



Travel Information Council
1500 Liberty St. SE, Suite 150
Salem, OR 97302

MINUTES
Rest Area Committee Meeting
August 4, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Members Participating: Mike Card; Ed Washington; Matt Preston; David Warren

Excused: Susan Steward; Valerie Wilson

TIC Staff Participating: Elizabeth Boxall; Diane Welter; Steve Duvall; Heather Swanson

The meeting was called to order by Chair Card at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call: Committee members and staff were present.

Approval of the Minutes:

Washington made a motion to approve the June 9, 2022 minutes as submitted. Preston seconded the motion. Passed, 3-0 vote.

Current Available Funding

Welter said there were not many outgoing payments in June, but as more projects progress cash will be spent down. As of June 30, the capital fund cash on hand is \$5,271,213. Welter said that on July 1, TIC received ODOT capital funding of \$3.6m.

Welter explained that the agency tracks how much cash it has against how much it plans to spend down, however, bids and design work have been delayed so a delay will be seen on the spend down.

Duvall explained that there was a capital list previously drafted which includes all the projects by priority and estimated costs at that time. Duvall indicated that he's had several conversations with consulting engineers and a few people from Federal Highway Administration who have expressed cost increases between approx. 30%-50% and higher in the last year.

Duvall said that an upcoming administrative project is to work on a reprioritization and look at what was planned against what's now anticipated. Duvall said this will be the purpose of the reprioritization work will be to make decisions about which projects proceed, which projects may need to be put on hold, and/or scaled back.

Card asked if there is a mechanism within the state to request more funds due to the higher inflation. Boxall said that any additional capital fund requests would require legislative action. Boxall said that it was already evident that this would be needed in the future, but the dollar amount is quickly changing, especially in the last several months.

Card asked how the rest areas responded to the World Athletic Championships. Duvall said that there

were a few Opiniator requests for cleaning and supply requests, but the rest areas experienced only a small number of problems compared to the higher volume of visitors. Duvall said that some rest areas did not see an increase at all and overall, it went smoothly.

Sunset Budget Request

Duvall said that the Sunset rest area is close to going out for bid. As part of the request, Duvall reminded the committee that there is a ground water issue and part of the request for increase is to address that issue. It also considered a brand-new cost estimate for construction. Duvall said that the water issue is based on water collecting from rain and surrounding areas, leaving the ground continuously saturated. Duvall explained that ground water rises and infiltrates the sidewalk and parking area which create a hazard for visitors with mold, moss, and mildew. Duvall said that TIC has worked with engineers to come up with a design to mitigate the issue and the estimated cost is approx. \$60,000 for trenching, piping, and access manhole covers to be able to clean the piping to mitigate the water. Duvall said TIC is working to see if the costs can be reduced but is requesting the full \$60,000 + \$7,500 for updated design work to be sure we have sufficient funds, especially given the rise on costs we are seeing. Duvall said that the cost for piping and boxes are fluctuating a lot due to demand.

Duvall said the second increase is related to the increased construction cost estimate which will be an estimated \$548,000, changing the total costs from \$937k to approx. \$1.6m. Duvall recognized the significant increase and said that additional projects may also experience this. Card asked if the budget would change again since the project is only 90% designed. Duvall said the construction cost estimate should not change much, and has contingency built in.

Washington asked for clarity about the water issue. Duvall shared photos of the issue and explained that water seeps up over the sidewalk, and into the parking lot which creates a large moss slick. Duvall said that it's nearby one of the heaviest used picnic table areas and in the winter the water freezes and creates additional hazard. Washington asked about the source of the water and Duvall explained that it's either from a natural spring or naturally occurring ground water.

Preston asked if geothermal piping under has been explored to keep them from freezing, if available in the area. Duvall said that it's uncertain if this has been explored, but that one option being looked at is installing a catch basin in the area where water flows out and remove the water that comes through that existing pipe and then install a French drain to the north of it. Duvall said there is design-build flexibility, and it gives us options for other routes as we go through construction.

Card asked about the contingencies built in. Duvall said back in March 2022, the prior Rest Area Administrator added a contingency of \$65k which was approved by Council in March as part of an overall increase up to \$937k. Duvall explained that for the new estimate, the engineering company added a 20% contingency for labor, materials, and mobilization. Duvall said that the larger contingency was primarily due to the economic volatility.

Boxall said that it appears the cost breakdown accounts for inflationary factors plus the 20% contingency which Duvall confirmed. Boxall said the new increase of contingency is \$92,400, but it looks like the new overall construction contingency is \$231,500.

Preston asked how we determine inflation impacts vs. price gouging. Duvall said that there are clauses within the contracts that protect from that occurring. Additionally, Duvall explained that the estimates are from the design engineer who have no interest in the construction work and it's their estimate for the material or work that needs to be done and a per unit price based on current market pricing.

Card asked about the increases related to a couple of the line items. Duvall said that some of the pricing

comes from ODOT, such as asphalt/concrete pavement pricing. Duvall said he will work with the engineer to obtain additional details and bring back to the committee.

ODOT Annual Report and Plan

Duvall explained that by agreement, TIC is required to report to ODOT on the projects completed for the fiscal year. Duvall said the upcoming year plan is not yet complete, but mentions the upcoming prioritization work for capital projects. Duvall said the report and plan will be shared with the committee.

ODOT Coordinated Pavement Rehabilitation Projects

Duvall reported that the one project fully completed is Gettings rest area paving and after the final invoice puts us approx. \$12k - \$13k below budget. Washington asked about stripe corrections needed for Gettings and Duvall confirmed that the contractors made a mistake, and the contractor remedied it at their expense.

Duvall said that next project we anticipate undertaking will be Oak Grove. Duvall explained that originally it was going to be Santiam, but its so large with significant pavement degradation issues and budget constraints, so Oak Grove will be addressed as soon as it can get on the schedule with ODOT's work.

Duvall said these are the only ODOT coordinated pavement rehabilitation projects at this time.

Priority One ADA Companion Restroom Project Update

Duvall said the completed portions of the design upgrade for Beaver Marsh includes the parking lot, but not the ADA compliant restrooms.

Duvall said that Charles Reynolds east and west bound is at approx. 90% - 95% completion and worked through a contractual issue for a geotechnical firm to do core sampling. Duvall said Baker Valley and Deadman's Pass is also at 90% - 95% design. Duvall said outreach has been done with the tribes and objections were made to any core sampling at Charles Reynolds. Duvall said that archeological and cultural clearances are in process.

Duvall reported that Memaloose and The Maples project have been submitted to SHPO and The Maples has been cleared, pending consultation with the tribes. Duvall said cultural and archeological work has been done for Memaloose with no concerns raised and is pending a final document from the county planning division.

Duvall reported that work at Ontario, Baker Valley, and Tillamook are paused until the reprioritization work can be completed. The committee discussed the need to have reprioritization work done by the October rest area committee meeting.

Future Truck Purchases

Swanson shared that the two vehicles ordered in 2021 arrived at the dealership, however, there are parts missing so the dealership is working to obtain needed parts and repair.

Swanson reminded the committee that the agency has set up a vehicle replacement program to take money out of our operation funds to set-aside and keep trucks from aging out concurrently. Swanson reported that ordering banks were closed previously and now reopen, but no pricing is available.

Swanson said that in order to take opportunity of a potentially narrow window to respond when the prices do post, the request is for the committee to make recommendation to the council to spend the amount in the vehicle replacement fund.

Washington made a motion to recommend to council the replacement of up to 4 vehicles not-to-exceed \$153,600. Preston seconded the motion. Passed; 3-0 vote.

Swanson stated that it's possible to have actual pricing before the next council meeting, and if possible, those amounts will be taken to council.

Santiam Contingency Request

Duvall shared that the Santiam rest area remaining funds are currently less than 5% of the council approved budget. Duvall explained that the rest area is spending approx. \$1,500 per month for portable toilets and that the main reasons for delay are permit issues which are moving toward resolution, but the timeline is uncertain.

Duvall explained that the request is for the additional money needed to resolve permit issues, longer times needed for the portable toilets, and a 20% contingency totaling a \$42,429 increase for a revised not-to-exceed amount of \$182,429.

Preston made a motion to approve the increase of \$42,429 with a new not-to-exceed amount of \$182,429 for the Santiam rest area. Washington seconded the motion. Passed, vote 3-0.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Next Meeting: A virtual meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.