

**LOWER JOHN DAY AREA COMMISSION  
ON TRANSPORTATION  
(LJDACT)  
MINUTES**

\*\*\*\*\*

February 3, 2020

10:00 A.M. ~ 12:00 P.M.

**Sherman County Courthouse  
Courtroom  
500 Court Street \* Moro, OR**

**1. Call to Order, Introductions, Agenda Review,  
-General Public Comments**

**Chair**

10:00am

Wheeler County Judge Lynn Morley-Wheeler County

Robert Townsend-ODOT

Peter Mitchell-Port of Arlington

Gibb Wilkins-City of Condon

Dave Anderson-City of The Dalles

Brad DeHart-ODOT

Kathy Fitzpatrick-MCEDD

Colleen Coleman-City of Mosier

Marla Davies-Gilliam County Transportation

Arthur Smith-Wasco County Public Works

Theresa Conley-ODOT

Sherman County Judge Joe Dabulskis-Sherman County

- Motion made by Dave to approve minutes from August 4, 2019, seconded by Robert, Vote passed unanimously.

**2. LJDACT Representatives and Chair/Vice Chair Election(If Needed) All**

Robert clarified that the Lower John Day Act requires the chair has to be a County elected official. There is also supposed to be a Vice Chair. They did not last year because there was not an elected official available. There does not have to be a change but someone is welcome to if they would like.

Motion made by Judge Dabulskis to leave Judge Morley as the chair, seconded by Peter.

Vote passed unanimously.

Nomination made by Judge Morley to have Joe Dabulskis as Vice Chair.

Motion made by Judge Morley to close nomination and appoint Joe Dabulskis as Vice Chair, seconded by Dave. Vote passed unanimously.

*Wheeler County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to the Administrative Assistant at (541) 763-2912 Services for the hearing impaired is available at TTY 711 or 1-800-735-1232*

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**3. 2021-2024 STIP Public Review** **ODOT**

ODOT Capital Improvement program is done on four year cycles. They are in the draft stage of the 2021-2024 STIP process. One of the requirements is there is a comment period open to the public. This is a statewide process. Robert provided a worksheet of projects in the Lower John Day Area. After the meeting Robert will send out a link to all of the projects. Robert went over the worksheet he provided. Dave- Is it appropriate or beneficial for the ACT to submit comments on this at this time?

Robert- No, what they have done in the past is they have brought it to a meeting and have an informal process.

Kathy- Has there been any deep dive into how this is impacting rural verses urban?

Robert- No, this is just the beginning seeing where the money is being assigned and then how it will break out.

Peter- Do you think there will be a problem with the no paving in the 2021-2024?

Robert- One way to look at it is most of I-84 has been paved in the last eight years.

Peter- My question was on the smaller highways.

Robert- The smaller highways are in a category called Low-Volume Highways which are maintained by Maintenance and/or through other non-STIP project.

Robert added The City of The Dalles has a project. Most of the projects are ODOT driven. This project is different, the funds are being transferred to the City of The Dalles. This is to save money on administrative costs.

**4. Columbia River Bridge Project Update** **ODOT**

One of the most significant projects is the Columbia River Bridge Deck Replacement. Robert provided a handout to the ACT. When questions come up they can be directed to Robert or Brad. They made a decision early in the project that they could not close the bridge for eight months, because the bridge is used too much. Now they are in the final stages of reviewing it they still have to have closures on the bridge. ODOT came up with some options. The first option is to close the bridge nightly

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Monday-Friday 7:30pm-6:30am. This option would take around 24 weeks to complete the project. The other option is to close late Thursday night and open the bridge back up Monday morning. This would be more substantial impact during the weekend times. It would not be the goal to do this during the summer. Would have to be done before Memorial Day and after Labor Day. ODOT has met with local stakeholders and Emergency services. The option they choose will also depend on what works best for contractors. Robert wanted to give anyone a chance to ask any questions about this project and the options they are looking at.

Judge Dabulskis-What is the difference in the cost. He felt the three day closure would be more efficient since it would take the less time.

Robert-That was the general feedback from the construction industry. It does pose more issues with Emergency Services.

Dave- At the last stakeholder meeting he attended they discussed the two options for closing the bridge during construction.

Robert-This is a good example of public outreach not public voting. ODOT presented several options and they listened to everyone's concerns. The goal is to make a decision by the end of the month or the first two weeks in March about which way to proceed. The project goes to bid late this year.

**5. ODOT Updates** **Brad and Bob**

Robert- Since the meetings are quarterly now I think we should have designated items at each meetings. Since this was the first meeting of the year it worked going around the table and getting project updates. One of the things that is confusing to people is the difference between peoples roles at ODOT. Robert is responsible for project delivery. Once the project goes to bid it is Brad's responsibility until it is built. Then he hands it off to maintenance. Burt is housed in Moro he also oversees Condon and Arlington maintenance office. They are involved in the day to day operating.

**6. Transit Updates** **Kathy Fitzpatrick and Theresa Conley**

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Kathy and Theresa provided a slide show for the transit update.

- 7. 2020 Projects Roundtable** **All**
- Brad provided a list of ODOT project updates.
  - Robert added a couple of projects to Brad’s list to the paving and safety area. They will go to bid later this year. Most of the work will occur in 2021. It is a trail and sidewalk project within Warm Springs. Also paving up the east side of the grade up the Deschutes River. This is on the Indian Reservation and is a complex project. The other project is the Willowdale to Madras paving. This project will bid in a couple of months and be completed this summer.
  - Dave-The Dalles has a localized project. It is construction of a stabilization wall to address a shallow landslide. The project is east of the college and should take a couple of weeks. There will be detours in place and rerouting for traffic from the college.
- 8. Set Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be May 4, 2020
- 9. Adjourn:** 11:30am