

OREGON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PTAC)
Tuesday, July 12, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Member Attendees		
Allan Pollock - Chair SAMTD, Salem-Keizer Transit rep.	Ted Leybold Metro, TDM rep.	
Aaron Deas TriMet, TriMet rep.	Julie Brown RVTD, Small Urban Provider rep.	
Jeff Hazen – Vice Chair Sunset Empire Trans. District, Rural Provider rep.	Cosette Rees Lane Transit Division, LTD rep.	
Henry Heimuller Columbia County Commission, AOC rep. (West)	Tim Wilson Citizen-at-large rep.	
Mary Jo Carpenter Community Connection of Baker County, OTA rep.	Kim Curley Commute Options, TOGO rep.	
Robert Eaton Amtrak, Passenger Rail rep.	Karen Friend COIC, Deputy Director, Small Urban Provider rep.	
Members Absent		
Peter Runnels Harney County, AOC rep. (East)	Ernie Palmer Basin Transit, Rural Provider rep.	
Rob Inerfeld City of Eugene, League of Oregon Cities rep.		
ODOT Rail and Public Transit Division (RPTD) Staff Attendees		
Marsha Hoskins Transit Manager	Cassandra Mance Training Program Coordinator	Roxy Goettsch Program Assistant
Laura Slater ODOT RPTD, RTC, Region 5	Christine West (via phone) Capital Program Coordinator	Stacy Snider Rail Operations Manager
Melanie Hanna Operations Support Analyst	Robin Bjurstrom ODOT RPTD Special Projects	Alison Wiley (via phone) ODOT RPTD, RTC, Region 3
Joni Bramlett ODOT, RPTD, RTC, Region 4		
Other ODOT Attendees		
Craig Sipp ODOT Region 5 Manager	Teresa Penninger ODOT Region 5 Planner	
Other Attendees		
Donald Leap (via phone) AORTA.	Jeff Puterbaugh DHS, Disabilities Commission	John Andoh (via phone) Columbia County Transit
Angie Jones Grant County Transit Dist	Loni Debban Malheur Express	Linda Carter City of Pendleton
Darcy Roberts Community Connection	Connie Guentert Community Connection	Frank Thomas Union County Transit
Darrin Umbarger Clearview Mediation and Dis Cntr	Susan Christensen GEODC	Sean Tate JWA Pub Affairs

Other Attendees - Continued		
Heidi Zeigler DHS	Jeanine Gordon Kayak Public Transit	JD Tovey CTUIR
Marci McMurphy CAPECO	Rich Eberle MCCOG	Marla Davies Gillam County
Kelly Ross OTA	Anita Pranger Morrow County Transp	Teresa Dutcher City of Milton Freewater
Jodi Tohl CCNO		

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Item A: Welcome - Marsha Hoskins, RPTD Operations Manager

Marsha Hoskins opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She apologized for Hal Gard's absence due to required testimony in Washington, DC and shared that he is disappointed to have missed this full and important meeting.

Before officially starting the business portion, Marsha took a moment to acknowledge outgoing Chair Julie Brown and to thank her for the past few years of leading PTAC and moving the committee forward. Marsha then thanked outgoing members for their service over their terms: Donald Leap, Jason Higham, and Julie Wilcke.

Marsha introduced a couple of new members: Rob Eaton with Amtrak, representing Passenger Rail and Elaine Wells with Ride Connection, representing Seniors and People with Disabilities. She introduced guest Jeff Puterbaugh with DHS who is interested in participating in PTAC and introduced Elizabeth Archer who is an interpreter providing live streaming closed captioning for those hard of hearing and another way for those not able to attend the meeting in person the ability to follow along.

Before she turned the meeting over to the chairs, she welcomed Allan Pollock as the new PTAC Chair and Jeff Hazen as the new PTAC Vice Chair.

Item B: Roundtable and Announcements - Julie Brown - Outgoing Chair and Allan Pollock - New Chair

Julie Brown welcomed everyone. She explained that she will be staying on PTAC for a little bit longer but especially wanted to thank everyone for their hard work, seeing the fruits of the committee's labor over a period of time, and creating a great committee that is respected.

Julie also thanked Cassie Mance for her work behind the scenes and keeping the committee on task.

Allan Pollock then took the floor and shared his enthusiasm about assuming his new role as PTAC Chair. He agreed this is a great time to be a part of this committee as was demonstrated in the workshop the day before. He is committed to helping PTAC make sure public transportation is at the table and seeking positive outcomes.

Allan then asked everyone to introduce themselves around the room and on the telephone.

Meeting Minutes Approval:

May 9, 2016 meeting minutes were accepted as presented (moved and motion passes).

Item C: Opportunity for Public Comment - Chair Allan Pollock

Donald Leap (telephone participant) wanted to provide an observation from Monday's workshop. Two legislative sessions ago, Gov. Kitzhaber wished to remove some of the restrictions on gas tax usage to help fund state police. The bill never got out of the committee. Mr. Leap felt that if the tax was loosened from some of the constitutional restrictions, it could be a considerable lift, but with this revenue declining, may not be the best search for funding.

Item D: ConnectOregon VI Update – Aaron Deas

Aaron and Phil Warnock attended the ConnectOregon VI Final Review on June 14, 2016 where they represented PTAC. Aaron indicated that everyone prepared him for a challenging and painful experience. It ended up finishing early, ODOT did a great job managing, everyone was supportive, questions answered quickly, and all was professional. He felt that the attention to the work that the advisory committees did beforehand made a larger impact and it was a good process.

He mentioned that a number of folks were interested in knowing why there were not more transit projects. After going through the process, he shared a "lesson learned"; transit should put in more projects so we are not stuck in the middle.

A discussion followed about a number of other projects, specifically the North Portland Rail Project; how it is a bottleneck and impacts multiple modes. Due to the amount of funding allocated for this North Portland project, other projects dropped down the list. There was realization that it was time to tackle this big one.

Item E: Transit Network Grant Application Update - Henry Heimuller

The grant review took place on June 6, 2016 and Henry appreciated the opportunity to represent PTAC through this process. He shared that it was easy overall due to the funding; \$1 million to award and less than a million worth of project applications. Henry offered some suggestions on streamlining and some process challenges. He then shared the project listing with members and noted the amount of relevant projects. He indicated that Tillamook pulled their website/tech upgrade project and the Oregon State University Project was not considered

because the review panel felt it was duplicative of other studies and planning currently going on.

He recommended that PTAC approve the review committee's selection listing and recommend forwarding it.

Action Item: Motion to Accept - Moved and Seconded

Item F: Oregon Public Transportation Plan (OPTP) Update - Cosette Rees

Cosette is PTAC's representative on the OPTP Committee that has held two meetings so far. The plan's purpose is to tell the story of public transportation and to provide a vision for future strategies to improve public transportation. They are working to create a framework for informed decisions and a guide for strategic investment and prioritizing. Members are engaged and looking ahead; not being constrained to what public transportation looks like now, but what it might look like in 2040 or 2045. They have had interesting conversations about the definition of public transportation and researching private models.

She is impressed with the diversity, breadth, and knowledge on the committee. There are a number of agencies represented including: AAA, Oregon Health Authority, Economic Development, LCDC, Oregon Truckers Association, Confederated Tribes, and Commute Options as well as others.

She encouraged everyone to go to the website to review all the information available and sign up to receive the updates. The website is updated frequently and there will be opportunities for people to weigh in and inform – to be part of the process.

OPTP site: <https://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/TP/Pages/optp.aspx>

Item G: RPTD Administrator and Program Update

Rail Update – Stacy Snider, Rail Operations Manager

Stacy provided information about the derailment that occurred on June 3, 2016 in Mosier, Oregon. She explained that the accident gave the rail section lessons learned on oil trains and tracks.

She shared how the track had recently been inspected just prior to the derailment, followed by a high rail going over it. Unfortunately, the bolts that hold the brackets in place around the track had broken underneath, not visible and not detectable. Since the accident, the track inspectors have walked the full length of the curve area and replaced the bolts.

Questions:

Can you clarify just a little about the bolts versus spikes?

Stacy explained that a "spike" has a nail and a hook, whereas the "bolt" actually screws in to the bracket and holds it in place on the track.

But aren't they used in different applications? I understood the spikes are used for straight-aways and the bolts for curved tracks?

From Stacy's understanding from the rail safety inspectors, there are usually four different reasons why a derailment might happen: speed, curvature, weight, or operator error. At this time, we suspect the problem to be the bolts. However, the investigation is ongoing and we will continue to learn more details.

Baggage Depot Update - Stacy Snider, Rail Operations Manager

Construction has begun on the historical Baggage Depot in Salem built in 1918 by Southern Pacific. Because of its historical significance, there are specific reuse requirements, from pulling off the existing siding and refinishing, to window replacement and fixtures. Stacy explained how this new facility will help connect Greyhound and Amtrak and be more of an integrated intermodal facility that includes bike lockers and electric charging stations. The ribbon cutting for the final work will be in November 2016.

Added Topic – Passenger Rail Update – Stacy Snider, Rail Operations Manager

A lengthy discussion on passenger rail ridership and improved schedule adjustments took place. Nationally, ridership has increased eight percent with an increase in Oregon at nine percent. There have been a number of challenges in the coordination of schedule changes involving six different entities.

Stacy said that they are working on marketing studies that include demographics, customer stats, and where there can be return on investment, as well as preparing documentation/information that will likely be needed during the legislative session.

Members then briefly discussed the marijuana tax, the Volkswagen settlement, and how other states are funding passenger rail. New PTAC Member Rob Eaton was able to provide specifics on nationwide corridors, operating regulations, and other changes in the rail system.

Item H: RPTD Program Updates

Oregon Transportation Commission Update - Marsha Hoskins, Transit Manager

OTC met in June and reviewed the Special Transportation Fund Discretionary Awards. They approved and signed off.

Marsha then took this opportunity to explain future funding challenges. We do not expect to have discretionary funds available again in 2017-2019 biennium. In addition, with revenue declining and the general fund contribution decreasing, we may struggle a bit to keep the existing STF formula base stable. She warned that it is not time to panic or cut services but it is the legislative initiative to try to keep that money whole and possibly increase if we can.

At the July OTC meeting, the Regional Solutions Team will provide an update on their projects currently going on. There is one in Linn-Benton and one in Central Oregon that are like coordinated transportation human services projects.

Maintenance Council - Marsha Hoskins, Transit Manager

Many of the committee members went out on the tour of the Kayak facility yesterday and had the opportunity to see the maintenance building and meet Rob Johnson. Rob has attended a Maintenance Council Meeting in Washington and shared his thoughts with several of our public transit members. Christine West and ODOT Staff are looking into starting a Maintenance Council in Oregon. This would be getting together maintenance managers from across the state two or three times a year to exchange information, best practices, create networks, etc.

Allan said that Washington Transit Association and Washington transit agencies hold a couple of meetings a year and Salem-Keizer sends folks to attend. If they have an issue someone else has gone through, they might be able to help them. It is a great way to leverage resources and has been helpful.

Marsha is interested in hearing if there is support for this. Many members agreed that there is a need; even having an email communication line would be useful for the smaller one-person manager/mechanic shops.

Veterans Transportation - Marsha Hoskins, Transit Manager

Marsha explained that this is a topic getting legislative attention lately. Nine rural counties in Oregon are eligible for the Highly Rural Veterans Grants and these funds are running out. Public Transit is also ending its pilot projects for veteran's transportation. We are in the process of analyzing what worked, what partnerships should continue, etc. A report will be available soon.

A discussion followed about the many limitations, preapproval processes, and barriers. Members will wait for the summary and project information.

Gorge Express - Marsha Hoskins, Transit Manager

ODOT Region 1 Highway leaders approached transit with concerns about safety issues at Multnomah Falls. As a number one tourist destination, this is leading to a high volume of traffic and vehicles backing up onto Interstate 84. We decided to partner together to conduct a study to look at that particular segment of I-84 and the Columbia River Gorge and explore possible solutions. After extensive public outreach and many meetings with multiple stakeholders, a new pilot shuttle service was started in the Columbia River Gorge. The service starts at Gateway Transit Center in Portland and can take the public all the way to Multnomah Falls, as well as a shuttle between Rooster Rock and the Falls. It has exceeded all expectations; so much so that larger busses had to be brought in and more staff to help manage the parking lot and service.

Marsha shared the many thank yous from citizens who rode the service and some from our discretionary committee members. She read a personal letter from a woman who can no longer drive her car and was so happy that she can again enjoy a trip for the day to the falls.

You may remember another local pilot project from a couple of years ago that partnered with Federal Lands and Forest Service. The project proved very successful with fares covering the cost in a year's time and people having better access to sites without having to wait hours. This

new project is another example of funding that we do not always think of. This interim pilot project is now leading to applications and possibilities for multiple long term solutions.

Break

Item I: ODOT Region 5 and Eastern Oregon Leadership Panel - *Laura Slater – Regional Transit Coordinator for Region 5, Craig Sipp - New ODOT Region 5 Manager, Mary Jo Carpenter - Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Jeanine Gordon - Kayak Public Transit Program Manager, John David "JD" Tovey - CTUIR Tribal Planning Director, Frank Thomas - Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, and Teresa Penninger - ODOT Region 5 Planning Manager*

Marsha introduced Craig Sipp, who had been an ODOT Area Manager for many years but is now the new Region 5 Manager.

Craig said he is excited to be invited and participate today. He has enjoyed listening to the conversations and seeing all the transit providers in the room. He welcomed everyone and explained how large an area Region 5 covers, from Boardman down the state and the whole eastern half. In his new role, he handles everything from operations to basic needs. He is looking forward to the rest of today's meeting, getting a better understanding of the challenges and needs, and hearing from the rural provider's perspective. He would like to see this advisory committee continue to meet around the state so others have this experience was well.

Laura Slater shared a presentation and discussed the challenges of living in rural Oregon. It takes 30 minutes to get to the grocery store, two to three hours to go eat at an Olive Garden, shop at the mall, or even to watch her daughter play softball. She showed a map of the area referenced as "Frontier Counties". Frontier Counties have populations of six or less people per square mile. Region 5 is the largest area with the smallest population. Having such rural counties creates unique transportation challenges. Many have to travel long distances for work, medical facilities, or even groceries. The younger generation is increasingly moving to urban areas in search of better jobs, changing the demographics with increased 65 and older populations remaining. Transit is necessary if we want our elders to stay in place.

Laura's presentation included additional information on the changing face of rural Oregon's population. The full PowerPoint can be found at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/PT/Pages/stakeholders/ptac.aspx>

She then invited all the Region 5 providers in the room to stand up. She acknowledged them as super heroes for their dedication to the communities they serve: taking their cell phones on vacation to dispatch, driving the buses themselves in a crunch, and providing interpreter skills to help in an emergency. The examples are endless.

- Mary Jo Carpenter introduced herself. She works with the Area Agency on Aging with Community Connections of Northeast Oregon. She shared that many providers in the room

are “jack of all trades, master of none, wearing many hats” to keep things operating. She said there can also be beauty in that and living in small communities; you might have gone to school with the person on the other end of the line or you know who to call when you run into a barrier. She asked each of the providers in the room to introduce themselves, share the agency and area where they are from and a little about their service.

- Laura provided a history of the Regional Transportation Coordinator’s roles since implementation four years ago and how much impact and difference in each of the five regions. She is still learning a lot about transit but feels one of her primary goals is to provide the connection/partnerships that providers need such as links to larger agencies, having ties to the ACTs, planning and maintenance needs, and resource sharing. She has also started seeing a difference internally; being invited to sit at the table for development projects so that public transportation aspects are part of the conversation from the beginning.
- Jeanine Gordon, Public Program Manager for Kayak, shared how their services started in 2001 with one van and has grown to several commuter buses going to two states, four counties, as well as a regular fixed route between Mission and Pendleton. Kayak recently went through a big change by taking their operations in-house. It has been a huge learning curve with hiring, training, policies and procedures. Jeanine thanked all of her transit partners around the room for sharing their knowledge, experience, and support during the past couple of years. She agreed with many of the attendees in the room, everyone helps out where needed. She and JD have driven buses and worked on all the plans together but then they get to meet the people that they serve, like college students getting to school or people coming in from the Tri-Cities to work. CTUIR is currently working on their new health care facility where they will include a state-of-the-art bus stop with a wheelchair charging station.
- JD Tovey, Planning Director for Umatilla Indian Reservation, shared his background in urban planning and design. He enjoys focusing on coordinating transportation and the environment, and how that ties into public health. One thing that has impressed him lately is the progression of activities. His extensive work in Seattle has helped with Regional Tribal Analysis, the Health Department looking at Transportation Options, and commissioners asking questions and getting buy in. Between Kayak and City of Pendleton, they are moving almost eight thousand people, that is six times the population, so to think of the linkage these services are providing and the potential!
- Frank Thomas, Union County Transit Manager, presented their Rides to Wellness Program. This program began from a need expressed at the local hospital for transportation, and the need kept coming. Our goal was to make access available anywhere in Union County with the idea that by getting passengers to local clinics or urgent care when they needed it, this would help prevent hospitalizations or repeat hospitalizations and save the whole system money with positive impact. By the end of the first year, we were providing hundreds of rides a month and people started planning their trips in advance. He shared a story of a patient who could receive dialysis using their service that enabled him to stay in his home instead of going into long-term care. This first year, the program would have saved the medical community more than the service costs.

Frank developed a business case report that he brought to share. You can find this document on the PTAC Website:

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/PT/Pages/stakeholders/ptac.aspx>

Their next step will be to work with Ride Connection in Portland and learn about their groundbreaking program. He really feels coordinated care professionals and transit can really work together in innovative ways. He ended by encouraging providers to call him with questions.

- Teresa Penninger, Planning Manager for Region 5, shared a PowerPoint presentation on a travel-shed analysis between Morrow and Umatilla County. This travel-shed analysis is looking at addressing the need for veterans, older adults, families, and workforce participants. The information will be used to build upon the coordinated human services plans being developed. By using this data along with Remix tools, this can define the inflow, the outflow, where there are gaps and possible improvements, and identify options.

Teresa hopes that these efforts and end results can be applied to other travel-sheds in other parts of the state.

Question: Are you seeing any change in younger demographic moving into rural areas for quality of life and work? If so, how are you using that data to drive public transportation systems for those not buying cars?

Teresa said they are seeing a little bit of that, specifically in the medical fields. Another member shared that they plan to have all the amenities on their next bus to cater to that market, extra bike racks, Wi-Fi, etc.

Link to presentation on the PTAC web site:

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/PT/Pages/stakeholders/ptac.aspx>

Item J: Transportation Funding Package Discussion Update

J1: OTC Update

This update was given earlier in the meeting.

J2: Oregon Transit Association (OTA) Update – Drew Hagedorn, Gov Relations with Tonkin Torp
Chair Allan Pollock indicated that they had received a text from Drew Hagedorn that his flight was delayed and he was not going to make the PTAC portion of today's meetings. Allan invited everyone to stay for the Oregon Transit Association Meeting in the afternoon to see Drew's briefing update

J3: Oregon Transportation Forum (OTF) Work – Aaron Deas

Aaron explained that OTF is a group of interested parties who have been working for the last three years on trying to give input to the legislature on transportation funding and to help coordinate efforts to give representatives support. This work has been in conjunction with a

process through OTA where we have been putting together elements for improvements and looking at the big picture of transportation elements.

Aaron shared that he is also the chair of a subcommittee on funding ideas. There are subcommittees on innovation, spending, and a grassroots political group that looks at ways to raise money for funding and polling. All have been focusing efforts the last two years on this 2017 legislative session.

The Governor has put together the Vision for Oregon's Transportation System. You have this booklet in your packets. With that work happening and other initiatives, the group has had to re-evaluate the path to take and level of detail. One big thing that Aaron indicated hearing today is describing and addressing the difference between urban transit needs and rural.

He also shared that the Joint Transportation Committee, in advance of the 2017 legislative session, has scheduled hearings and tours around the state. He encouraged everyone to get to those meetings and help them hear that public transit is very important.

An attendee shared that they attended the last hearing, had lunch with the joint committee and shared the services they provide. They explained the drastic increase in mobility devices over the last 15 years and accessibility issues with taxi services. It was very interesting watching their reactions, like a light bulb going on, with many of them taking notes.

Link to Governor's Vision for Oregon Transportation System:

<https://visionpanel.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/one-oregon-final-report-web-version2.pdf>

Link to Joint Committee on Transportation hearing information:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORLEG/bulletins/15978fb>

Item K: Final Reminders and Adjournments

Allan thanked everyone for attending and all the great work. He thanked Region 5 for hosting and their presentation.

PTAC's next meeting is scheduled for September 12th and 13th in Salem. Part of that meeting will be follow-up to Monday's workshop followed by a normal business meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.