

NWACT October Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, October 9, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Location: City Hall of Bay City

5525 B St, Bay City, OR 97107

*Members denoted with asterisks and bolded were in attendance

ODOT

Region 1 Transportation Infrastructure Development & Project Manager

Bill Jablonski*

Region 2 Maintenance and Operations Manager

Mark Buffington*

Region 2 Senior Planner

Caroline Crisp*

Clatsop County

Commission (v)

Mark Kujala*

Commission (a)

Terry Hendryx

Large City (v)

Elisabeth Adams*

Large City (a)

Steve Wright

Small City (v)

Small City (a)

Citizen-at-Large

Kathy Kleczek*

Citizen-at-Large

John Nygaard

Columbia County

Commission (v)

Casey Garrett*

Commission (a)

Mike Russell*

Large City (v)

Large City (a)

Dave Sukau*

Small City (v)

Bob Brajcich

Small City (a)

Scott Jorgenson

Citizen-at-Large

Rosemary Lohrke

Citizen-at-Large

Betsy Johnson

Tillamook County

Commission (v)

Paul Fournier*

Commission (a)

Chris Laity*

Large City (v)

Aaron Burris

Large City (a)

Sean Lewis*

Small City (v)

Liane Welch*

Small City (a)

David McCall*

Citizen-at-Large

Patrick McHugh

Washington County

Commission (v)

Jerry Willey

Commission (a)

Stacy Shetler*

Large City (v)

Large City (a)

Small City (v)

Marsha Kirk*

Small City (a)

Jolynn Becker

Citizen-at-Large

Don Odermott*

Citizen-at-Large

Tony Waters

Transit Districts

Columbia Co (v)

Chris Wheatley

Columbia Co (a)

Clatsop Co (v) Debbie Boothe Schmidt

Clatsop County (a) Craig Johnston

Tillamook Co (a)

Brian Vitulli*

Benton County

Charlene Pech

Sunset Empire

David Carr*

Ports

Port of Astoria (a)

Will Isom

Port of Columbia Co (v)

Nancy Ward*

Port of Columbia Co (a)

Sean Clark*

Port of Tillamook Bay (v)

Matt Mumford*

Port of Garibaldi (a)

Mike Saindon

Others in attendance or online:

Susan Weber

Pat McHugh

John Nygaard

Gail Henrikson

Rachelle Bender

Robert Devassie

David Carr

Cindy Moore

Nancy Ward

Don Bohn

Tracy MacDonald

Tony Walters
Adam Nelson

Sarah Lu Heath
Matt Bunkert

Sean Lewis

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*Due to a fire, the room did not have Wi-Fi. Wi-Fi was hosted via a mobile hotspot on an ODOT phone. Hosting 20 people online with video and presentations, along with 20 people in person, led to significant technological issues. In the future, virtual meetings should be considered to avoid disruption, in person option needed. 

Welcome and Introductions

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Presenter: Chair Casey Garrett

- Chair Casey Garrett called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
- Attendees present in the room introduced themselves.
- Due to technical issues, online attendees were not invited to share their names.

Welcome Senator Weber

Time: 1:20 p.m.

Presenter: Senator Weber

- Senator Weber updated NWACT members about ongoing legislative processes. She described the issues of OR6 and the advocacy for it.
- She described challenges between improving ODOT finances and constituent beliefs and expressed concern regarding colleagues' health issues during the legislative session. Bill 3991 increases government funding by 30%, provides a temporary boost to transit funding until 2028, and makes important changes to transportation and tax funds. She says for years truckers have been overpaying and are needing some equity. All state highway funds go to operations and maintenance. Manning Station will remain open and takes care of important mileposts that need to stay open during the winter. Layoffs were rescinded but 400 jobs were eliminated and are not going to be filled, which is very important to maintenance and preservation. Issues with unions on the issue of bumping are causing a lot of emotional stress on employees. She got a lot of emails from ODOT employees and mixed emails from constituents. ODOT is losing institutional

knowledge, hoping that institutional knowledge is able to remain. Budget implications have restored the funding, and some reductions are going to be made. She says there is nothing in the plan for Highway 6 other than the Highway 6 Safety Study. In this bill that was passed, there were no new projects, and this would be considered a new project. What needs to be resolved are the five or six projects from HB 2017 that are still not finished and the amount of money that is needed to finish them. They are continuing to cost a lot of money until those are resolved. The increasing problems along US 101 are concerning, especially between Rockaway and Wheeler, which are having some serious issues there. This will cost a lot of money also. She says she will continue to advocate and nag about the importance of our projects. We are the second state after Hawaii to institute a road use charge. It doesn't come online until 2027; in 2028 hybrids will join. The better mileage you get, the more you're impacted by this. Tolls have been completely written out of the agreement. Senator Meek is very opposed to any tolls. Tillamook County lost money for the Juno Hill to Abernethy project. There may be over 300 consultants with the Abernethy project. She wants this kind of overhead resolved. She voted no because the vast majority of folks asked her to vote no. She describes how Oregonians are financially struggling. Says there was not enough time to vet bill, says there was 28 versions. Also expressed concern over the health of many of the senators who were involved.

- Members thanked Senator Weber for her efforts and legislative update.

NWACT Minutes/Updates

Time: 1:45 p.m.

Presenters: Caroline Crisp, Bill Jablonski, Robert Devassie, Chris Laity

- The August 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed but not approved; revisions are needed.
- No public comments were received.
- **Bill Jablonski – Area 1 Updates:**
 - OR 6: The commitment remains to target the “low-hanging fruit” from the Safety Study and deliver those improvements. Efforts continue to advance the OR 6 roadside barrier upgrades project, with a goal to get the project under contract by the end of the year. The project includes barrier upgrades from Tillamook to Banks on both sides of the highway, including bridges, and is programmed at 10 million dollars.
 - OR 6 Paving: A paving project from milepost 4.4 to 9.0 is planned for next summer, providing an opportunity to complete some level paving and roadway smoothing.
 - Wilson River Loop Road: This location has experienced a number of crashes. Plans are in progress to redesign the westbound approach and improve sight distance to reduce crash frequency. This is a redesign. Fiber installation is currently underway along Highway 6 as the first step toward setting up new communication towers.
 - Tillamook County thanked Bill for his assistance.

- **US 101:** The Nedonna Creek Culvert Project aims to improve the existing pipe. A federal grant was received for the project, which addresses what is primarily a pipe issue. The project will pursue a more holistic solution, as the culverts are in poor condition and undersized, with significant vegetation and water buildup. In 2015, a major flood event occurred between the railroad and the video location.
- There was some disruption to the presentation due to the lack of Wi-Fi in the room.
- The Tillamook County Transportation Update was presented. Minutes unavailable due to unclear audio.

District Winter Operations

Time: 2:15 p.m.

Presenter: Mark Buffington

- Mark Buffington presented an overview of winter operations plans and preparedness for the district.

NWACT Business / Member Updates

Time: 2:50 p.m.

Presenter: All

- Members gave brief updates (2–3 minutes each) on transportation projects, grant requests, major closures, and construction projects.

Meeting Adjourned

Time: 2:30 p.m. 
