

TripCheck.com + Transportation Options.....

In addition to news on the latest road and traffic conditions, now you can find public transportation information by visiting ODOT's TripCheck.com and clicking on the "Transportation Options" tab.

"This site allows people to quickly find public transportation between cities," said Matthew Barnes, Transportation Options Program Manager. "It also allows you to find local transportation providers as well as access provider sites and contact information."

Find information about local transportation services by entering your city or county. Filter by wheelchair accessibility, bicycle transport, service days or by travel mode, such as bus, train, taxi and more.

Under "City-City," find intercity public transit travel options. Routes can be searched by wheelchair or bicycle accommodations.

The site will show services that connect cities. It will also provide multiple alternatives in many cases as well as links to maps,

Web sites and provider contact information.

Support for people with special needs is available under "Special Accommodations." This section includes information for people with disabilities, seniors or those who may be eligible for other transportation services.

The Special Accommodations section was designed to help brokerages and other human service transportation coordinators get in contact with transportation providers.

For now, the site has launched softly to allow some performance testing and optimization prior to being publicized more widely. "We anticipate publicizing the service to the general public on May 1," said Barnes.

Transportation providers are encouraged to use and link to the site.

For questions, comments or to schedule a presentation about this service, please contact Matthew Barnes at (503) 986-4051 or matthew.m.barnes@odot.state.or.us.

Right: Views of search pages by City or County, City-to-City and Special Needs Accommodations.

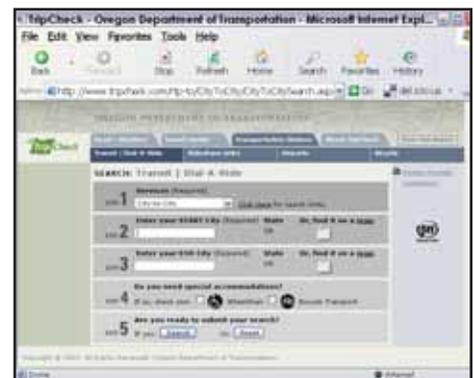




Photo by Adam Torgerson

New TO/TDM Program Manager...

When Matthew Barnes is not biking or winning table tennis tournaments, you will find him at the Public Transit Division, managing the Transportation Options Program for ODOT.

Matthew worked at Rogue Valley Transportation District prior to coming to ODOT, where he managed transportation options as well. Prior to that, Matthew was a software engineer, bicycle mechanic and importer of premium bicycle parts.

Matthew rides his bicycle, takes the bus or walks to his job at ODOT most days.

Recently, Matthew worked on the TripCheck.com enhancements discussed on Page 1.

“In the next few months I expect to visit all of Oregon’s TO programs,” said Matthew. “With limited ODOT funding to increase roadway capacity and increased awareness of global warming, Transportation Options remains one of the most interesting aspects of transportation.”

For Transportation Options related questions, call Matthew at (503) 986-4051 or e-mail him at matthew.m.barnes@odot.state.or.us.

Rural Transit Video Online.....

To help educate policy-makers, the division recently updated a video about the importance of rural transit in Oregon. Originally created in 2004, ODOT Director Garrett provided new footage for the update.

The video is available for download; see the newsletter’s last page for the URL.

The file is large (166 megabytes), so broadband is recommended.

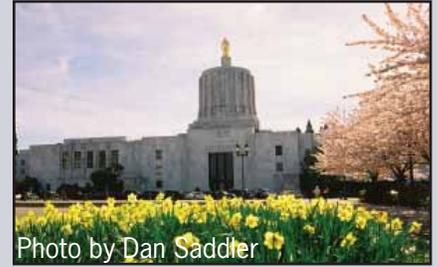


Photo by Dan Saddler

Capitol News

• House Bill 2422

House Bill 2422 was introduced by the Oregon Transit Association. It would increase the amount of tobacco tax that is allocated to the Special Transportation Fund (STF).

Preliminary fiscal estimates an increase of approximately 2 cents per pack with most of the proceeds going toward the Special Transportation Fund (STF).

The latest work session was held on March 26.

• House Bills 3363 and 3264

These bills establish reporting requirements for entities receiving economic development assistance and creates monetary penalties for failure to report. Transportation is specifically included in HB 3363 but not 3264.

• House Bill 2278

ConnectOregon 2 was amended to change geographic minimum distribution. The criteria changes also include access to jobs or labor as well as systemic connectivity and economic benefit to the state. \$100 million was included in the legislative *Co-Chairs’ 2007-09 Recommended Budget*.

Events

• **Defensive Driving**

ODOT is contracting with Chemeketa Community College to provide free defensive driving training for rural and special transportation drivers. For information, contact Jean Palmateer at (503) 986-3472.

• **Coordinated Mobility Course in Salem, OR**

On June 26-27, the National Transit Institute (NTI) will hold a course in Salem. Learn to identify ways to forge partnerships with community players to coordinate multimodal transportation options around the needs of the customer. For information, see: www.ntionline.com

• **2007 Oregon Transit Assn. Conference in Seaside, OR**

Save the dates of Oct. 22 - 24 for this valuable annual conference! For information, visit: www.oregontransit.com

• **Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) Expo in Reno, NV**

In addition to all of the workshop sessions, the annual CTAA Expo (May 19-25) will feature the National Mobility Management and National Tribal Transit conferences. More information is at: www.ctaa.org/expo/2007/home.asp

• **RTAP Scholarships**

For many trainings, scholarships may be available through the Rural Transit Assistance Program. For information visit: www.oregon.gov/ODOT/PT/PROGRAMS/rtap_program.shtml

TravelSmart® Results.....

In October 2005, ODOT commissioned the international transportation research firm SocialData to conduct three TravelSmart® pilot projects in the cities of Salem/Keizer, Bend and Eugene. Those projects have been completed, and the final report will be presented to the public in each of the three project areas.

TravelSmart® is an innovative travel behavioral change program that focuses on reducing single occupant vehicle use. Through its individualized marketing techniques (IndiMark®), TravelSmart® encourages more frequent use of sustainable transportation options such as bicycling, walking, public transportation and ridesharing by providing project participants with informational brochures, personalized timetables, maps, incentive items and an array of alternative transportation services.

SocialData's IndiMark® is designed to focus attention on people who are open to change their travel behavior. Through surveys, they identify groups who are interested in changing travel behavior. Through individual visits (via an environmentally friendly mode), the participants are given individualized travel options. Participants record their travel choices, and through the use of a control group, results of the IndiMark® process can be measured.

SocialData has been commissioned to do similar projects around the world, including two previous projects in the Portland Metropolitan Area. Both

have been successful in reducing vehicle miles traveled with strong increases in alternative modes of travel. SocialData is currently engaged in water conservation efforts using the same methodology with equally promising results.

Werner Brög, Managing Director of SocialData, will present the final results from the Salem/Keizer, Bend and Eugene projects in each of the cities. You are encouraged to attend; please RSVP if requested. If you cannot attend, copies of the final report are available from the Public Transit Division.

• **Presentations**

April 10, 2007, Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Bend Council Chambers
710 NW Wall St.
Bend, OR 97709
Free, but please RSVP as refreshments will be provided.
For questions or to RSVP, please contact Kim Curley at kim@commuteoptions.org.

April 12, 2007, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Eugene Public Library
100 W. 10th St., Bascom / Tykenson rooms
Eugene, OR 97401
Free, no RSVP requested.
For more information, please contact Marcia Maffei at Marcia.Maffei@ltd.org.

April 13, 2007, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Courthouse Square 555 Court St.
NE, 4th Floor.
Salem, OR 97301
Free, but please RSVP as refreshments will be provided.
For questions or to RSVP, please contact Lorna Adkins at adkinsl@cherriots.org.

Discretionary Grants Cancelled.....

Just joking folks; we had to do something for April Fools Day.

The division received requests for 355 projects, totaling almost \$60 million. The Special Transportation Fund (STF) Agency with the most requests was TriMet, requesting \$19.3 million. The least requested total was from Grant County Transportation District, which requested about \$68,000.

The division received requests for 410 new vehicles and 923 preventative maintenance grants.

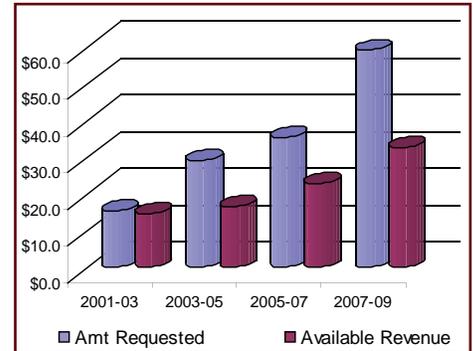
The ultimate amount awarded will be based on a number of factors, including revenue projections and the spending authority granted

within the division's legislative adopted budget.

"The first priority is to maintain the existing system and then, within available resources, invest wisely in both proven enhancements and innovative ideas," said Administrator Michael Ward.

How does that compare to the past? The graph above and to the right shows the amount requested compared to biennial revenue.

The division will likely present funding recommendations to the Public Transportation Advisory Committee in May. Information about that meeting is online.



Feedback.....

Your feedback on this newsletter or on our Web site is appreciated. Please contact Adam Torgerson with your questions, comments, suggestions or story ideas. Reach Adam at (503) 986-6579, or adam.m.torgerson@odot.state.or.us



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