

ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 3, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Anderson, Karen Bodner, George Goldstein, Rex Redmon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jody Ogle, Tom Poage, Jack Radabaugh

STAFF PRESENT: Marsha Miller, Bill Morgan, Mark Bernard, Mike Russell

OTHER: Liaison Bobby Green

Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Motion: Bodner moved to approve the minutes as is; Redmon seconded. All present voted in favor and motion carried.

III. REPORT FROM ODOT AREA 5 REGION MANAGER – Sonny Chickering

Chickering stated due to the economy's effect on lower gas tax revenue, they have had budget changes since we last reviewed the 2013 STIP Draft. Chickering said unless something changes drastically, they will not have the money to do the projects in the draft 2013 STIP. ODOT will place the process on hold until mid-next year and will wait to see if the state legislature takes any action on the Governor's Jobs and Transportation Act, or the Federal Service Transportation Reauthorization that may occur in 2009. Bodner asked about EMX funding. Chickering responded the EMX is grant funded. Goldstein asked if Chickering anticipates funding for Hwy 126 out of this STIP. Chickering said no, it is funded through the current STIP and the work is moving forward.

IV. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND TRAFFIC UPDATE – Mark Bernard

Bernard stated one of the projects they are working on is the Coburg Interchange Area Management Plan (IAMP) and Coburg, Lane County, and ODOT are moving towards adoption of the IAMP document. The latest draft was released on Monday. Bernard said there is a planning commission workshop and hearing on January 20. Bernard stated the project will be done in phases where the west side improvements are implemented first, then the bridge reconstruction to follow, then the east side improvements – pending an exception to the statewide land use goals and process. General discussion ensued.

Bernard updated the group on the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Project on Delta Hwy and explained the system includes a variable message sign on Delta Hwy, with cameras, sensors in the road for congestion and traffic counting, will be tied into the variable message sign on Beltline, and will also inform Trip Check. The system will be controlled from Salem.

Bernard provided an update on the Transportation Enhancement Grants and said the projects selected were Heceta Head Lighthouse, Cottage Grove Hwy 99 Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements, and Oregon Birding Trail with neither of the Eugene projects added.

Bernard said Celia Barry may have an update at our next meeting regarding the Junction City Prison & Hospital Project and that the intersections of Hwy 99, Mill Iron road, and Meadowview roads will become signalized and access to the proposed facilities will be encouraged off of those roads.

V. ROAD FUND BUDGET – Marsha Miller

Miller asked, with regard to the 20 million dollar shortfall over five years, what the committee's opinion is of taking a large reduction at the beginning vs. smaller reductions over a period of time. General discussion ensued. Miller added that we have a lot of positive possibilities for additional funding.

- VI. PROPOSED GOVERNOR'S JOBS AND TRANSPORTATION ACT 2009 – Bill Morgan
Morgan reviewed the funding strategies with five basic points including Jobs, Maintaining Transparency to protect existing programs like Connect Oregon, Strategic and Sustainable, State-wide Investment, and Maintain Local Decisions. Morgan summarized how the funding would be split among state, county, and city, and how they propose to find monies. Redmon asked if there will be restrictions to the county on how the money can be spent. Morgan responded he has not seen any restrictions. General discussion ensued.
- VII. TERRITORIAL HIGHWAY JURISDICTIONAL TRANSFER – Bill Morgan
Morgan handed out information packets and stated he and Sonny Chickering went to the Board to consider a potential jurisdictional transfer of either a portion or all of Territorial Highway- a maximum of a 40 mile corridor from ODOT into the County's jurisdiction. Morgan said the road seems like it should be a county road because it joins communities, agriculture, wineries and a lot of desire for bicycle riding. ODOT's hierarchy for the road is near the bottom of the five main priorities – leaving little funds for support or development. Morgan reviewed a summary of benefits of transferring the road to the county or the possible trade-off of Delta Highway. Anderson asked what the timeframe would be. Chickering responded it's about four to five months before we could go to the Board. Green said if possible we should tie into historical landmarks by considering interpretive centers. Miller said that it's the perfect project for possible federal reauthorization money due to its economic development, tourism, the road being multi-modal, and its historic value, plus it would be a great project for Lane County.
- VIII. NEXT MEETING – January 28, 2009.
- IX. OTHER BUSINESS –
Commissioner Green gave closing comments due to this being his last meeting. Green relied upon our expertise and the staff and it was very helpful for him. Green made the following recommendations:
- Encourage new liaison to do more than attend the meetings – to be an advocate.
 - Continue to focus/explain systems that are in place and the system improvements more, rather than explaining the politics of the work or project.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Christy Mosier
Transcribing Secretary