

OREGON FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OFAC) MEETING NOTES

November 2, 2005, 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Port of Portland, 7th Floor Executive Board Meeting Room
121 NW Everett Street, Portland

Introductions

Chair Tom Zelenka called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

October 5, 2005 Meeting Notes & Follow-Up

Meeting materials contained the notes from the October 5, 2005 meeting, as well as documentation of previous member and guest requests and their status.

ConnectOregon

Julie Rodwell, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) began the topic by explaining that the proposed temporary rules and permanent rules are now out for public comment, and then reiterated that a public hearing for the permanent rules is scheduled for November 15th and that the temporary rules will be considered for adoption by the Oregon Transportation Commission (Commission) on November 16th. The proposed permanent rules will eventually replace the temporary rules.

Bob Russell, Oregon Trucking Associations, stated his understanding that the Commission will handle recommendations coming from four different advisory committees by designating a group that would consolidate the four project recommendations into one, and that the group met on October 27 at noon. He asked if that group will provide the final list to the Commission. Lori Sundstrom, ODOT, confirmed that the Commission has asked that a consensus group be formed to come up with one unified list of projects. The consensus group would be made up of people from the four advisory groups, as well as members from various Area Commissions on Transportation (ACTs). She stated that developing the unified list will be an iterative process, subject to change. Mr. Russell stated that the process associated with House Bill 2041 a number of modes were involved in evaluating projects for funding. He advocated that the *ConnectOregon* consensus group be multimodal.

Chair Zelenka asked if Ms. Sundstrom or Ms. Rodwell could summarize what was discussed at last week's consensus group meeting. Ms. Sundstrom said the group discussed the challenges in simultaneously developing temporary and permanent rules. The importance of keeping the temporary and permanent rules similar was emphasized -- so that an application submitted in December wouldn't have to be rejected because it didn't comply with rules that had changed. There was discussion about the term "criteria," and that Senate Bill 71 referred to "considerations," not "criteria." The meaning of "construction ready" was also discussed.

Chair Zelenka advised ODOT staff that the rules should provide clear explanations on how projects will be judged. Entities whose projects aren't selected for funding need to have a sense that they had a fair chance in the process. Prioritizing projects from various modes into one list will be challenging. He emphasized the vital role the rules will play in specifying what considerations such as "construction ready" mean, and stated that for the *ConnectOregon* process, the department should give applicants an opportunity to fix applications that lack the needed information.

The group also discussed the difficulty in ranking projects across the regions as they compete for the remaining \$25 million. Pat Egan, Port of Portland, suggested that applicants be required to demonstrate

the project's economic viability to operate long-term. Ms. Sundstrom assured the group that the process will be transparent and thorough.

Mr. Russell suggested the project subcommittee be tasked with developing the process and criteria it will use in evaluating CO freight projects, and report back to OFAC as soon as possible. Mike Montero, Montero & Associates, pointed out that some projects will go before more than one advisory group. Ms. Sundstrom confirmed there will be some overlap. Gregg Dal Ponte, ODOT, suggested that the consensus group begin meeting now on a parallel track and begin determining the process it will use to sort through data from the four advisory groups to come up with one final list. Mr. Russell asked if the consensus group has been completely populated yet. Ms. Sundstrom said it hasn't, but they are moving fast to complete it.

Gary Whitney, Oregon Economic & Community Development Department, asked about private sector projects – how do the advisory groups avoid recommending a project where Company A is awarded money for a project that just shifts jobs from one company or location to another. Mr. Montero said it's important that the application and the subsequent review process expose such possible outcomes. Gary Neal, Port of Morrow, reminded the group that projects resulting in job re-location are not eligible; the project must result in net job creation.

Chair Zelenka advised that the other three advisory groups use a version of the Eligibility Criteria and Prioritization Factors that OFAC's project subcommittee developed for its work for HB 2041.

Ms. Sundstrom reminded the group that a public hearing on recommended projects will be held in May 2006. The proposed schedule calls for the Commission to select projects at its June 21, 2006, meeting.

Follow-up: *ConnectOregon* update and discussion (planned for every OFAC meeting).

Portland Region Freight Planning Efforts

Deena Platman, Senior Transportation Planner for Metro, provided an overview of the City of Portland's recently completed Freight Master Plan. Her PowerPoint presentation stated that Portland is the state's freight hub, and that freight traffic is projected to double by 2030, if not sooner. This presents both opportunities (creation of family-wage jobs, for example) and challenges (e.g. increased congestion). Ms. Platman emphasized the importance of developing a private stakeholder committee early to help guide the master plan development. The plan tries to identify freight projects and prioritize them. Ms. Platman will now work with Metro in developing a somewhat similar freight master plan for the entire Portland metro region. Copies of her PowerPoint presentation were handed out.

Follow-up: Contact Ms. Platman (503.797.1754) if interested in becoming involved.

Steve Kale Proclamation

Chair Zelenka presented Steve Kale, retiring ODOT Freight Planner, with a framed proclamation expressing the Oregon Freight Advisory Committee's appreciation for his dedication, knowledge, and hard work.

ODOT Traffic Mobility Section Update

ODOT's Randal Thomas provided a PowerPoint presentation, updating the group on the Traffic Mobility Section's efforts to monitor and improve mobility on Oregon's highways. Mr. Thomas handed out copies of the PowerPoint slides, as well as a 6-page document regarding Delay Thresholds. ODOT has

developed a four-hour training course and accompanying Highway Mobility Operations Manual. Mr. Thomas offered attendees the opportunity to sign up for the course, or to sign up to receive a copy of the manual and subsequent updates. He also suggested OFAC could schedule one of their meetings in the PUC building in Salem, and get a tour of the Traffic Mobility Operations Room.

Follow-Up: Contact Mr. Thomas (503.986.6613) if interested in any of the offers.

Membership Issues

Membership Subcommittee Chair Bob Russell distributed copies of OFAC's General and Associate membership lists, as well as lists of proposed members for the Project and Policy Subcommittees. Mr. Russell proposes that Paul Zalec be added to the Project Subcommittee list. The Committee then voted and approved both subcommittee member lists. Mr. Russell and Ms. Rodwell advised the group that (1) nominations are now open for OFAC Chair and Vice Chair, (2) nominations should be submitted to either of them before Thanksgiving, (3) Tom Zelenka and Susie Lahsene are the current Chair and Vice Chair, and (4) there are no term limits for these offices; members may re-nominate the existing officers. OFAC will vote on these two positions at its December 7 meeting.

Follow-up: Members must submit Chair and Vice Chair nominations to either Ms. Rodwell or Mr. Russell before November 24.

Project Subcommittee Report

Martin Callery, Project Subcommittee Chair, could not be present; Susie Lahsene spoke on his behalf. Ms. Lahsene stated that the Project Subcommittee met last week, principally to discuss its recommendations for STIP development. The subcommittee reviewed the Eligibility Criteria and Prioritization Factors list that was previously approved by OFAC on September 9, 2003, and used in evaluating HB 2041 projects. Ms. Lahsene handed out copies of the list. Discussion followed on whether OFAC should vote to adopt this document as its means to evaluate the '08-'11 (and future) STIPs. Chair Zelenka suggested OFAC defer a vote until next month, giving new members time to review. Craig Greenleaf, ODOT, stated that OFAC ratification may not be needed, since the Commission has already adopted STIP criteria that folded in these freight factors.

Ms. Lahsene wrapped up the topic by stating that the Project Subcommittee will likely be evaluating STIP projects in January 2006, and that the subcommittee ought to establish ConnectOregon criteria and prioritization factors soon, because it will likely be evaluating ConnectOregon freight projects in February 2006.

Freight Mobility Manager's Report

Julie Rodwell handed out her report, pointing out that ODOT is conducting an Oregon 140 Study, citing the World Freight Trends PowerPoint handout, stating that ODOT is engaged in the West Coast Corridor Coalition, and reminding the group that the ODOT Research Unit is accepting problem statements. She encouraged members to submit freight-related problem statements, asking them to call or e-mail her. OFAC will need to decide at the December meeting which statements to submit to the Research Unit (deadline is December 15). Ms. Rodwell also reminded members to submit potential future agenda topics. **Julie wants the minutes to state that the OHP Amendment was distributed to OFAC.**

Regarding the OR 140 Study, John Kratochvil, Oregon Department of Agriculture, asked if temporary or interim measures (such as those used by ODOT when a bridge is washed out) could be used to allow

longer truck-trailer combinations over the OR 140 route without waiting until all the required roadway modifications are constructed. ODOT's Motor Carrier Transportation Division Administrator, Gregg Dal Ponte, pointed out that he has previously responded to the question via an e-mail to Agriculture's Gary Roth. Mr. Dal Ponte explained that situations such as the length-restricted portion of OR 140 are governed by Oregon Administrative Rules [OAR 734-070-0020], which provide two methods for addressing this issue. The first method involves a test run, where the requested configuration is filmed as it drives the route, so that objective observations can be made to determine whether the proposed vehicle can safely occupy and travel within its lane. This test run has been filmed for the section of Hwy 140 east of Klamath Falls, the film is available, and the proposed longer vehicle clearly failed to stay within its lane.

The second method involves an appeal to ODOT's Chief Engineer, asking for further evaluation involving various additional factors. ODOT has undertaken to consider these additional factors in the past and has not determined that the current length restriction can be safely removed. A renewed request of this nature should be directed to Mark Usselman, ODOT Region 4 Manager, at (541)388-6184. However, absent a material change in the physical roadway characteristics it is doubtful that a different conclusion would be in order. The rule does not consider the additional option of temporary or interim measures such as those used by ODOT when a bridge is washed out because of the overarching concern for the safety of the traveling public.

Bridget Wieghart, Metro, asked for a summary on the West Coast Corridor Coalition (WCCC). Ms. Rodwell said that there is value to be gained in working with the other states – there are common data needs and research topics. She has been nominated to be on the Executive Committee, but she won't have much to report until after they have met in January 2006. Mr. Quilty says that the WCCC reviewed its draft by-laws (to be finalized in January), and discussed what its objectives should be, now that it has the various DOTs, MPOs, freight haulers, and Ports. The expectation is that there should be tangible results within two years. Gary Cardwell, Northwest Container Services, Inc., stated the group believes the western states deserve more federal funding than what they're currently getting. Discussion ensued whether additional funding is garnered via such a coalition, or via the individual state's congress members' placement on key committees.

Other Business

Ms. Sundstrom extended Commissioner Papé's regrets that he could not be at this OFAC meeting. Chair Zelenka announced that Ms. Sundstrom was leaving ODOT to become the Executive Officer at the Portland Development Commission, and thanked her for all her hard work for OFAC.

Adjournment

Chair Zelenka adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

**Oregon Freight Advisory Committee
Meeting Attendees
November 2, 2005**

FAC Members (General & Associate)

Anne Ballew	Eugene-Springfield MPO
Gary Cardwell	Northwest Container Services, Inc.
Dan Clem	Salem-Keizer MPO
Terry Cowart	Lebanon Auction
Pat Egan	Port of Portland
Nick Fortey	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Greg Gilmer	NORPAC
Jerry Grossnickle	Bernert Barge Lines
John Kratochvil	Oregon Department of Agriculture
Susie Lahsene	Port of Portland
Dan Lovelady	Central Oregon & Pacific RR
Sarah Lucas	Oregon Department of Aviation
Rob Mathers	Kinder Morgan Energy Partners
Mike Montero	Montero & Associates LLC
Gary Neal	Port of Morrow
Ray Neil	Pendleton Grain Growers
Mike Quilty	Rogue Valley MPO
Bob Russell	Oregon Trucking Associations
Jonathan Schleuter	Westside Economic Alliance
Tom Schwetz	Lane Council of Governments
Glenn Vanselow	Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
Liz Wainwright	Merchants Exchange of Portland
Lonny Welter	Columbia County Public Works
The Honorable Mike Wendel	Mayor of Prineville
Gary Whitney	Oregon Economic and Community Development Dept.
Bridget Wieghart	Metro
Paul Zalec	Portland & Western Railroad
Tom Zelenka	Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc.

ODOT

Gregg Dal Ponte	Motor Carrier Transportation Division
Cary Goodman	Freight Mobility Section
Craig Greenleaf	Transportation Development Division
Steve Kale	Freight Mobility Section
Julie Rodwell	Freight Mobility Section
Lori Sundstrom	Director's Office
Randal Thomas	Traffic Mobility

Other Attendees

Arlene Dietz	Transportation & Freight Consultant
Sorin Garber	Sorin Garber Consulting Group
Tom Markgraf	Columbia River Crossing Task Force, Tom Markgraf & Associates
Deena Platman	Metro
Art Schlack	Association of Oregon Counties