



Travel Information Council

1500 Liberty Street SE, Suite 150
Salem, Oregon 97302

MINUTES

Rest Area Committee

Telephonic Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 2020

Members Participating:

Mike Marsh, Mike Card, Ed Washington, Valerie Warren

Excused:

Susan Steward

TIC Staff Participating:

Jim Denno; Daphnee Legarza; Diane Welter; Heather Swanson; Jessica Carbone; Vicki Vargas (phone)

The meeting was called to order by Card at 10:00 a.m., at the TIC offices in Salem, OR.

Roll Call: Card, Marsh, Washington, Warren, and Vargas were present by phone. All other staff was present in the office.

Approval of the Minutes: Card proposed multiple grammatical error corrections. Card approved the February 13, 2020 minutes as amended.

Business Meeting:

Rest Area Capital Projects & Other Projects:

- **Current Available Funding & Commitments** – Welter said that for this fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, there is planned capital projects totaling \$5.1 million. The next fiscal year there are plans for an additional \$5.1 million. There is \$191,538 in unplanned funds. Unplanned funds increased from the last meeting due to the cost of LED lighting projects coming in under budget. The cash balance is \$6.1 million.
- **French Prairie Pavement Project- Design Phase:** Legarza said that work is moving on to the design phase of the project. The engineer has provided cost estimates for the pavement and ADA sidewalk ramp design and bidding and construction support. The repairs are needed and weather dependent so there is a very aggressive schedule for the project. Card asked if it was certain there would be funds to see the project to completion if the design and bidding portion are approved. Legarza confirmed there would be funds to complete the project.

Marsh moved to recommend to the Council the approval of the expenditure of \$84,000 to authorize the contract with Kittelson & Associates, Inc. for design and construction services for the pavement rehabilitation and/or reconstruction at the French Prairie Rest Area. Warren seconded. The motion carried.

- **Pre-design Study for ADA Companion Additions and Increased ADA stall Width Restroom Improvements:** The travel restrictions required by the COVID-19 pandemic caused adjustments to how the work will be accomplished. The State has requested that people stay as close to home as possible.

Legarza and Shawn White have begun site visits to rest area locations that can be accomplished in day trips. Staff is trying to work with the architectural firm when they can.

- **Water Filtering System at Van Duzer Area:** Legarza asked that the committee recommend approval to include a water filtration system to the already approved upgrades at Van Duzer. Since taking over the management of this rest area there have been numerous callouts regarding water continuously running.

Staff believes this is due to insoluble sulphide particles falling out of the water after chlorination and lodging within the diaphragms and holding them open. There is also a characteristic "rotten egg" odor in the water. The cost of the filtration system to address these issues is estimated at \$15,000. The addition of the filtration system would bring the total cost of the plan to remodel both Van Duzer restrooms to \$71,000.

Washington moved to recommend to Council the approval of an additional \$15,000 to include a water filtration system to the Van Duzer upgrades for a project total of \$71,000. Marsh seconded. The motion carried.

- **LED Lighting Improvements within OPRD Rest Areas:** Legarza said that OPRD has historically operated and posted Peter Skene Ogden, Van Duzer, and Ellmaker Rest Areas as "Day Use Only" facilities. Since TIC began managing these rest areas, they have been open and operational 24 hours a day. Staff asked the committee to recommend the approval of funds to upgrade existing and install new LED lighting at these rest areas for vehicle and pedestrian safety. Marsh asked why Peter Skene required aluminum poles and the other rest areas will use fiberglass. Legarza said that the amount of wind shear load at Peter Skene requires the stronger aluminum poles. The total cost of this project would be \$75,000.

Marsh made a motion to recommend to Council the approval of \$75,000 to place LED parking lot lighting at Pete Skene Ogden, Van Duzer Eastbound and Westbound and Ellmaker Rest Areas. Warren seconded. The motion carried.

- **February Flooding in NE Oregon:**

- **Stanfield Rest Area Repairs:** Legarza said that the eastbound rest area was the most impacted by the recent flooding. The damage caused by the flooding made several repairs and mitigation necessary. The eastbound rest area's sewer dosing and septic tanks must be pumped due to flood water infiltration and the potable water well had to be tested and treated. Other work includes reestablishing ditch line bank, removing and replacing damaged fencing, replacing damaged corral fencing, replacing rock landscaping, and resetting a displaced propane tank. The estimated total of this work is \$51,700. Card asked if the funds for this project would be coming from Unplanned Funds. Welter said that the project will be funded from the savings accrued from the OPRD LED light project.

Washington made a motion to recommend the Council the approval of \$51,700 to mitigate the damages caused by the February floods at the Stanfield Rest Area. Marsh seconded. The motion carried.

- **Charles Reynolds Sewer Line Repair Update:** Legarza said that as approved at the March Council meeting, 2,000 linear feet of pipe will be replaced due to flooding. Originally the Council was asked to approve \$150,000 for the project, but the bid for the construction and archeological study has come in at \$100,000. Work is scheduled to begin in early May.

Performance Measures:

- **Status of Performance Measures/ Rest Area Inspections:** Legarza said due to the current environment staff will be unable to complete rest area inspections with the architects completing the ADA predesign study. Inspections will be conducted as they would be usually after the travel is allowed. At this time work is being done to better tie the inspections to reflect rest area performance measures.

- **People Counters/ Traffic Counters:** Legarza said that staff has been investigating the most reliable, efficient, and cost-effective method to track visitors within the rest areas. The current counters are battery-powered; red-light break beam units installed near the door frames of the restroom buildings. These counters are subject to vandalism, extreme weather and the information is inconvenient to collect, but they are very cost-effective and fairly reliable. A new counter is being tested at the Santiam rest area and is working very well. These are photoelectric and hard-wired instead of running off a battery. A small "eye" would be installed in a bollard adjacent to the door. This would make the counter less visible and less susceptible to vandalism. The counter's display is housed in the pipe chase, so it is not susceptible to weather and the information is easy to collect. Marsh commented that having numbers documenting the people using the rest areas is very important and should be invested in. Legarza said more information would be collected on their preferred option and brought back to the committee.

Other Business:

Food Trucks in Rest Areas: Swanson updated the committee that the Federal Highway Administration has made a temporary change in the rules to allow food trucks to operate in the rest areas. The Oregon Commission for the Blind will handle permitting the vendors. This rule change is temporary until the National Emergency Declaration is lifted.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned: 11:14 a.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 11, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. at the TIC offices, 1500 Liberty St. SE, Suite 150, Salem, Oregon 97302.
