

OREGON FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OFAC)
Projects Subcommittee Meeting
December 7, 2005, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
ODOT Region 1 Building, Portland

Reason for Meeting/Overview of Tasks

Susie Lahsene, chairing for Martin Callery, called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. She and Julie Rodwell, ODOT Freight Mobility Manager, reviewed meeting agenda and action items.

2008-2011 ODOT STIP Process & Timelines

Ms. Rodwell explained the legislative mandate(s) regarding OFAC recommendation of freight projects to the OTC for the STIP. She called attention to the STIP flowchart, indicating the opportunities for OFAC input to the 2008-2011 STIP process. She then noted a memo sent to ODOT Region Planning Managers on 11/18/05, asking for their input to the list of 200+ projects identified by OFAC for OTIA III (minus those fully funded in an approved STIP). The Regions will also consult their ACTs/stakeholders, as part of their ongoing STIP development process, to uncover any new freight mobility projects. It was agreed that the Subcommittee would like an additional opportunity to add projects that the Regions/ACTs may not have listed to date.

Ms. Rodwell presented the project list, to which Ms. Lahsene recalled the time intensiveness of the OTIA process and helpfulness of project detail provided to the Subcommittee. Steve Kale, retired ODOT Freight Planner, encouraged FMS staff to obtain this information for new projects and, with the significant reduction in STIP modernization funding, advised the Subcommittee to evaluate the most significant of the 200+ projects. Craig Greenleaf, ODOT TDD Administrator, suggested projects be prioritized by “changed circumstances” or exception, and to utilize Region templates (revised with the new freight mobility factor). Gregg DalPonte, ODOT Motor Carrier Administrator, added it may suffice to rank previous Tier 2 projects as Tier 1 and Tier 3 as Tier 2.

Tom Schwetz, Lane MPO, asked if/how MPO input would be obtained. Karen Green, FMS Staff, noted the timeline calls for MPO input after Region/ACT input (consistent with the STIP process). Deena Platman, Metro, cited their meeting with ODOT in January; with 6 weeks notice, input could be provided to the Subcommittee in mid-February, with which all agreed. The flowchart was approved, contingent upon further discussion of OFAC adding projects. Ms. Lahsene asked that tier rankings be added to the spreadsheet as applicable, to facilitate project identification.

Eligibility Criteria & Prioritization Factors (EC/PF)

Ms. Rodwell indicated that, although the EC/PFs OFAC utilized for OTIA had been approved at the previous meeting for 2008-2011 STIP work, it was discovered that two (2) of the eligibility criteria were inconsistent with the EC/PFs approved by the OTC. Since the Subcommittee will need to give more detailed consideration than what the OTC EC/PFs provide, a proposed revision to the OFAC EC/PFs were presented. The document was acknowledged, and FMS staff will research the OFAC OTIA process and propose a detailed STIP process at the next meeting.

ConnectOregon Update

John Jackley, ODOT Executive Officer, gave a detailed status on the *ConnectOregon* program. Unlike past ODOT programs, SB71 requires administrative rulemaking. On the one hand, rulemaking has added a significant step to program development; on the other, it presented an

excellent opportunity for stakeholder outreach. While ODOT is on schedule to open the project application period, the OTC will discuss the program at their 12/13 meeting, from which timeline, project application and evaluation processes should be finalized.

The OTC is asking for projects representing the “best strategic investments for the state” and has provided additional feedback to ODOT as follows:

- Project applicants need more time, particularly with permanent rule adoption in January;
- In addition to the SB71 modal advisory groups, there will be regional advisory groups;
- A common project evaluation framework will be provided to all advisory groups; and
- A Consensus Committee will be established to prepare the final project list for OTC recommendation, developed from the modal and regional advisory group lists.

Ms. Lahsene asked who would compose the regional advisory groups: Mr. Jackley indicated inclusion of ACTs and other stakeholders, using the STIP process as a guideline. Mr. Jackley finally detailed the application receipt process, indicating FMS staff will check all for completeness, a consultant will check for reasonability and all that pass these steps will be passed to the advisory groups for review. Ms. Rodwell announced the Assistant Attorney General decided that OFAC could review any and all applications.

ConnectOregon Project Evaluation

Ms. Lahsene presented the draft *ConnectOregon* EC/PFs, noting they were taken directly from SB71. She suggested that more detailed measures would be helpful, if not necessary, for the Subcommittee to assist in project evaluation. Mr. Kale reminded the group that project examples were provided in OTIA to facilitate the process. While members agreed with this concept, Ms. Rodwell pointed out the difficulty due to non-road projects and significant variation among the modes. The OTC has also directed to date not to “rank and score” projects; therefore application instructions include detailed prompts and clues to project prioritization.

Tom Zelenka, OFAC Chair, suggested business/project people should know how to “make the case” for their projects, and that many business/economic models are available to assist. He also suggested that advice against “ranking & scoring” does not prohibit some quantitative analysis. Mr. Dal Ponte agreed this was the ODOT Steering Committee’s most difficult discussion to date, though it’s up to the applicant to respond to OTC guidance and provide their best rationale. Finally, Representative Greg Smith indicated the Legislature wants projects approved that move freight and people efficiently and effectively and, from a successful *ConnectOregon* effort, there will be strong support for future funding. He thanked Ken Armstrong and Pat Egan for their tireless efforts to pass SB71, and encouraged OFAC to keep its legislators informed.

Future Meetings

It was agreed to meet again before the January OFAC meeting, with lunch provided. Future meetings will be scheduled as needed for the March OFAC meeting to approve the Subcommittee project list. Members will consider alternative meeting locations outside of Salem and Portland.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m. in preparation for the subsequent OFAC meeting.

OFAC Projects Subcommittee

Meeting Attendees

December 7, 2005

PSC MEMBERS

Ken Armstrong	OR Ports Group/Short Line RR Association
Anne Ballew	Central Lane MPO
Bill Burgel	HDR Engineering
Gary Cardwell	Northwest Container Services
Jerry Grossnickle	Bernert Barge Lines
Susie Lahsene	Substitute Chair, Port of Portland
Michael Montero	Montero & Associates, LLC
Gary Neal	Port of Morrow
Deena Platman*	Metro
Michael Quilty	Rogue Valley MPO/City of Central Point
Tom Schwetz	Central Lane MPO
Charlie Tindall	Blue Line Transportation
Honorable Alan Unger	City of Redmond
Lonny Welter	NWACT/Columbia County
Gary Whitney	OR Economic & Community Development
Paul Zalec	Portland & Western Railroad
Tom Zelenka	Schnitzer Steel Industries

GUESTS

D. E. Bridges	OR Forest Products Transportation Association
Tammy Dennee	OR Wheat Growers League
Arlene Dietz	Transportation and Water Resources
Lylla Gaebel	NWACT/Clatsop County
Steve Kale	Kale Consulting
Honorable Greg Smith	Oregon House of Representatives
Mike Wendel	City of Prineville
Tracy Ann Whalen	ESCO Corporation

ODOT

Gregg DalPonte	Motor Carrier Division Administrator
Cary Goodman	Planner, Freight Mobility Section
Karen Green	Planner, Freight Mobility Section
Craig Greenleaf	Transportation Development Administrator
John Jackley	Highway Executive Officer
Julie Rodwell	Manager, Freight Mobility Section

* Attending for Bridget Wieghart