

LOWER JOHN DAY AREA COMMISSION  
ON TRANSPORTATION  
(LJDACT)

Meeting Minutes

Sherman County Courthouse  
Courtroom

500 Court Street \* Moro, OR

December 3, 2018 10:00 am-12:00 pm

**In Attendance:**

Gary Thompson, Sherman County LJDACT Chair

Robert Townsend, ODOT

Shane Johnson, ODOT

Brad Dehart, ODOT

Dave Amiton, ODOT

Don Morehouse, ODOT

Arthur Smith, Wasco County

Kathryn Greiner, City of Condon

Dave Andrew, City of the Dalles

Chuck Covert, Columbia Gorge Regional Airport

Colleen Coleman, City of Mosier

Lynn Morley, Wheeler County

Tami Stockton, Admin Assistant

**1. 10:05 Call to Order, Introduction, Agenda Review**

**Chair**

**Thompson**

**- General Public Comments**

Motion made by Dave Andrews to accept minutes as presented, seconded by Lynn Morley. Vote passed unanimously.

**2. HB 2017 Transparency Update**

**ODOT**

The House Bill that was passed last year had some transparency and accountability requirements written in it. It has two sections, section 11 and section 12. The first section is regarding counties and cities who have to do bridge and local pavement conditions by February first. Bob shared a video that was made about section 11. Where they are now is ODOT has updated some forms online. Each city and county has been given notices that they have to complete the reports by February first. The map has been easy to see from what Bob has heard. They do not have Daryl Newton any more but they have Paul Singer and Abby Driscoll and they can help anyone also.

Section 12 is about what ODOT has to do to be transparent and to communicate to the public that is relative from the State Legislator perspective. ODOT has created a project tracker website. They are having to track on time budget graphics so they are transparent to the public about what their actual spending is, where they fit in the actual budget, and how does that chart add to our responsibilities. This is in a draft format. It will need to be up and running the

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first of the year as well. The house law requires cities and counties to track what they are spending on local projects. This seems like a new thing but it's been out there. They already have to account for work on LOC and AOC.

**3. ACT Chair & Representation**

**Judge Thompson**

The chair has to be an elected official. Generally it is a County Commissioner or Judge. Would like to have the new chair in place for the February meeting.

Motion made by Kathryn Greiner to appoint Judge Lynn Morley to be the chair of the LJDACT, seconded by Arthur Smith. Vote passed

**4. OTC Debrief**

**Judge Thompson**

**Bob Townsend**

In October there was a discussion with OTC. Chair Thompson represented the LJDACT regarding the future of the ACT. Based on the survey results that was sent out a few months ago, where they are especially regarding funding packages. Chair Thompson thinks they were debating about doing away with the ACT. But he believes they have made up their mind to keep it on a limited basis. The meeting will be quarterly.

Bob- From what we have seen in the last month they have sent out a couple different proposals on what they thought area managers should be doing. The ACT have had a lot to say about the projects that move forward. It really stems around the STIP cycles in the past 10 years. The ACT's have had a lot of say on what projects receive funding on a modernization program and since we do not have one moving forward we have leverage programs where money has to be attached to fix-it projects. That was the number one on the list the ACT's were responsible for. That is why the discussion came up if they should even have them and the consensus all around especially in this area was they are still important for sharing information. How can we move them forward for what we call area management strategies, where we prioritize projects across the counties? The example would be the Safe Route to Schools applications where we supported five applications. We give a generic letter saying we support this versus saying here is our priorities so that we guarantee one and two get funding. It is difficult conversations when one area is bigger than the other, which one gets priority. That is what the internal conversations have been about. We do not know what a management strategy is. That has been the discussion, they will clarify those.

Brad- There is still the possibility additional funding could come out of the federal transportation bill that could get us back to having more discussions around modernization packages, right.

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Bob- Correct and even when the Legislature begins again Carbon emissions could potentially generate transportation dollars. They could change the safe route to school applications and have them reviewed by a committee. Maybe they put that money back out by the region and have the ACT's decide. There is a lot of talk of what the ACT role will be.

Kathryn- Bob Singer mentioned money about generation jobs what is that?

Brad- Immediate Opportunity Funds (IOF)

Kathryn- Is there a deadline on applications?

Brad- No it is not a funding cycle it is an application process.

**5. Upcoming 2019 Project**

**ODOT**

Bob – ODOT has two tools, if you Google ODOT project you will always get to the website. This is a searchable function for the ODOT current projects. You can search any city name and any projects within that area pop up. On some of the projects there is design plans and interacting maps. The other newer tool is clicking on the interacting map. It has three color coded references; blue, orange, or green.

Brad- This is the same update I try and provide at all of our ACT meetings to keep everyone up to date on what is going on with our constructions projects.

- I have pulled the Fossil Heritage Trail off of the construction list because it is pretty much complete.
- Also pulled the Hood River to Tower Road job which paved Hood River to Rowena and then did signing all the way to Boardman.
- There is still one project that is ongoing through the winter. The US97 Spanish Hollow and Trout Creek bridges project.
- Still doing construction on Trout Creek, closer to Madras.
- Traffic is under a single lane closure at Biggs. Completed the deck pour at the Biggs Junction. Working towards getting traffic switched towards the end of December, early January. Going to try and pave end of December.
- Still have the US97 Shaniko to Trout Creek Bridge pavement preservation job. So far this fall they have paved downhill lane Cow Canyon from South Junction to Trout Creek. They also did the base lift paving from Shaniko to South Junction in October. That project has been shut down for the winter.
- Couple of projects that have been in development recently. We had the bid openings on the I84 traffic upgrades project. Conway Construction out of Washington won the bid.

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- One of the biggest upcoming projects is the I84 Swanson Canyon to Arlington project. That goes from little bit east of Blalock to the Arlington west bound ramp. We will be doing multiple lifts of repaving the freeway and guardrail work.
  - Region 4 ITS program is one we have one small aspect of, it is out of The Dalles. That will be administered out of the Bend office.
  - Last one on the list is the US26 Warm Springs grade, going to be repaving about a four mile section. Also address some rock formation issues.
  - Still have a couple of other projects that are in development.
6. **Set Next Meeting-**  
Bob believes it is important to have a meeting in February because of the turnover in the courts. He would like to make it a big meeting and invite anybody and everybody. They will go over project updates for the year, will go over membership, what the involvement is, and how the minutes are shared. Bob would like to double check to make sure there are not any conflicts and will get back to everyone when the meeting will be. The meeting will be in Moro at the courthouse.
7. **Adjourn- 11:15**

## **Lower John Day ACT**

### **ODOT Project Delivery Updates; December 2018**

#### **Construction**

##### **US97 Spanish Hollow Creek and Trout Creek Bridges - Seismic Retrofit and Bridge Replacement Project**

Project Scope – Replace the US97 Spanish Hollow Creek Bridge immediately south of Biggs Jct. with a new, 3 lane structure and widen southbound US97 between Biggs Jct. and the southbound climbing lane. Excavate material near US97/Mud Hollow Road intersection to improve intersection-sight-distance and to provide embankment material for the highway widening. Perform seismic retrofit work on 6 other bridges in Spanish Hollow between Biggs Jct and Wasco Interchange and replace the Trout Creek Bridge on US97 near Willowdale and the intersection with OR293.

Bid Opening occurred in December 2017. Construction is well underway with the most visible work being traffic in single lane configurations controlled by temp. signals at the two bridge replacement sites. Construction is planned to be complete in Summer 2020.

##### **US97: Shaniko – Trout Creek Bridge Pavement Preservation**

Project Scope – Replace wearing course pavement from Shaniko to near Trout Creek Bridge and replace several culverts beneath the roadway along with some guardrail modifications.

Bid Opening occurred in March, 2018. One culvert was replaced near Shaniko earlier this summer. The downhill lane in Cow Canyon (rest area to Trout Creek Bridge) was paved in September and base lifts of paving between Shaniko and S. Jct. occurred in October. The project is now shut down for the winter. Final paving and other work will occur in the Spring/ early Summer of 2019.

##### **I84 Traffic Barrier Upgrades**

Project Scope – Replace substandard guardrail end treatments and other substandard roadside traffic barriers at various locations on I84 within Region 4. Upgrade (retrofit) bridge rails and install protective screening on 7 interstate bridges (Spanish Hollow Creek, Scott Canyon (2), Rufus Interchange (2), The Dalles City Center (Brewery Grade) and Quinton Canyon (Philippi) overpasses in Region 4.

Bid Opening occurred November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Construction is anticipated to occur in the Spring and Summer of 2019.

##### **I84: Swanson Canyon - Arlington**

Project Scope – Replace wearing course pavement on Interstate 84 from Swanson Canyon to Arlington (MP. 125.5 to 137.8) including repaving of the Blalock, Woelpern and west side Arlington ramps and the Arlington Westbound Viewpoint. Adjustment and replacement of guardrail and some barrier will also be included.

Bid Opening occurred November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 with construction anticipated in the Spring and Summer of 2019.

##### **Region 4 ITS Project**

Project Scope – Install or upgrade various ITS facilities and illumination around north and central Region 4 including the replacement of all street lights at the I84: Brewery Overpass Interchange (Exit 85/City Center).

Bid Opening occurred October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 with construction anticipated to occur in the Spring of 2019.

##### **US26: MP 99 – Kahneeta Jct. Pavement Preservation and Rockfall**

Project Scope – Replace the wearing course pavement on Warm Springs Grade from the top of the grade near MP 99 to Kahneeta Jct. near MP 103 and perform scaling and excavation of rock fall hazard areas to eliminate or significantly reduce the risk of rock fall on this section of US26.

Bid Opening occurred November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 with construction anticipated in Spring and Summer 2019.

#### **Project Development**

##### **I84: Hood River EB and Rufus WB & US97 @ Biggs Jct SB VMS**

Project Scope – Install new Variable Message Signs on Interstate 84 eastbound in Hood River (Region 1) and on US97 southbound just south of Biggs Jct. and install a new sign board on the existing structure on I84 westbound near Rufus.

Project Development began in January with Bid Opening scheduled to occur in November 2019. Anticipated Construction – Spring 2020.

**US197: Columbia River (The Dalles) Bridge Deck Replacement**

Project Scope – Replace bridge deck and rails.

The Project's Intergovernmental Agreement with Washington State DOT is being finalized and a contract is being developed for Consultant Design. Project Development will be kicking off later this year or early in 2019 with Bid Opening anticipated to occur in 2021 and Construction in 2021 and likely extending into 2022.

**Additional/Upcoming Projects:**

**US97 Rockfall Project**

**US26: Warm Springs Safety Corridor**

**US26: Clear Lake Road to NW Dogwood Lane Culverts & Clear Creek Bridge Replacement**

**I84: Columbia River Highway Culverts**

**US97: The Dalles – California Highway Culverts**

**US30: Mosier Connection Over UPRR to Mosier Creek Bridge Project**

**US26: Bridge Creek Bridge Replacement**