

LOWER JOHNDAY AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION MINUTES

DATE: April 4, 2016

**Location: Bob's Texas T-Bone Restaurant
101 Main Street
Rufus, OR 97050**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Gary Thompson at 10:00 a.m. with a welcome to all attendees and introductions as follows:

ATTENDEES:

Gary Thompson	Sherman County Judge and Chair of the LJDACT
Chuck Covert	The Dalles Airport
Mike Weimar	Gilliam County Commissioner
Arthur Smith	Wasco County Public Works
Brad DeHart	ODOT – The Dalles; ODOT Alternate
Dave Anderson	City of The Dalles – Public Works – Wasco Co. Rep.
Dewey Kennedy	Gilliam County Road Master
Michele Spatz	MCEDD – Transportation Options Rep.
Kathryn Greiner	City of Condon
Rod Runyon	Wasco County Commissioner
Tom McCoy	Sherman County Commissioner – Sherman Co. Rep.
Carol MacKenzie	Mayor, City of Wasco
Gary Farnsworth	ODOT Region 4 – LJDACT Manager
Kate Sinner	Gov. Kate Brown Regional Solution
Ami Keiffer	Business Oregon
Kathleen Fitzpatrick	City of Mosier
Pat Cimmiyotti	ODOT – The Dalles
Jeff Holiday	City of Rufus
Mike McArthur	Executive Director AOC
Patti Jaeger	Wheeler County Eco. Dev. Dir.

Agenda Additions/Deletions: None

Minutes for the March 7th, 2016 meeting: Approved

Public Comment: None

Discussion: Oregon Transportation Commission: Gary Farnsworth

Gary noted that Region 4 will be suggesting to the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) that they visit the Lower John Day Area for one of their monthly meetings in 2017, preferably at the Fort Dalles Readiness Center in The Dalles, Oregon. The LJDACT should be thinking about projects

that can be showcased to the OTC as well as topics to bring up during the visit. Gary Farnsworth will send out a release as soon as he finds out.

Discussion: STIP 2018-2021 Enhance 150% List – Gary Farnsworth

Fast Act Handouts.

1. FAST Act

Funding Slide Presentation:

- a. Shows the breakdown of FAST Act Funding and the breakdown of Fix-It and Enhance funding as well. The apportionments of federal and state funds are 50% to ODOT and 50% to cities and counties. This allows for the FAST Act to be a more stable funding program unlike previous years. Funding to local governments looks at annual highway funding made available to local jurisdictions. Local Bridge Program and the STP Working Agreement that provides funding to cities, counties and small MPOs will both increase. Funding increases will allow for local governments to invest in additional bike/ped projects. The National Highway Freight Network slide is where much of ODOT's funding will be for freight projects. The Oregon Freight Plan will identify and address major freight mobility challenges. With the gas tax revenues coming in stronger than anticipated the OTC added \$120 million to Fix-It projects in October 2015. ODOT added a variety of funding sources including leftover JTA funds from a project in Sherman County, extra funding from an Enhance project in Central Oregon, FAST Act freight money, and other FAST Act funds and created a pool of about \$70 million. This created the proposed list of projects for ODOT. LJDACT projects are: two I-84 Cable Barrier projects. Fix-It gets \$77 million in overall funding with \$35 million going directly to Seismic projects and \$5 million to ADA ramp projects. Enhance gets \$5 million for Non-Highway projects. Freight gets an overall \$49 million. Strategic investment gets \$25 million overall. A lot of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program money is used to pay debt service to previous programs for the last decade or so.

Dave Anderson: Will the Fix-It money be allocated to ODOT or will there other programs be able to compete?

Gary Farnsworth: Yes, it will still be under ODOT. The Fix-It program list (handout) is looking at 150% for 2018-21. The Fix-It funds could potentially be used for the FAST Act freight mobility grant program called *FAST LANE*. Expecting an annual call for the *FAST LANE* program.

Brad DeHart: There is also the ARTS program, all roads safety program, is being used for any jurisdictional roads. It is a smaller funding base within Fix-It but is still available for projects, and prioritized by ODOT.

1. FLAP – Gary Farnsworth

Handout: provides information on Federal Lands Access Program for this upcoming call for projects.

FLAP for Oregon is administered out of the FHWA Western Federal Lands Office in Vancouver. The Region 4 manager, Bob Bryant, is the statewide ODOT Representative for the FLAP board. The AOC Representative is Emily Ackland. They gather with BLM, Forest Service, Army Core, and any other federal agencies that actually owns and manages land in Oregon to decide which projects to fund. There will be a call for projects starting at the beginning of April and the deadline is July 1st. The call for projects will be broad. ODOT

does a lot of helping out on program funds going to local jurisdictions. ODOT's Brad DeHart, Gary Farnsworth, Pat Fisher and Daryl Newton will help local governments to put applications/proposals together for FLAP.

2. **Enhance – Gary Farnsworth**

Handouts:

2018-21 ENHANCE PROPOSALS – REGION 4 Staff DRAFT STRAW RANK - Just projects for the Lower John Day ACT with their ratings and comments listed.

2018-21 ENHANCE PROPOSALS – REGION 4 Staff DRAFT STRAW RANK - Projects for the whole Region 4 area with their rankings and comments.

Shortly after the March meeting, Gary Farnsworth sent out an email to most of the voting membership with guidelines for reviewing each application. Two members gave feedback to the list of projects. Peter Mitchell said that the rankings over all looked good and Michele Spatz commented that the Bus Shelter Project should be categorized as a high priority and that the Mosier Project should use some leverage in order to get funded above other projects.

ACTION:

Motion: To approve the Enhance Proposals as amended by LJDACT Member Feedback changes that were submitted.

Moved: Michele Spatz

Seconded: Rod Runyon

Discussion:

Brad DeHart – Regarding Bus Shelter proposal, was just curious as to what you were using reasoning to elevate the shelters on the environmental perspective.

Michele Spatz - The impact of the buses being set outside of the facility. They are exposed to the elements year around and I think it would serve a good purpose to have those vehicles sheltered so that they would be less damaged to the elements. It would extend the bus life and it is such a small change but it will have value down the road.

Vote: Unanimous

3. **Super Act Meeting in May – Gary Farnsworth**

At least two representatives from each ACT to represent the entire group on May 12th. Everyone is welcome to come to the Super ACT meeting in Bend.

Dave Anderson: Would the proponents present again?

Gary Farnsworth: No but they will be called upon for questions and to clarify their points.

ACTION:

Motion: Gary Thompson and Mike Weimar to represent LJDACT at the Super Act meeting.

Moved: Dave Anderson

Seconded: Michele Spatz

Vote: Unanimous

4. **Fix-It – Gary Farnsworth**

Informational handout. There will be more information presented in the next LJDACT Meeting in June.

Brad DeHart: incorrectly included the Fish Passage and OPS Traffic/Safety Projects for Crook County, which is not in Region 4.

Discussion: ConnectOR VI Presentations and Ranking: ALL

Spreadsheet (front and back): ConnectOregon VI Region 4 Review Matrix

Two applications received from LJDACT, both out of the City of The Dalles. Email sent out to all applicants statewide with links to the score guide and reviews.

Gary Thompson: Why are there no comments for The Dalles Airport Taxiway A rehabilitation from the Regional Solutions Team?

Gary Farnsworth/Kate Sinner: That is because the Team did not feel that the application did not meet the original priority.

Brad DeHart: Not all the comments are from RST, most are from the Modal Committee as well.

5. **Presentations – Dave Anderson and Chuck Covert**

The Dalles Gorge Hub Project – Dave Anderson

Dave Anderson: bike/ped support facility. A place for people to go and have services provided to them. It will be constructed within an existing park area, so we weren't starting with all new constructions. The funding there was a contribution for one hub out of the six hubs proposed in the Gorge. Ready for the final design completion. The site is located across from the downtown business community which would help bring people into the downtown area.

Kate Sinner: For the Regional Solution's perspective it was one of the business clusters that we want to support is tourism and recreation. So that was why we felt comfortable supporting this project.

Michele Spatz: I was surprised that there was no comment stating statewide significance because it is part of the Columbia State Highway trail system.

Gary Farnsworth: We (LJDACT) could add more to the comments/highlights to make a bigger priority.

Airport Taxiway A rehabilitation Project – Chuck Covert

Chuck Covert: This is the final phase of the airport taxiway projects at The Dalles airport. We reconstructed the major runway and reconstructed both ends of the taxiway as part the projects

needed to be completed in order to be in conjunction with the FAA. Without completing this project the FAA will not give any more funds to other projects. We scored very low, not because of the project, but because of the application we submitted. The other issue with this project is that the FAA is if they get all their appropriations this year we get a partial funding, but they do not know when or if they will get their appropriations and so we may have to find a way to come up with the whole ten percent cost of the project in order to finish it.

Gary Farnsworth: This is the benefit of the Review Committees. It doesn't hurt to show benefits that the reviewers have not looked at. If there's something in writing it will get into the materials that go with the representatives for presenting at Super ACT.

Project Updates/Roundtable – Chair Thompson/All

6. **Kate Sinner:** The Governor's Transportation Panel is leading to a lot of dialogue about preparing for a 2017 transportation package. It will be a very inclusive process this time around.
7. **Michele Spatz:** Is currently working on the updates for the Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman County Coordinative Human Services Transportation Plan. There's a public survey that's out until April 8th.
8. **Pat Cimmiyotti:** On the maintenance side, we are doing four chip seals this year: HWY 206 in Maupin mileposts 35 to 18, HWY 197 mileposts 61 to 57, HWY 216 mileposts 17 to Junction of 197, Wheeler County FLAP Rowe Creek Rd, and completing the Maupin realignment section.
9. **Dave Anderson:** The City of The Dalles received a TDM Grant for the city's transportations plans. The 2nd public information meeting is scheduled for April 26th. The scope of work for the plans has been expanded as ODOT approached us with more funding to look at the fix round transit study. Everything will be done by the end of this calendar year, 2016. The Dalles has provided a website link on their city web page to give more information to those interested.
10. **Brad DeHart:** Construction and Project Development – The Dalles Fifteen Mile Creek Pavement Restoration Project in The Dalles – the construction of the bridge is still ongoing. They set the last girders last week and still planning on having that project wrapped up in June.
Morrow to Madras Passing Lane Project – the contractor is to start paving later this week, hopefully near the Grass Valley end. They plan on getting that done in a couple of months.
Pavement Preservation and Median Barrier Replacement Project I-84 to Mosier and The Dalles – Is scheduled to start up with construction this month, the exact date is unknown as of right now. They will start with the median barrier replacement around Mosier and then work east from there.
Project Development:
Seismic Retro Fit Project – placement on HWY 97.
Chip Seal – HWY 97 Biggs Junction and about 6 miles up the canyon.
Solilo Park Safe Access – reconstruction of the crossing into the Solilo Park is still on track and ODOT is looking at construction in the spring of 2017.
Three Mile Creek Culvert Replacement – taking out the box culvert that's underneath the bridge we are building right now. That's still on track for removal next summer.

US 30 Bridges Project – Rehab the Mosier Creek Bridge on the old highway, the Dry Canyon Creek Bridge up by the Rowenia Crest Overlook and to replace the Kennewick Creek Bridge just on the west end of The Dalles. Planning on bid opening next spring and construction starting next summer.

Fossil Heritage Trail – Still working with the city and county. Delayed our delivery schedule until 2018.

Hood River to Rowenia Preservation Project – resurface the highway from Rowenia to Hood River. No median barrier work but we have drainage work that we will be doing.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2016.

Meeting adjourned 12:00pm.

Respectfully submitted

Patti Jaeger