

Oregon Public Transportation Advisory Committee



Meeting Notes
January 10, 2005

Date : Monday, January 10, 2005
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: ODOT – Human Resources Training Center
Suite C, 2775 19th St. SE, Salem, OR

Members present: Bob Lowry, Dolores Raymond, Claire Potter, Frank Synoground, Jeff Hamm, Dennis Dick, Gary Boley, Sally Lawson, and Jay Lynch.

Staff Present: Martin Loring, Dinah Van der Hyde, Sherrin Coleman, Sharon Peerenboom, Joni Bramlett, Robin Rolls, and P.J. Pippin.

1:00 p.m. Bob Lowry called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. Welcome and introductions were made.

1:15 p.m. Items of Interest

Members were presented with new, 2005 PTAC binders for their minutes and other PTAC information.

1:30 p.m. Update on Committee Membership and 2005 Schedule

The committee welcomed Jay Lynch, the newly appointed representative for Oregon Transit Association (OTA). The Association of Counties (AOC) is recruiting a replacement for Maria Rojo de Steffey, who resigned in December 2004. They hope to have the new appointee in place for the March 2005 meeting.

The Public Transit Division is also working with the Director and Oregon Transportation Commission for two new appointments; one to represent the tribal governments and the other to represent the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). SILC has recommended Frank Synoground as their representative.

A tentative 2005 meeting schedule was presented to the committee. After discussion it was decided to continue the current plan to meet bi-monthly on the second Monday with the exception of the having an abbreviated October 2005 PTAC meeting at the OTA conference, possibly at lunch-time.



2:00 p.m. Update on Legislation and Funding Opportunities

Administrator Loring gave a brief overview on the governor's recommended budget. The general fund 2005-07 budget is up from 2003-05. 83% is projected to come from personal income tax. Fifty-five percent of the \$11.9 billion budget will go for education and 21% for human services.

The lottery is an important funding source. When the lottery was started in the 1985-87 biennium revenue was \$100 million. It is projected to be \$1 billion in the 2009-11 biennium.

One of the most significant budget drivers, according to Oregon Association of Area Aging and Adult Disability Services, is long term care for seniors and people with disabilities. The estimated cost to care for a senior/disabled citizen is \$4,800 in an institutional setting vs. \$685 at home. Transportation is an important piece to leading a productive life at home versus living in an institution.

Important to public transportation will be the governor's initiative "Connect Oregon". This program will provide resources to fill in and complement the roadways in a multi-modal transportation system. \$100 million has been proposed for Rail, Ports, Public Transit, and Aeronautic improvements. The 30 year bond proceeds would be for capital projects (new buses are out but new bus facilities are in).

The League of Cities (LOAC) has advised ODOT to charge a \$100 fee on first-time vehicle title fees for new vehicles and vehicles coming into the state. This fee should raise much needed revenue. The LOAC also suggests adding a city & county representative to the OTC for better representation.

2:30 p.m. BREAK

2:45 p.m. Discussion on Vehicle Procurement on State Price Agreement

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) offers local governments the option to use its price agreements with vendors for purchasing vehicles. This is a very appreciated service that many grantees take advantage of. There are several purchase options for vehicles under 28 passengers. The Public Transit website also provides a listing of providers that have vendor contracts with open piggybacking clauses so agencies might be able to make a purchase using this option.

Joni Bramlett, Capital Program Manager, explained that there is no price agreement option for vehicles over 28 passenger. For these vehicles grantees



must go out for bids. She asked the committee to comment on whether Public Transit Division should work with DAS to develop an over 28 passenger bus price agreement option. Committee members did not think it was necessary but suggested to survey program participants in order to determine how valuable this might be.

3:00 p.m. Project Selection Process for 2005-2007 Biennium Grant Programs

Staff presented the proposal that will be presented to the OTC. The proposal outlines process for selection of projects in the various grant programs. The adoption of this selection procedure will allow the division to simplify the overly complex approval process and be more timely in execution of grants with participants.

For Discretionary Projects:

The grant selection process will include:

- OTC chaired, PTAC supported, Project Review Committee makes final selection of discretionary projects.
- OTC member participation adds commission involvement.
- PTAC member participation ensures expertise and broad application of priorities.

The result of the process will be coordinated input and decisions and an efficient process.

For the Rural Program:

The rural program formula will continue with the methodology adopted in 2004 which is based on population and performance. The motion to keep a reserve at \$150,000 was made and approved.

PTAC approved the following proposals for program funding processes:

Proposal #1: STF Formula Program. PTAC endorsed the current minimum of \$38,000 for Special Transportation Fund formula program. This will distribute approximately \$14.3 million in state funds in 2005-2007 Biennium.

Proposal 2: Small City and Rural Program. PTAC endorsed to continue current funding formula with a minimum of \$20,000 for rural and small city program and to set aside \$150,000 for “new starts”. This will distribute approximately \$5.3 million in federal funds.

Proposal #3: PTAC will be approved to provide members for the Review Committee. There was some discussion of selecting members that do not represent agencies with applications submitted for funding. The suggestions



for members for the Discretionary Grant Committee this year included members:

Dolores Raymond Raye Miles Debbie Wert Bob Lowry John Wenzholz

Chair Lowry will contact the suggested members to invite them to participate on the review committee. Other members were encouraged to contact Chair Lowry or staff if interested. The review committee will work with staff by e-mail and telephone conference to help develop the final technical rating tools for the project review. They will share their progress at the March meeting.

3:40 p.m. Members Roundtable and Wrap-Up

Dennis Dick, Intercity Passenger representative, reports that his company "Valley Retriever" was able to successfully pick up several links of abandoned Greyhound routes with ridership on the links improving.

Frank Synoground, representative of Statewide Independent Living Council, reported on a pilot project that uses GPS technology with speech output technology. It provides bus information by voice using a fairly small hand held device and allows persons to obtain detailed transportation information including amenities at each bus stop; cross-walk/bus shelter/phone. The system costs approximately \$5,000 and is especially valuable to the sight-impaired.

Jay Lynch reported a brief discussion about the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant funding a philanthropic group called Faith in Action. This project will provide travel assistance for longer-term care individuals that struggle to get curb-to-curb transportation. Other Faith In Action programs focus on respite care; sharing volunteer resources; and relief of respite workers.

4:08 p.m. Adjourn Meeting

The next PTAC meeting will be at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, March 14, 2005 at the ODOT Training Center.