
Meeting Minutes

Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation
COACT
July 13, 2006
COIC Redmond

Members:

Scott Cooper (Crook County), Dennis Luke (Deschutes County), Bill Bellamy (Jefferson County), Bill Friedman (City of Bend), Alan Unger (City of Redmond), Joe Mansfield (City of Redmond), Lonny Macy (Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs), Gene Moe (Jefferson County Stakeholder), and Gary Farnsworth and Bob Bryant (ODOT - Region 4).

Guests:

Mike Schmidt (Bend Chamber of Commerce), Gus Burril (City of Madras), Nick Arnis (City of Bend), Tom Blust (Deschutes County), Ed Moore (ODOT- Region 4), Charles Ketterning (ODOT Rail Division), Mike Lovely (Bend MPO Citizen Advisory Committee), and Mark Schindel (Old Farm District Neighborhood Association).

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.

Minutes

Minutes of the May 11, 2006 were approved by consensus.

Public Comment

There was no public comment. Judge Cooper closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

ConnectOregon – Funding Recommendations / Approval Process

Mr. Farnsworth summarized Attachment B of the meeting packet. He explained that the projects that have been recommended by the Consensus Committee for ConnectOregon funding in Region 4 are as follows:

- City of Redmond, Roberts Field – Redmond Municipal Airport Terminal Expansion
- City of Klamath Falls, Jet Factory Service Center
- City of Bend, Relocate/Construct Runway 16/34
- Port of Arlington, Port of Arlington/Gilliam County Barge Intermodal Trans Facility
- City of Prineville, Railroad/Freight Depots' Economic Redevelopment Project
- Columbia Plateau Growers, Inc. Shutler Industrial Park Rail Freight Siding project
- Klamath County, Chemult Train Station Welcome Center
- City of Bend, City of Bend Public Transit Operations and Maintenance Center

Mr. Farnsworth provided a handout “ConnectOregon Update Vol. 2006 – 14”, which provided excerpts from the draft Oregon Transportation Commission June meeting minutes related to ConnectOregon discussions. He explained that the Oregon Transportation Commission will act upon the Consensus Committee recommendations at their July 19 meeting.

Mayor Alan Unger asked what the next steps include. Judge Cooper answered that the Oregon Transportation Commission will meet and approve projects. Then agreements will be drafted between ODOT and the local jurisdictions/project proponents. Mr. Farnsworth and Mr. Bryant will follow-up with details on the individual projects.

September 14, 2006 COACT Meeting

Chair Cooper announced that the September 14th COACT meeting will be held at the Museum at Warm Springs. The agenda will include presentations on transportation planning and projects of significance of the Tribes. Mr. Lonny Macy has extended COACT’s invitation to the Tribal Council and Tribal transportation planners and staff to participate at the meeting.

Transportation Enhancement Program Update

Mr. Farnsworth provided an update on the Transportation Enhancement (TE) program. He distributed a handout drafted by Pat Rogers Fisher, ODOT’s TE Program Manager that captured “a few general observations” related to the TE applications received in response to the June 30 funding round, including:

- A total of 75 applications is slightly less than we got in the last two cycles (79 and 80)
- Ratio of dollars requested to dollars available is around 6:1 – about the same as in previous cycles.
- 25 requests are for a million dollars or more – many more large requests than in past cycles.

The handout also included a list of Central Oregon region applications submitted for review by the Transportation Enhancement Committee. The list included the following Central Oregon projects:

- Bend Metro Parks & Recreation, Deschutes River Multi-use Bridge @1st Street.
- Central Oregon Parks & Receptions District, Tetherow Homestead Restoration
- Culver, Hwy 361: A Street.- Iris Lane Pedestrian Facilities & Enhancement
- Madras, B Street Sidewalks: US-97 Cityview
- Prineville, US26/3rd Street: Deer Street – Fairview Street Sidewalk & Streetscape

Mr. Farnsworth will provide additional information regarding this process at either the September or November COACT meeting.

Continuation of Regional Long Range Transportation Discussion

Mr. Farnsworth explained that the COACT Long Range Transportation Planning scoping committee is scheduled to meet next on July 31. Mr. Farnsworth will in touch with the committee members on the details of meeting time and location. The committee met in early July to draft a scope of work for the Long Range Transportation Plan development process, which Mr. Farnsworth distributed. COACT discussed the handout and the tasks as they were outlined. Mr. Ed Moore agreed to draft the consultant scope of work document and bring it back before the full COACT group for endorsement.

Mayor Unger provided an update on the rail planning committee activities. He also distributed a handout that outlined the specific scope of work for the rail planning efforts. Chair Cooper mentioned that it would be advantageous for the committee to invite the participation of the railroads. Chair Cooper suggested three rail planning concepts – Velocity, Connectivity and Volume.

Mr. Charles Kettenring suggested that when approaching the Rail decision makers that COACT should come to them as a group rather than as individual COACT members. COACT was in favor of this approach. Mr. Farnsworth will set-up a time for COACT to meet with rail representatives.

Mr. Mike Schmidt gave a brief overview on Regional Transit issues and an October Transportation Forum that the Bend Chamber of Commerce will be convening. Mr. Schmidt mentioned that he would have a summary of the October Forum drafted for the COACT November meeting – since this meeting will be centered on Transit Issues.

Roundtable

MPO Citizen Advisory Committee - Mike Lovely mentioned that he was interested in the work of the COACT group and commented on how important that Central Oregon is connected.

Deschutes County – Mike Blust listed the various road closures to be expected while road work is under way. He gave a brief update on the Sunriver interchange and the expected roundabout.

City of Madras – Gus Burril gave a brief update on the work being done on 2nd Street in Madras, as well as work on J Street – including a traffic roundabout. He mentioned that the Madras TSP is being updated.

City of Redmond – Mayor Unger gave a brief update on the construction activities at the Redmond Airport. He also provided an update on the various road work activities around the city.

City of Bend – Mayor Friedman commented on the various road construction activities around the city. He mentioned that the city is discussing the removal of the Park Way traffic lights. He mentioned that the Newport Bridge will be the third bridge completed in the city, and talked about a proposed Reed Market Road “multi-lane” roundabout.

Crook County - Chair Cooper talked about the federal “County Payments” program and the importance of reauthorization to the counties. He mentioned that the funds that the counties have been receiving may be at a reduced or eliminated.

Jefferson County – Commissioner Bellamy mentioned that there is a lot of construction activity around Jefferson County, especially with the construction of the prison.

Bend Chamber of Commerce – Mike Schmidt discussed concerns expressed by truckers regarding the limited availability of overnight parking for trucks. Many areas of the City of Bend and Deschutes County prohibit truck parking.

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs – Lonny Macy mentioned that there are a couple of safety improvement projects on the reservation currently underway.

Meeting Adjourned.