

DHS/ODOT Budget Note Steering Committee Meeting

December 12, 2007 1:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m.

676 Church St NE
Large Conference Room
Salem, OR 97301

Steering Committee in attendance:

Michael Ward, Department of Transportation (ODOT)
Lee Girard, Department of Human Services (DHS)
Bill Lynch, Oregon Commission on Developmental Disabilities
Frank Armstrong, Commission for the Blind
John Helm, Governor's Commission on Senior Services
Sara Kendall, DHS
Mark Volmert, Cascades West Council of Governments
John Wenzholz, Morrow County
Jan Campbell, People with Disabilities Advisory Committee
Mary Jo Carpenter, Community Connection of Baker County
Teresa Christopherson, Clackamas County Social Services
Terry Parker, Lane Transit District
Sally Lawson, NW Senior and Disabilities Services

Working Committee in attendance

Jean Palmateer, ODOT
Dinah Van Der Hyde, ODOT
Linda Lynch, Lane Transit District
Dawn Rustrum, DHS
Kelsey Wilson, Oregon Transit Association
Julia Brown, DHS
Morgan Cowling, Association of Oregon Counties
Aaron Deas, TriMet
Claire Potter, TriMet

Guests:

Cleon Cox III, American Association of Retired Persons
Stephen Dickey, Salem-Keizer Transit
Doris Penwell, Association of Oregon Counties
Linda Woelke, DHS

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Call to Order 1:08 p.m.

Introductions

Members of both the steering committee and workgroup introduced themselves and their affiliations that they are representing at this Steering Committee. (See handouts with committee membership information.)

A comment was made by Frank Armstrong regarding reasonable accommodations at public meetings. Lee Girard stated that the meeting notice requested that people requiring accommodations notify DHS. None had been requested.

Public Testimony

There was no testimony given.

Review Legislative Budget note and the expected outcomes

Michael Ward discussed the budget note purpose and process. The goal is to produce a report for the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) by mid-September 2008. The purpose of the report is to identify potential new revenue source(s) to finance transportation needs of seniors and people with disabilities. The report will identify the transportation needs currently and in the future and will explain the revenue required to meet these needs. Mr. Ward also stated that the Governor will be sponsoring major transportation legislation package in the 2009 that will most likely include public and special transportation funding. The report may assist in framing that legislation. (See handout re: Budget Note language.)

Mark Volmert asked if the fund analysis would include an assessment of current funds used to finance some aspects of transportation, including Medicaid, volunteer services and other sources.

Mr. Ward responded that the LFO wants a report about "new revenue."

Additional background on the budget note was provided by Kelsey Wilson. Ms Wilson stated that the Oregon Transit Association introduced

HB2242 for the 2007 legislative session which requested an increase in tobacco taxes for special transportation. The request competed with the Governor's Healthy Kids bill which also requested a raise in tobacco taxes to help fund health insurance for kids. There was interest shown in the special transportation bill by legislators even though it wasn't a priority. In order to sustain the level of interest the budget note was inserted into the DHS budget. (ODOT budget had already been finalized at that point in time.)

Roles and responsibilities of the Steering Committee

Lee Girard discussed the role and expectations of the steering committee. The primary role of the steering committee is to receive information from the work group and other sources throughout the period of the report preparation and to provide feedback representative of the needs, concerns and issues representative of their various constituencies. Committee members may be asked to provide information about their constituencies. A Process Outline handout identifies the purpose, the role, the expectations of participation, operating procedures, public involvement, timeline and meeting locations of the steering committee.

Primary communication method will be email; committee members are encouraged to communicate with staff as needed.

It was also noted that travel reimbursement request forms were not available at this meeting; staff will bring them to the next. Staff will assist committee members requesting reimbursement to complete the form.

(See the handout re: Process Outline.)

Review project work plan and time lines

Michael Ward reviewed the summary of the project tasks. A project coordinator to oversee the tasks required to produce the report has been identified (Association of Oregon Counties-AOC); AOC will obtain specific expertise as required. In order to move the project along quickly, the working group has already started to assemble information and identify data sources for analysis.

A clarifying question was asked regarding sources of data. Staff responded that the data sources would include census, existing analytical studies and reports, and would not include new studies due to time and cost constraints. The long term care information compiled by DHS and background information will be used. The data will be used to establish a current baseline, and then will be extrapolated though at least a 10 year period.

Cleon Cox (guest) asked a question regarding the extent of costs to be included in the analysis. Staff responded that the cost of service analysis would include the direct costs of administration, operations and capital costs, and would also include (to the extent the information is available) the costs of travel training and facilities, such as passenger shelters.

The committee further discussed whether related costs (such as the cost of training youth to learn to use transit) could be included in the analysis. Staff responded that unless there is an existing source of data, such costs would not be included.

Bill Lynch noted that there will be a need to identify how success will be measured; how much investigation will be enough. Mr. Lynch would like additional background regarding data and the analysis.

The project timeline was reviewed. The timeline/schedule will be adjusted as the project progresses. It was noted that there would not be any meetings during February due to the upcoming emergency legislative session. It was recommended by staff that the committee meet at the end of January, pending sufficient information available to warrant the meeting.

(See the handouts re: Summary of Consultant Work and Timeline.)

Next steps and future meetings

The steering committee will meet every 4-8 weeks. The workgroup will give as much advance notice as possible, including documents for review.

The next meeting will be held the last week of January. Tentative date is January 28, 2008. Tentative agenda:

- Review initial data to be analyzed for gaps
- Review methodology/work plan for data collection and analysis

Steering committee members are asked to bring information regarding potential upcoming legislation: what issues or bills will the various groups be sponsoring or advocating at the next legislative session?

Meeting adjourned at 2:38.