

July 2015 PTAC Notes Administrator Report -- Item G

Passenger Rail Program Activity:

- Rail budget passed though.
- Legislature placed emphasis on building ridership by next biennium.
- Discussion on commitment to passenger rail in Oregon, serious challenges continue. We will need to document and communicate return on rail investment before next session.

OTC Update

- **New Commissioner Sean O'Hollaren**

Sean O'Hollaren

Sean O'Hollaren is vice president for Government and Public Affairs at Nike. He has served in a number of positions in government, including the White House Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs, the principal liaison between the White House and the US Senate, and Special Assistant to the President in the White House Office of Legislative Affairs. He served as Assistant Secretary of Transportation, heading up the Office of Governmental Affairs at the U.S. DOT. He served during the creation of the Transportation Security Administration and its transition to the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. O'Hollaren served former Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield in a number of capacities, before joining the Senate Appropriations Committee as a member of the Professional Staff.



Sean O'Hollaren

An Oregon native, Mr. O'Hollaren grew up in Portland and Bend. He holds a degree in Political Science and Psychology from Willamette University, and completed the Certificate program in Business Management at Georgetown University. Mr. O'Hollaren serves on the Board of Trustees at Willamette University; the Board of Directors of Jobs for American Graduates, and the Board of the World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry.

He and his wife Hilary live in Portland, Oregon with their three children. Mr. O'Hollaren is an automobile enthusiast and also enjoys cycling, running, skiing and sailing.

Commission term: 5/22/2015 to 6/30/2016

- **Support for transit vehicle replacement.** OTC considering \$15 M (\$5 M year) toward vehicle replacement for those with ODOT security interest for 2018-21 STIP. This support very rewarding. OTC heard and respected our story. Success in the great partnership between staff and PTAC using "State of System", "Key Investment Principles" and "Needs Assessment" work and documents. Public Transportation story is being heard.

Legislative Update ... Transit Legislation Status Notes

- **Passed into Law**

SB142-E Deregulates intercity passenger carriers from Motor Carrier route authority. This bill deregulates passenger transportation but includes public transportation entities into MC regulation of safety requirements. Effective Date January 1, 2016. RPTD working with MC to understand impact and requirements for transit providers. MC will send a letter to providers informing them of the law. Information for providers will be provided as we learn more.

- **Active Bills**

HB 5040 Authorizes ODOT budget for 2015-2017. Provides \$9.2 General Fund for STF. Provides \$10.3 GF for Cascades Rail. Third Reading. No budget notes as of July 3.

HB 2274 B ConnectOregon. Changes name of Multimodal Transportation Fund to Connect Oregon Fund. \$42M in funds. Requires 30% match funds. Third reading. Likely to pass.

Probably dead, no scheduled events

HB 2281 Transportation Package... Senate Special Committee on Sustainable Transportation was appointed. (known as Gang of 8) Conducted work session and hearing. Result.....Courtney not willing to pursue passage (did not see enough support) this session but will continue to work after the session, unclear what that means. Bill included replacing the Clean Fuels Program with a different approach based on fuel blending and distribution goals. Much controversy about this approach. Universal support for the transportation package. Surprising support from all presenters for public transportation. The bill gave TriMet and LTD, (formed as Mass Transit districts) ability to levy general payroll tax. Supportive discussion about opening that to other public transportation entities to levy general payroll tax.

HB 2995 Requires "transportation network company" to maintain insurance policies to cover private passenger motor vehicle when vehicle's registered owner or designated operator actively participates as driver with transportation network company. Will affect Uber type services if they are considered network company. Rules. Work session 5/8. Ways and Means. No Action.

HB 3105, Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Department of Transportation for passenger rail programs and for transportation programs and services for elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities. Is a placeholder appropriation bill for funding Rail and for funding Special Transportation Program. Does not have any specifics or dollars attached at this time. Referred to House Transportation, Rules Committee and Ways and Means.

HB 2639 Funds free transit passes for secondary school students residing in service area of Lane Transit District. Sunsets January 2, 2018. House Ways and Means.

SB 819, Allows charter school to be included in transportation program funded by State Education Fund. Considers transportation costs incurred by public charter school to be same as transportation costs incurred by school district. Will be able to participate in bus pass programs. Referred to Education. No action.

HB 2236, Directs moneys to certain transit agencies from state agency payroll assessments used to provide public transportation services. Will allow Wilsonville, Sandy and Canby to participate in Mass Transit Tax program. Referred to Joint Ways and Means. No opposition. Entity must have local payroll tax in order to participate in program. No schedule.