

**OREGON FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OFAC)
MEETING NOTES**

October 4, 2006 * 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Port of Portland
121 NE Everett
Portland, OR 97201

1. Call to Order / Introductions

Tom Zelenka, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m., and self-introductions were made by OFAC members and guests.

2. September 13, 2006 Meeting Notes & Follow Up

Martin Callery requested a spelling error be corrected and the meeting notes were unanimously accepted.

3. Update on OR 140 Study

Julie Rodwell advised the purpose of the study is to evaluate the benefits and costs of improving truck freight mobility on OR 140 by removing the length restrictions via roadway improvements. The study is an updated segment-by-segment cost analysis of one conducted six years ago. OR 140 is an important east/west freight corridor and it is difficult to find a detour corridor. Feedback from stakeholders concerning the previous study was that the consultant didn't talk to enough users of OR 140 to adequately gage the freight and economic benefit of improvements to remove length restrictions.

The consultant, Sorin Garber Consulting Group (SGCG), has been conducting both face-to-face and phone surveys of shippers and carriers in southern and South Central Oregon. A Stakeholders' group and Technical Steering Committee have been formed and Ms. Rodwell and the consultant will give a presentation regarding the intent of the study to the South Central ACT meeting on October 27. The consultant will report on survey results. Ms. Rodwell will provide a similar briefing to the Rogue Valley ACT on November 14. Freight Mobility staff will schedule a "focus group" meeting with local ranchers and wheat and potato growers to seek input on how OR 140 may be affecting their operations. Updates will be provided to OFAC as the study progresses.

4. Projects Subcommittee Report

- A) Martin Callery, Projects Subcommittee Chair, announced a representative from the Freight Mobility Section is now included on the OTIA III Steering Committee in a non-voting position. The subcommittee recommends the OFAC Chair or designee be a voting member of the OTIA III Steering Committee and is seeking approval from OFAC to send a letter to ODOT management requesting that designation.

Motion: Martin Callery made a motion that OFAC send a letter to ODOT management requesting the OFAC Chair or his designee have a voting position on the OTIA III Steering Committee. Mike Montero seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Follow-up: Freight Mobility staff will develop a draft letter from OFAC to Matt Garrett. Letter will be sent to Martin Callery and Tom Zelenka prior to the December 6, OFAC meeting for their review and comment.

- B) Martin Callery advised there is approximately \$20m in local bridge program funding and \$6.5m in OTIA III funding being returned due to project changes. The Projects Subcommittee met to prioritize funding recommendations for existing and/or new projects. The Myrtle Creek curves project was cancelled because of unexpected geotechnical problems leaving \$6.5m in returned funds. The committee expressed its concerns about the serious safety hazard with the Myrtle Creek curves and Mike Quilty stated that ODOT Region 3 is addressing this issue.

The Projects Subcommittee met and recommends money returned from previous prioritized freight mobility projects go to fully fund all previously funded Tier 1 OTIA I projects that may need additional funding due to real estate overages and project overages. The subcommittee also recommends any remaining money go to Tiers 2 and 3 projects in priority order.

Motion: Martin Callery motioned, and Mike Quilty seconded the motion, that money being returned due to project changes go toward fully funding previously prioritized OTIA III, Tier 1 freight mobility projects that have a shortfall due to real estate overages and project overages. Additionally, any remaining money should go Tier 2 and 3 projects in order of the original prioritized project list.

Discussion: Freight Mobility and other ODOT staff are reviewing cost overrun totals per project. It was proposed to use \$3.5m against cost overruns and the remaining \$3m against OR 140 project. There was also discussion concerning \$1m in funding for the Going Street seismic rehabilitation project. Concern was expressed about cost overruns on the Tier 1 projects. It was confirmed that the \$6.5m in returned funding was originally part of the \$100m OTIA III money and that use of the returned funds is time sensitive.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Follow-up: Freight Mobility staff will develop a draft letter from OFAC to Matt Garrett. Draft letter will be sent to Martin Callery and Tom Zelenka for their review and comment prior to the December 6, OFAC meeting.

- C. Martin Callery led a discussion concerning the Local Bridge Program (city and country bridges) where approximately \$16.4m and \$30m is being returned because of project changes. Freight Mobility staff and the Bridge unit at ODOT have developed a \$30m list of prioritized projects from the unfunded project list.

Motion: It was motioned and seconded that ODOT adopt the \$30m bridge project list as prepared by Freight Mobility staff and the Bridge unit with the intent of using the original project ranking where possible.

Discussion: Marty Andersen, Local Government Section, will double check the Technical Rating Score (TRS), barrier removal, freight mobility, adequate detour access, and cost estimates for each bridge plus one additional bridge on North Vancouver Ave. that the city of Portland asked to be included. OFAC would then adopt the list as provided by ODOT.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Follow-up: Freight Mobility staff to include this motion in the letter from OFAC to Matt Garrett. Draft letter will be sent to Martin Callery and Tom Zelenka for their review and comment prior to the December 6, OFAC meeting.

The balance of OFAC's business meeting was conducted prior to the workshop session hosted by the Port of Portland.

5. Round Table / Agenda Building

Suggestions from the committee included: 1) The Legislature is starting in January and there may be some topics OFAC needs to talk about relative to that in January/February timeframe. 2) Tom Zelenka will put together a Nominations Committee to elect new officers in December. 3) It was suggested that a presentation by the Army Corps of Engineers to provide an overview of their interaction with freight be scheduled. 4) Discussion of schedule for the State of Freight Plan / Freight Action Plan.

6. Other Business

Lylla Gaebel thanked the committee for its support of the Neahkahnie Mountain Rock Wall project and announced it received a \$30,000 Scenic Byways grant to begin repairs.

Tom Zelenka encouraged OFAC members from the freight community to plug the necessity of the Columbia River Crossing project during the current public comment period. He asked for representatives from the business community who represent jobs and are active in the community to let people know that the bridge problems exist and are real issues.

7. Adjournment

The OFAC business meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Portland-Vancouver Trade Center Workshop

Susie Lahsene, Vice Chair, moderated a workshop on the Portland-Vancouver Trade Study currently underway. The ports of Portland and Vancouver, Washington have been collaborating to develop this study to examine multi-modal freight development opportunities in the lower Columbia Basin. Representatives from the entire consultant team presented their findings over an interactive two-hour work session work. The Port of Portland will prepare a disk of the PowerPoint presentations and other material presented during the workshop as it is too large to send electronically. Freight Mobility staff will duplicate the disk for those members who request copies. Following is a list of the Project Team:

Susie Lahsene	Manager, Transportation and Land Use Policy, Port of Portland
Scott Drumm	Project Manager, Port of Portland
Paul Bingham	Global Insight
Paul Sorenson	BST (marine)
Bill Burgel	HDR
Lance Grenzeback	Cambridge Systematics (rail)
Rex Edwards	Campbell (aviation)
Brian Campbell	Independent consultant (land and transportation implications)
Arno Hart	RNO Group (peer review)