

Meeting Minutes

Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation *COACT* *January 12, 2006* *COIC Redmond*

Members:

Scott Cooper (Crook County), Dennis Luke (Deschutes County), Bill Bellamy (Jefferson County), Mike Morgan (City of Madras), Jeff Monson (Commute Options), Bill Adams and Eileen Stein (City of Sisters), Anzie Adams (City of Culver), Alan Unger (City of Redmond), Bill Friedman (City of Bend), Carrie Novick (Redmond Airport), Ron Wortman (BLM), Peggy Fisher (USFS), Joe Mansfield (City of Redmond), Carrie Novick (Redmond Airport) and Mark Usselman & Gary Farnsworth (ODOT - Region 4).

Guests:

Representative Gene Whisnant (District 53), Janet Brown (Governor's Regional Coordinator), Barbara Fraser and Michael Rock (ODOT Planning Section), Ed Moore (ODOT), Ken Fuller (City of Bend), Neil McKie (Visitor), Camden King (RDP), Tyler Deke (Bend MPO), Charles Kettenring (ODOT Rail Division), George Endicott (Redmond), Dale Keller (City of Prineville Rail), Steve Jorgensen (Deschutes County CDD), Nunzie Gould (Visitor), Dennis Tooley, Bev Clarno (Deschutes County Commissioner).

Staff:

Andrew Spreadborough and Kelly Elzner (Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council).

Call to Order and Introductions

Judge Scott Cooper called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Public Comment

Judge Cooper called for public comment. Seeing none, Judge Cooper closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Election of COACT Chair for 2006

Judge Cooper was nominated for Chair of COACT for 2006, as it was his turn in the annual rotation. Nomination was approved by consensus. *M/S/C Luke/Adams/Consensus*

Election of COACT Vice-Chair for 2006

Commissioner Bill Bellamy was nominated for Vice-Chair of COACT for 2006. Nomination was approved by consensus. *M/S/C Luke/Cooper/Consensus*

Minutes

Minutes of the September 8, 2005 and November 10, 2005 were approved by consensus.

M/S/C Adams/Unger/Consensus

Chair Cooper asked COACT members to review the current COACT member roster, and asked that changes or corrections be forwarded to COIC staff.

Charter / Operating Guidelines Amendment Proposal

Mr. Farnsworth requested that the group refer to Attachment "C" in the meeting packet. He explained that the highlighted sections on page 3 of the document represent suggested changes developed by the Executive Committee. Commissioner Luke mentioned that the changes were centered on the voting membership composition of COACT.

The Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation Operating Guidelines as amended in Attachment "C" were approved by consensus.

M/S/C Friedman/Unger/Consensus

Potential Connect Oregon Applications

Chair Cooper announced that there are three project presentations being delivered at today's meeting from entities that are either planning to apply or are considering applying through the Connect Oregon program application process. Chair Cooper explained that COACT will hear the presentations to gain a better understanding of projects in the region, but that COACT will not endorse or prioritize projects until the Oregon Transportation Commission has defined and clarified its funding process. ODOT staff will provide Connect Oregon program and application process updates to COACT as they become available.

Redmond Airport Terminal Expansion Project: Ms. Novick provided the group with a brief presentation on the City of Redmond Airport terminal expansion project. The expansion is anticipated to cost approximately \$35 million dollars. She explained that the airport has been following a 4-prong approach to funding necessary improvements. First, the \$10 million dollar ramp project was completed; second, electrical upgrades to the terminal were completed, included an emergency generator; third, the parking lot expansion project is currently under way; and fourth, the proposed terminal expansion project. Ms. Novick requested support from COACT on the airport's Connect Oregon grant application.

City of Bend Public Works Transit Facility Project: Mr. Fuller provided the group with a brief presentation and asked for support for a Transit Facility grant. The request is for \$4 million dollars to fund the development of a transit operations facility. The project includes a twenty-year projection of transit vehicles needs, ten maintenance bays, and office space for call center and operations. Mr. Fuller explained that the City of Bend feels that the project meets the Connect Oregon program criteria and that the project will help maximize the investment in the parkway and ODOT statewide facilities.

Bend Airport Runway Relocation Project: Mr. Fuller gave a brief presentation on the second City of Bend request through Connect Oregon. The airport runway relocation project seeks to leverage Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) dollars for a runway expansion and relocation at the Bend Municipal Airport. He explained that the city is requesting \$200,000 to match the FAA dollars already in place for a total of a \$4.2 million dollar project. He said that the runway project is necessary due to rapid growth at the airport, including the airport's east side where additional hangers will be developed. Currently there are two major airplane manufacturers that located at the airport with over 500 jobs between them.

City of Prineville Railroad: Mr. Keller gave a brief project presentation on the request for \$7.5 million dollars to develop the City of Prineville freight depot. He explained that this project will result in the development of a transportation multi-modal platform in Prineville where freight from trains can be transferred to trucks. He mentioned that this project will attract larger businesses that rely on rail. He explained that the city has traded for an old mill site where they would like to build a facility to be able to handle high volume, high density freight that lends itself to rail.

Draft Oregon Transportation Plan (OTP) Briefing

Ms. Barbara Fraser and Mr. Michael Rock, ODOT Planning Department, provided a Power Point presentation on the Draft Oregon Transportation Plan. The Power Point Slides included the following topics:

- Plan Overview
- Plan Oversight
- Challenges
- Growing VMT and Funding Gap
- Opportunities
- OTP's Response
- Policy Themes
- Analysis
- Plan Principles
- Key Initiatives
- Potential Strategic Capacity Enhancement Investments
- Public Review
- Contact Information

Mayor Friedman asked about the relation between local governments and ODOT as reflected in the draft plan. He stated that the plan is presented in a top-down fashion. He recommended that they consider the wording of the plan in that regard. Mayor Friedman also asked for assistance from the state in dealing with land use issues as they relate to transportation. Commissioner Luke reiterated the land use challenges, pointing out the difficulty in connecting roads across multiple jurisdictions.

Ms. Novick noted that bike lanes are not only used by bikes – that they are used by many, including disabled citizens who are confined to motorized carts. She recommended that other bike lane uses be considered when planning.

Mayor Friedman asked about the funding language on Goal 6 – “Reinforce funding relationship between beneficiaries and system.” He asked if this meant that local governments will be expected to pay more for the state system. Ms. Fraser replied that the language is important to the goal, but said that other sources will be considered and pursued, including tax dollars, federal funds, vehicle mile tax, and others. Mayor Friedman stressed that local governments will be resistant to paying more.

At the end of the presentation Mr. Rock requested that COACT members submit written comments on the draft plan to ODOT by March 1. He also requested that members complete and submit a survey form on the transportation plan. He then provided hard copies of the draft Transportation Plan and Executive Summary. Chair Cooper suggested that the group give consideration to the draft plan and forward any comments to Mr. Spreadborough. The COACT Executive Committee will meet in two weeks and will consider submitting comments to ODOT.

Continuation of Regional Long Range Transportation Discussion

Mr. Farnsworth distributed a Long Range Transportation Planning handout. He explained that the handout captures notes from the Technical Advisory Committee meetings as well as notes from the COACT and COACT Executive Committee meetings. Mr. Farnsworth mentioned that it has become clear to him that it is time to begin defining and assigning resources.

The group reviewed the document and provided feedback. Ms. Adams suggested that schools be added to the “Reasons” – Connectivity section. Mayor Unger added that school buses have certain rules that sometimes create impediments. Chair Cooper suggested that some thought might be given to the order that the “Reasons” are presented. He stated that as this process began, the number one reason was to begin thinking more regionally in terms of connectivity between communities. He would like to regional connectivity remain the top priority.

Discussion ensued on the purpose of the Long Range Plan. Chair Cooper said that in the beginning it was meant to be used as an advisory tool to assist in thinking regionally, and also to provide a list of projects and needs so that the region would be in a ready mode should project funds become available. The group agreed that more work needs to be done on the plan summary handout. Mr. Farnsworth will take comments made today and combine them with the discussion that will take place at the February TAC meeting, and will bring a revised document to the March COACT meeting.

Mr. Fuller asked if the plan will actually be an integrated product with buy-in from jurisdictions, the general public, and the Oregon Transportation Commission. Chair Cooper mentioned that once the plan is in a stage that the group feels comfortable with he would like to bring it before the OTC for comment and request their buy-in.

Mr. Farnsworth announced that the Oregon Transportation Commission will be coming to Central Oregon in April. The OTC would like to hold a workshop event, inviting COACT and the communities to discuss transportation issues in Central Oregon.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.