



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

**MINUTES**  
**Emergency Council**  
**Meeting**  
Tuesday, April 8, 2024  
Virtual Meeting

**Members Participating:** Mike Card, Chair; Eliza Canty-Jones, Vice-chair; Rich Riggs, Secretary; Jeff Baker, OTC; Bob Garcia; Matt Preston; Valerie Wilson.

**Excused:** Ed Washington

**TIC Staff Participating:** Elizabeth Boxall; Michelle Roth; Heather Peck; Heather Swanson; Jessica Carbone.

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**Call to Order/Introductions:** The emergency meeting of the Travel Information Council was called to order by Chair Card at 2:31 p.m. Introductions were made for the record.

**Approval of the Agenda and Order of Business:** The Council went forward with the agenda as presented.

**Business Meeting:**

**Public Comment:** None.

**Voting/ Action Items:**

**Approval of the Sunset Springs Water Line Repairs:** Peck informed the Council that on April 1, 2024, TIC staff noticed a water leak along the highway in front of the rest area flowing from under the edge of the highway pavement into an existing drainage ditch along Highway 26. Staff notified ODOT immediately of this issue. There is approximately one mile of 4" PVC water line running along US-26 that supplies water to the Sunset rest area from upstream springs. Under TIC's current agreement with ODOT, TIC is responsible for maintenance of ODOT utility lines. However, the agreement does not specifically clarify the responsibility for utility line failures or replacements. TIC was later informed by ODOT that it was TIC's responsibility to repair the failed utility line. TIC shut off the main gate valve at the springs to visually inspect the leak and determine the approximate location of the leak under the highway. After visually inspecting the area of the leak, the local ODOT maintenance manager permitted the water to be turned back on while TIC worked with contractors to provide an estimate for the repair. The estimated overall costs for water line and pavement repair are estimated to be approximately \$28,600, not including any unforeseen issues. Staff requested Council approval for a

not-to-exceed amount of \$45,000 to be used to complete the emergency repair work as required. There are sufficient funds available for the work. Peck also informed Council that she has investigated a complete utility line replacement for the future. It is unclear why this PVC line is under the highway currently as the original ODOT plans provided to TIC show this utility line next to the shoulder in a culvert. Staff is working with contractors to provide an estimate to abandon this current line and re-route a new line along the side of the highway to meet current ODOT design and construction standards as well as provide immediate and easier access to the entire utility line for ODOT and TIC for future repairs. Peck said once accurate quotes for the waterline relocation can be obtained the project will be brought back before Council. Card asked where ODOT's responsibility to maintain the utility lines begins. Peck said that while the responsibilities in areas such as pavement are clearly defined in the agreement with ODOT, the terms that define dealing with utility lines are not clear, such as how far out from the rest area is TIC responsible for maintaining the utility line. Riggs suggested an alternative of drilling a well for the rest area instead of using the piped-in spring water. The Council discussed what is currently outlined in the agreement, past repairs, and current discussions with ODOT over clarifications of TIC's responsibilities. The Council then discussed the possibility of closure of the rest area until the responsibilities can be defined and a permanent fix for the utility line issue can be done.

*Riggs made a motion to approve the not to exceed amount of \$45,000 for the repair of the broken water line located along Highway 26 between the spring and Sunset Springs Rest Area.*

Baker left the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

*Canty-Jones seconded the motion.*

The Council directed staff to have the necessary conversations with ODOT and other partners to find out why the water utility line is under Highway 26, investigate other possible permanent solutions to fix the problem and determine and define what TIC's responsibilities are in the agreement with ODOT.

*6-0 Vote.*

*Baker returned to the meeting at 2:57 p.m.*

When Baker returned to the meeting, he stated a vote of aye for the motion.

*7-0 Vote.*

**Adjourn:** 3:00 p.m.

**Next Meetings:**

Special Meeting: April 11, 2023

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