Position at Large and we changed the quorum from 50% to 51%. Adoption of these documents will keep us in compliance with OTC and in sync with NEACT's documents. We are very comfortable with these documents and recommend it goes to OTC.

Motion was moved to adopt the 2015-2017 Charter, By-Laws and Work Plan:

Moved: Linda Simmons

2nd: Peggy Gray

Discussion: On page 6 of the Charter under V.A.1 Operating Agreements, do we want to add NEACT? In regards to actual agreements, ODOT would encompass that.

Motion carried: Unanimously

The next step will be to present what you just adopted to OTC at the meeting in August in La Grande. Lynn Findley and Sean Maloney will go.

Next meeting is on September 28, 2015 at the Burns Paiute Tribe.

Meeting Adjourned 2:25pm MDT

Respectfully submitted