

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Meeting Minutes</h2>

**Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation
COACT
November 13, 2008**

Members:

Bill Bellamy (Jefferson County), Dennis Luke (Deschutes County), Lynn Lundquist (Crook County), Lonny Macy (Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs), Peggy Fisher (Deschutes National Forest), Dana Cork (BLM), Gus Burril (City of Madras), Luana Damerval (City of La Pine), Jerry Brummer (City of Prineville), Brad Boyd and Eileen Stein (City of Sisters), and Gary Farnsworth (ODOT).

Guests:

Scott Edelman (City of Prineville), Tyler Deke (Bend MPO), Mike Lovely (Bend MPO CAC & SBNA), Peter Russell and Tom Blust (Deschutes County), Penny Keller (Crook County), Gary Harris (Citizen), Ann-Marie Lundberg and Craig Levie (Tangent Consultants – by phone), and Travis Brouwer (ODOT – by phone).

Staff:

Scott Aycock and Kelly Elzner (Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council).

Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Bellamy called the meeting to order.

General Public Comments

Gary Harris introduced himself as a Jefferson County rancher. He distributed a handout which summarized his concerns regarding long range transportation planning in the region. He discussed a concept for developing a new highway route through Central Oregon, rather than continuing to build out the current US 97. COACT thanked Mr. Harris for his comments.

Old Business**Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Luke moved to approve the minutes of September 11, 2008. Commissioner Lundquist seconded. Minutes were approved by consensus.

Rail Planning Update – Economic Analysis

Gary Farnsworth introduced Ann-Marie Lundberg and Craig Nevie of Tangent Consultants, who joined the meeting via conference call. Tangent will soon begin working on the economic analysis for the regional rail plan. Ann-Marie and Craig provided a brief overview of their goals for this project. They said that there are two parts of the rail plan: analyzing the at-grade crossings and freight mobility issues.

Gary Farnsworth explained that ODOT, with the assistance of Mark Radabaugh of the Department of Land Conservation and Development, was able to secure a grant from DLCD to evaluate economic opportunities for rail service in Central Oregon. The goal of the economic analysis is to capture and

maximize the market for rail service in Central Oregon. The City of Redmond is the entity that received the grant and procured the consultant to work on the project. Once Tangent is officially under contract, they will begin the research to look at the market economic opportunities analysis.

Both AnnMarie Lundberg and Craig Nevie from Tangent provided a summary of Tangent's proposal. The goal is to come up with a plan to protect and grow the rail as a viable mode for local businesses in Central Oregon. Tangent intends to take a high-level look at what our local market consists of and provide a plan for local businesses to be able to tap into that network.

COACT members discussed various rail concerns and needs in Central Oregon. Commissioner Luke said that the passenger rail makes a stop in Chemult and then heads to Eugene, with no stops in Central Oregon. He said that if there was a way to bring the passenger rail into Bend and on to Portland then there may be a way to accommodate freight transport as well.

Gary Farnsworth announced that David Evans and Associates will continue to look at the at-grade rail crossings, while Tangent will provide the economic analysis. He also mentioned that David Evans and Associates is looking for GIS mapping support. Jefferson County can provide this service free of charge if COACT makes the request. Gary requested approval from COACT to support this request. The members of COACT agreed to make a request to Jefferson County for GIS services in support of the rail planning project.

Federal Earmark Update

Gary Farnsworth distributed a handout that contained the list of projects for consideration by the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) for priority earmark projects. Travis Brouwer joined the meeting by phone to provide an update on the process. He explained that there should be a draft final list of projects sometime after Thanksgiving. The OTC will meet, review, and modify that list on or around December 10. Mr. Brouwer explained that projects would be selected by the congressional districts. Then, the top few projects from each district will be selected to move forward.

Travis Brouwer summarized the status on the proposed federal stimulus funding package. He explained that it is less likely that a stimulus package that includes transportation funding will be approved before the end of the year. However, there will be another attempt for this request made in February. The challenge with such a timeline is that by late February or March most construction projects are already in place. Gary Farnsworth announced that he will provide Travis Brouwer's e-mail address if anyone has question or would like to follow-up with Mr. Brouwer for more information.

Eileen Stein asked if federal guidelines will apply to the stimulus package. Gary Farnsworth answered that there are federal guidelines that will need to be met. Some of the guidelines are centered on right-of-way and environmental issues. Projects need to be already approved, off the shelf and ready to proceed.

2010-2013 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Process Update

Gary Farnsworth explained that Attachment "B" in the packet is a memo from Douglas Tidwell of ODOT addressing the changes in economy over the past year and the impact on revenue estimates. Douglas Tidwell suggests that with the decline in revenues and with construction cost climbing, it may not make sense to adopt the STIP at this time, when conditions will be dramatically different six months from now. Gary added that even now there needs to be significant updates to the projects on

the draft to bring the costs to a more realistic cost estimate. He suggested waiting the six months, then completing the update of costs, and then finalizing the draft.

Chair Bellamy said that it would be a good idea for COACT members to take some time to review the COACT project needs list. Gary Farnsworth agreed and suggested that this topic be added to a future COACT agenda, but questioned if the COACT TAC would be able to meet prior to the full COACT meeting on January 8. Gary suggested that he would get the list out to the TAC for their review and comment.

COACT Officers – 2009

It was announced that it was time for the new rotation of COACT leadership. It is Crook County's turn as Chair with Deschutes County as Vice-Chair. The Chair position will begin on January 1, 2009, The 2009 COACT leadership assignments were approved by consensus.

Meeting Calender

Chair Bellamy announced that the 2009 meeting schedule was included in the meeting packet.

Eileen Stein provided an update on the status of transportation projects in and around the City of Sisters. She explained that the transportation study suggests that an alternate route is needed for mobility through Sisters. The alternate route would include Locus Avenue and Barkley Drive with traffic signals at the Barkley and Locus intersections and the use of congestion warning signs.

Carry Novick announced that the Redmond Airport's Connect Oregon II project will be complete in January. She said that she sold unused rock and was able to use the proceeds as match. The cost savings of almost \$300,000 dollars will be returned to ODOT for future projects.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.