

Oregon Department of Transportation
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2004

Members present:

Bob Lowry, PTAC Chairperson; Ernest Palmer, Basin Transit Service; Debbie Wert, Oregon Department of Human Services; Jeff Hamm, Salem Area Mass Transit District; Sally Lawson, Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging; Raye Miles, Broadway Cab; Terry Parker, Lane Transit District; Gary Boley, Oregon Disability Commission; Dennis Dick, Valley Retriever; and Claire Potter, TriMet.

Members Absent:

Peter Jacobsen, Rogue Valley Transportation District; Dolores Raymond, Governor's Commission on Senior Services; Michelle Roads, City of Corvallis; Maria Rojo de Steffey, Oregon Association of Counties (Multnomah County); and John Wenzholz, Oregon Association of Counties (Morrow County).

Visitors present:

Tim Wilson, Interested Citizen; John Helm, Governor's Commission on Senior Services; Bill Dooley, Chetco Senior Center/Curry Public Transit. Frank Synoground, SILC.

ODOT Staff present:

Martin Loring, Public Transit Division (PTD) Administrator; Jean Palmateer, PTD; Dinah Van Der Hyde, PTD; Joni Bramlet, PTD; Sharon Peerenboom, PTD; Sherrin Coleman, PTD; Diana Huitt, PTD; Rita Rogerson, PTD; PJ Pippin, PTD; Brenda Trump, DMV-ODOT Rules Coordinator.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Lowry at 1:00 p.m. Dinah Van Der Hyde introduced two new ODOT staff members of the Public Transit Division, Robin Rolls, Intercity Transit Program Manager and Rita Rogerson, Transportation Analyst.

Chairperson Lowry stated that the meeting was required to adjourn at 3:30 p.m. due to the STF Rules Workshop at 3:30 and Public Hearing at 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Lowry requested that the committee approve the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved as written.

Proposed Salem Streetcar Project:

Chair Lowry brought to our attention a potential conflict between the proposed Salem Streetcar project and the adopted plans for parking to support Passenger Rail service that concern the development of land on the south side of the Salem Train Station.

Intercity Bus:

The committee discussed the need for continuing the intercity task force appointed by PTAC (summer 04) to review the issues. Since it appears that private and other providers are filling gaps in the system left by Greyhound's route changes and reductions, and that there is no "crisis" needing immediate attention, the need for the task force at this time has ended and the task force was discontinued.

Several members and visitors noted service improvements associated with the changes in intercity service: Curry County Public Transit made adjustments in their schedule to connect with Greyhound in Crescent City, CA and with Porter Stages Lines at Coos Bay, and Valley Retriever has added service between Lincoln City and Portland. It was acknowledged that coordination and communication needs to be improved between public and private sector transit providers. It was noted that Trip Check is a good source of marketing for some of the intercity providers. There is (apparently) an issue related to ADA access on some intercity buses. ADA accessibility information will be included in the updated TripCheck/Regional Travel Options information system scheduled to be on-line December 2005. The update will include a profile for each agency including accessibility.

Public Transit and Motor Carrier Divisions will be meeting with the Legislative Interim Transportation Committee to identify problems in Oregon law that are a barrier to companies filling the gap in scheduling/routes left by Greyhound changes. Legislative proposals to correct various issues are likely to be dropped in this legislative session. Public Transit and Motor Carrier Divisions are assisting Senator Joan Dukes' proposal that will correct certain legal inconsistencies and will make all public agencies exempt from Motor Carrier regulation.

ODOT Budget:

Martin Loring noted that the Governor has proposed a multimodal transportation package called "CONNECT OREGON". Financing is modeled along the lines of OTEA and will be financed with long term bonds (20-30 yrs) repaid from lottery sources. The financing package will focus on four areas: freight rail, ports, aeronautic, and public transportation. ODOT submitted transit-related project concepts for planning purposes: replacement vehicles and facility investments, and conversion of diesel fleet to environmentally friendly fuels. Once the final dollar amount of the funding package is determined, the list of proposed projects will be revisited as a place to start when identifying the final list of projects for funding.

Oregon Transportation Plan (OTP) Update:

Sherrin Coleman updated the committee on the current progress of the OTP update. The process to identify the draft recommendations for policy changes has been delayed, and will allow more time for comments. Sherrin asked the PTAC to review policies related to transit to ensure they are not in conflict with transit goals. Transit pertinent policies were highlighted. Opinions and suggestions should be sent to ODOT, Attn: Sherrin Coleman.

Public Transit Division Discretionary Grant Program:

An overview of the upcoming 2005-2007 discretionary grant program was provided by the PTD staff. The program goals were reviewed and agreed upon by the PTAC. Applications will be sent out in December 2004, and due March 31, 2005. Material will look much the same as last spring

but here are a few differences. The need for developing the policy regarding preventative maintenance and mass transit vehicles was expressed.

Yield-to-Bus Oregon Administrative Rule amendment:

Joni Bramlett informed the committee about the status of the proposed changes to the Oregon Administrative rules related to the Yield-to-Bus signage. The issue to be addressed is the specified placement of the sign. The rule did not anticipate that the bus make enter traffic from the left: the signs are positioned to the right side of the bus for entry into traffic from the right. The language to correct the issue was discussed; committee members made several additional recommendations. Joni was directed to continue discussions regarding the final draft language with Providers; Trimet, Lane County Transit and Salem Mass Transit representatives volunteered to participate.

The committee also discussed the status of the law as being optional, i.e., eligible agencies choose to use Yield-to-Bus signs which are not required. The committee was asked to comment on whether or not the signs should continue to be voluntary. A Motion was proposed and carried that the signage should be voluntary.

STF Administrative Rules:

Jean Palmateer led a discussion regarding the STF administrative rules and the role of the PTAC with regard to the rulemaking process, Jeff Hamm made a Motion that PTAC ENDORSE THE RULES as proposed. Ernie Palmer seconded the Motion, and the motion was carried. Chairperson Lowry was asked to speak to the record at the rules hearing to express the support of the PTAC for the rules as proposed.

Chairperson Lowry adjourned the meeting at 3:30 PM.