

**Oregon Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC)
July 8, 2013 Meeting Minutes
Oregon Department of Transportation
Technical Learning Center – Diamond Lake Conference Room
4040 Fairview Industrial Drive, Salem Oregon**

Member Attendees:

Julie Brown, RVTD, Chair & Small Urban Provider rep.; **Henry Heimuller**, Columbia County Commission, AOC rep.; **Susan Dreier**, SAMTD rep.; **Karen Friend**, COIC, Small Urban Provider rep.; **Mary Jo Carpenter**, Community Connection of Baker Co, OTA rep.; **Cosette Rees**, LTD rep., **Aaron Deas**, Tri-Met rep., **Donald Leap**, AORTA, Passenger Rail rep., **Julie Wilcke**, Ride Connection, Senior and Disability rep.; **Curt Holley**, VA Roseburg Healthcare System, Veteran's Transportation rep.; **Jay Flint**, Sunset Empire Transit District, Rural Provider rep.; **Phil Warnock**, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, NEMT rep.; **Tim Wilson**, Citizen-at-large rep.; **Kim Curley**, Commute Options, TOGO rep.; **Jason Higham**, TAC Transportation, Private Transportation rep.

Member Attendees via Phone:

Peter Runnels, Harney County Commission, AOC rep.

Members Absent:

Ernie Palmer, Basin Transit, Rural Provider rep.; **Ted Leybold**, Metro, TDM rep.; **Lisa Gardner**, City of Eugene, LOC rep.

RPTD Staff to PTAC:

Hal Gard, Administrator; **Dinah Van Der Hyde**; **Martha Smith**; **Rhonda Urben**.

Visitors (in person and via phone):

Mark Volmert, Linn County; **Ken Bronson**, Sweet Home/Linn Shuttle; **Brenda Williams**, City of Woodburn; **Paula Leslie**, Bike PAC of Oregon; **Julie Stephens**, City of Sandy; **Bob Lowry**, OPRAC; **Dan Schwanz**, Mid-Columbia Council of Governments; **Roxanne Rolls**, TOGO.

RPTD Staff Visitors (in person and via phone):

Marsha Hoskins, **Larisa Varela**, **Craig Bacho**, **Robin Phillips**, **Joni Bramlett**, **Sherrin Coleman**, **Emily Fagin**.

1:00 p.m.

Item A: Welcome, Introductions and Announcements - Julie Brown, Chair

Chair Brown opened the meeting with introductions of the Committee members and welcomed visitors. Administrator Gard noted that this is the first meeting of the new membership of PTAC. An outline of activities for future PTAC work was shared:

- PTAC will present its vision to the OTC in early 2014 and plan for moving forward on that vision with the assistance of RPTD.
- Fall OTC workshops will set the policy direction for the next major legislative session in 2015. PTAC will assist in identifying the needs, gaps, and future of public transportation and bring that information to the OTC.

- RPTD, over the next year and a half to two years, will work on the public transit statewide modal plan. Currently, the Rail plan is actively underway, next in line is the bicycle/ pedestrian modal plan. RPTD staff members are currently working with ODOT Planning staff on a state transportation options topic plan.

Meeting Minutes Approval: The meeting minutes from the May 2013 PTAC meeting were approved with no changes.

Action: Chair Brown and Administrator Gard will discuss and appoint a Vice-Chair for the next meeting. They are also working on getting the public school transportation and Tribal representative PTAC member positions filled.

Item B: Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment

Item C: Strategic Investment Workgroup Update - Julie Brown, workgroup Chair

The workgroup reminded members of a draft vision that had been previously presented. The workgroup also presented a draft set of investment principles to the membership and asked for feedback.

Discussion: Members raised questions, shared comments, and added additional perspectives:

- The vision statement is lacking information about how public transportation contributes to community health and economic development.
- Regarding the principles – there is no information or principle to address marketing, outreach, or education about public transportation.
- A concern was raised to be sure the grant application process was not too arduous or overwhelming.

Action: A vision statement workgroup will be formed. Volunteers: Kim Curley, Cosette Rees, Jay Flint, Mary Jo Carpenter, Donald Leap. Cosette volunteered to Chair the workgroup.

Item D: Mass Transit Vehicle Replacement - Dinah Van Der Hyde, RPTD

Policy Section Manager, Dinah Van Der Hyde provided history for the program. Years ago, the Oregon legislature allocated \$1 million annually towards vehicle replacement for Urban Transit providers to replace large aging buses. A later legislative session added an additional \$1 million to the program. When the vehicle replacement program was initiated, urban transit systems were totally dependent on congressional support for replacing aging vehicles. Initially, there were six transit systems that were eligible for these funds. Based on the 2010 population census data, there are now nine systems which qualify for this program (areas of over 50,000 population): Salem-Keizer Transit, Tri Met Metropolitan, Lane Transit, Rogue Valley/ Medford, Bend, Albany, Corvallis, Milton-Freewater/ Walla Walla, Josephine County, and Grants Pass. Vehicle replacement is based on mileage, age, and condition of the vehicle. The \$4 million that was available for the 2013 – 2015 biennium was used to replace all eligible vehicles requested for replacement.

Discussion: Members raised several questions:

- *Can the money be spent in one biennium or spread out?* Although preferred, it does not have to be spent in one biennium as it often takes about two years to purchase a bus.
- *Is RPTD looking for people to act as a review committee?* Not for this selection as there were no conflicts. If there is a tie, or other questions arise, in order to determine a fair determination, PTAC is asked to provide input on how to resolve the selection.
- *Did the 4 million get used?* Yes - Requests were actually for \$6.5 million.

Action: Vehicle replacement grant awards will be posted on the Public Transit webpage.

Capital investment program: For the six small urban and rural systems there is a new capital grant (5339) program offering \$1.5 million annually for each sector. The goal will be to have solicitation/applications out for this program by fall 2013.

RPTD future work item: It was suggested that RPTD gather a comprehensive inventory list of public transit vehicles in the state and the dates when they will age out and need replacement, including consideration of miles used per year as helpful information to take to the OTC.

Item E: RPTD Oversight Programs and Responsibilities - Craig Bacho, RPTD

An overview of the RPTD federal and state public transit oversight programs and responsibilities was presented. Oversight programs ensure grant recipient compliance with various regulations (civil rights, safety, vehicle maintenance, etc.). The Compliance Monitoring Program (CMP) involves a comprehensive on-site review of a provider's compliance with the requirements that come with receiving state and federal grants. The on-site review is conducted by a 3rd party contractor with the local RTC present. Grant recipients receive feedback, and RTCs provide follow-up and support to move providers toward compliance in areas of deficiency. RPTD is using information from the on-site reviews to determine appropriate training activities as well.

Discussion:

- Request that if recurring issues are found during on-site reviews that the information be brought forward and shared with PTAC.
- A suggestion that if a provider is found to have "findings" as a result of the CMP, the provider should be "required" to attend the transportation conference held in the fall since scholarships are readily available.

Item F: RPTD Administrator Update - Hal Gard, ODOT RPTD Administrator

Administrator Gard would like to create a pre-meeting topic discussion process to use prior to each PTAC meeting. The idea is to have ample opportunity to think about a topic in order for a robust discussion at the next meeting. The first topic for this process is to discuss the question: *What opportunities, as a public transit community, have we been missing because of scarce local match resources?* The Topic discussion question will be posted on the PTAC webpage.

Legislative Update:

- ODOE Energy Tax Credits HB2894 – Tax credit for transportation projects are scheduled to be phased out by 2016. No replacement program.
- I-5 Bridge Replacement Project (Columbia River Crossing) – HB2800

Governor Kitzhaber has asked ODOT to pivot and look at what safety and congestion mitigation work we can do on the Oregon side.

- **ConnectOregon – HB2310A/SB260-A/SB247**
HB2310m – Modifies the existing ConnectOregon program by changing it from a grant to a forgivable loan program. However, new amendments would replace the forgivable loan concept with performance-based grants. Advocates continue to discuss amendments to refine the performance-based concept. The bill funds the \$100 million ConnectOregon program and makes bicycle and pedestrian projects eligible for ConnectOregon funding. SB 260-A follows the traditional ConnectOregon program, but has not yet determined the level of funding.
- **Racial and Ethnic Impact Statements – HB3405/SB463**
Require that grant applications for state agency grants include a racial and ethnic impact statement.
- **Clackamas County Area Commission on Transportation (ACT) – HB2945-A**
Includes provisions for allowing Hood River County and those portions of Multnomah and Washington counties not represented by Metro to join the ACT.

General RTC Reorganizational Update: All RTCs have attended at least one ACT meeting over the past year. Transit representation has increased on various ACTs. RTC updates are a standing agenda item in the Region 3 Leadership meeting. The RTCs are integrated within all the ODOT Regions. Tribal transportation programs are beginning to increase participation with RTC help.

Intermodal: ODOT is still working to understand and create an intermodal agency. An example of ODOT working intermodally is the Salem Baggage Depot which will be turned into a modal hub. RPTD is also working internally more closely with the Transportation Development Division and the Planning Department. An example is the Statewide Transportation Options (TO) Topic Plan.

Rail News: The ribbon cutting for ODOT's two new Cascadia trains will be held in Eugene on July 26th at 1pm. It is an opportunity to see and tour the new trains.

RPTD work item: Please e-mail Administrator Gard or Martha Smith with items for future meeting agendas.

RPTD work item: Provide RPTD staff, visitors, and presenters with name tags. Provide PTAC members with an RPTD organizational chart and contact phone numbers. Provide PTAC members with upcoming key milestones calendar.

Roundtable:

- The Keizer Transit Station is now open and operational. It has many sustainable elements including a green roof, water-filtering system with gardens, and a radiant heat system which has sold more energy back to the grid than it has used.
- An idea was brought up to create a PTAC SharePoint site where members could share best practices and other good ideas from around the state. Further discussion is needed about how to achieve this with limited RPTD resources.

4:30 p.m. - Adjourn