

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

December 3, 2008 ~ 1:30 – 4:30 pm
ODOT Region 1 Headquarters

1. Call to Order/Introductions/Agenda Review.....Susie Lahsene, Vice-Chair
The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. and self-introductions were made.

2. Review/Approve Meeting NotesSusie Lahsene, Vice Chair
Motion was made by Martin Callery and seconded by Steve Bates to approve the September 25, 2008 meeting notes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. Election of OFAC Chair and Vice ChairBob Russell
Chair, Membership and Nominations Subcommittee**
Bob Russell reported the Membership and Nominations Subcommittee developed a slate of officers for 2009: Susie Lahsene, Chair; and Martin Callery, Vice Chair. Both were elected unanimously.

4. Appointment of Subcommittee ChairsSusie Lahsene, OFAC Chair Elect
OFAC discussed the current arrangement of three subcommittees: Policy, Projects, and Membership and Nominations. For the past 2 years the Vice Chair has served as chair of the Policy Subcommittee. During 2008 the Policy and Projects Subcommittees have held joint meetings. OFAC discussed combining the Policy and Projects Subcommittees since most issues addressed by OFAC affect both Policy and Projects; however, it was determined this action would require a change in the Bylaws. It was agreed OFAC would keep it simple and three subcommittee chairs would be appointed and the Policy and Projects subcommittees would continue to meet jointly. The Chair Elect recommended Martin Callery continue as Project Chair and Bob Russell continue as Membership and Nominations Chair. Tracy Ann Whalen volunteered to serve as Policy Chair. All three were unanimously appointed.

- The difficulty of attending meetings for those outside the Portland/Salem metro areas was discussed along with the logistics problems when subcommittee meetings are not held on the same day as OFAC meetings. Video conferencing is problematic because access is limited to ODOT region offices. Martin Callery noted he has used I-Linc conferencing successfully and that might be an option. Staff will research using I-Linc to conference into meetings via PC's and report back to OFAC.
- Members requested staff investigate moving the 2009 meeting sites to locations around the state and to get the 2009 quarterly meetings and subcommittee meetings calendared as soon as possible. Until the 2009 Legislative Session concludes, meetings will be held in Salem.
- It was requested that when subcommittee meeting notices are emailed, the notice should indicate that all OFAC members are invited to participate. Staff currently sends meeting notices to the entire committee and will add the requested language to emphasize all members are invited.

**5. Oregon Strategic Port PlanDave Harlan, Port & Program Policy Manager
Oregon Economic and Community Development**
Dave Harlan reported development of a Strategic Port Plan is an effort to raise the understanding and develop policies and recommendations regarding what the state needs from the ports system. Most needs of the Oregon port system relate back to economic development. Some of the issues are:

- Policies
- Short sea shipping
- Protection for sites that have port access
- Protection of strategic sites
- Dredging - even though ports are authorized to dredge, there isn't enough traffic to justify the expense.
- Budget Constraints
(Recreational ports might siphon money from real marine transportation system.)

Harlan reported that 21 small ports have commissioners elected from their local districts and 2 ports, Coquille River and Alsea, come under operational district designations. Approved port activities are defined in statute.

Freight Mobility and OECDD will be entering into an Interagency Agreement that will permit OECDD to use one of the Freight Plan consultants to complete the Strategic Port Plan. The plan will be funded through the Port Planning and Marketing Fund. OECDD will be forming a subcommittee separate from the Freight Plan to guide the work. Glen Vanselow stated he would like to be a part of that group. Pertinent marine freight transportation information contained in the Strategic Port Plan will be integrated into the Freight Plan.

Harlan confirmed that the jetty issue will be looked at; however, jetties are federal projects that require U.S. Corps approval. It was stated that jetties are a public safety issue and might be included in the economic stimulus package. If members want to lobby for small ports projects, they need to lobby the federal government. OFAC members representing ports include Gary Neal, Gary Cardwell, Glen Vanselow, Jerry Grossnickle, and Martin Callery.

**6. Hot Topics – Member Round RobinAll
Restrictions Affecting Freight**

- Movement of Hazardous Materials - Highway Bob Russell advised of a developing situation concerning truck transport of hazardous materials on Hwy 26. The restriction includes all of Hwy 26, not just the Vista Ridge Tunnel. If Hwy 26 is not available, Cornelius Pass Rd. would be an alternate route; however, Multnomah County wants to ban movement of hazardous materials on Cornelius Pass Rd.
- Movement of Hazardous Materials - Rail Tammy Dennee advised rail will be unable to move hazardous materials because of a potential Homeland Security ruling to be implemented by mid-December. This will have a huge impact on the agricultural sector. Russell will report the results of the Cornelius Pass Rd Task Force meeting scheduled the week of December 8.
- CARB Restrictions – Trucks Entering California 2010 will bring more stringent restrictions on air quality on trucks, including refrigerated trucks, entering California. This is another major issue and will impact companies from Eugene south.

• **Pedestrian Bridge Near OSHU Tram** Construction of a pedestrian bridge near the OSHU tram west of I-5 to the south waterfront is scheduled to begin during the fall of 2009. Arrangements will be made to have a presentation of the project at the next OFAC meeting.

Federal and State Stimulus Packages General discussion was held and opinions expressed that the state's stimulus package will mirror the federal government's and the emphasis will be on jobs development and shovel ready projects. Martin Callery stated he would like OFAC to identify projects that can meet criteria of the federal stimulus package and send a letter to OTC in support of

those. It was suggested that when OFAC starts identifying project readiness they include with project ready dates the project time line and if the project is preservation, modernization or maintenance. Jerri Bohard will talk to Travis Brouwer regarding the best method for OFAC to support the stimulus package. Brouwer will update OFAC at the combined subcommittee meeting on December 17. Bohard will provide staff with a project list meeting state stimulus guidelines but not necessarily federal stimulus criteria to email to OFAC members. Glen Vanselow advised he has a list of projects from U.S. Corps that can be started immediately and requested ODOT staff include projects at ports in the stimulus package project list. It was stressed that ports need to be dredged and jetties completed. The OFAC combined Policy and Projects Subcommittee will discuss submitting freight-related project recommendations at its December 17 meeting. It was suggested that OFAC needs to state criteria for the types of projects that are stimulus package projects plus long-term projects that meets the needs of state.

Challenge of the stimulus package is finding projects that will create jobs and are ready to begin construction quickly - federal projects normally take 13 years. Lack of having permitting in place will make some projects ineligible. Stimulus package for ODOT has both a maintenance and preservation impact depending on dollar size of project. Earmark projects are typically modernization projects (ready to begin construction within six years). There is little overlap between the stimulus package and earmark list. STIP has a project ready list available and the OTIA program has consultants on board and could easily transition to maintenance and preservation projects. Realistically, only 10% of the stimulus package will happen.

It was recognized that without some type of stimulus package, 2009 will bring a steep decline in transportation construction jobs. Start up funding for projects that have been in limbo for 20 years should be a goal. ODOT regions have already designated shovel ready projects in anticipation of a stimulus package and Columbia County is looking at overlaying arterial roads that carry freight to state highways.

**7. *ConnectOregon* UpdateTeddie Baker, Senior Freight Planner
ConnectOregon Oversight Committee**

- ConnectOregon I – 60.5% of CO I projects have been completed. Some CO I funds have been returned and will be reallocated by OTC. OFAC requested Baker provide a report on the projects that were stopped including the amount of funds returned. This will be provided at the next quarterly OFAC meeting.
- ConnectOregon II – The Mt. Hood Railroad was the first grant recipient under CO II to complete their project. Two other projects have started design but no reimbursement requests have been submitted. Teddie to provide update at next meeting.
- Financial Report Discrepancy The financial report staff received from Program & Funding Services was approximately \$8 million short of the \$100 million funding for CO II. OFAC requested staff research this and report on the discrepancy at the next meeting.

**8. *Statewide Authorization Earmark Recommendation Report*Martin Callery
Projects Subcommittee Chair**

Martin Callery reported the combined Policy and Projects Subcommittee developed a cover letter to the OTC that was signed by Chair Zelenka presenting 15 projects OFAC considered to be the most strategic freight-related projects of the 85 proposed earmark projects OFAC was asked to review. There was some confusion concerning Attachment #5 in the December agenda packet. It was ODOT’s Statewide Authorization Earmark Recommendation that was published December 1, 2008, not the list endorsed by OFAC. Staff will email the earmark list endorsed by OFAC to all members.

**9. Research Problem StatementsSusie Lahsene
Policy Subcommittee Chair**

Susie Lahsene reported a multi-modal problem statement had been identified that looks at infrastructure improvements, specifically truck lanes. Discussion ensued concerning protecting corridors for future freight movement: rail corridors for continued freight mobility; restricting Right-of-Way conversion from rail usage; and retaining corridors for freight movement in lieu of rezoning for residential use. Freight facilities are being encroached upon and are being used in a way that will keep freight from moving goods; there is a clash between rail use by passenger rail and rail freight. It was requested that marine be included in the research problem statement.

**10. Governor’s Proposed Budget (If Published by 12-3-08 Meeting)Jerri Bohard
Administrator, ODOT Transportation Development Division**

Jerri Bohard distributed the first edition of the State of the System 2008 Report. It provides an overview of the Oregon transportation system and why it is important for Oregon. The report will be published every two years and will provide key information about how the transportation system is performing in relation to the seven goals of the Oregon Transportation Plan (OTP). It provides a statewide level of focus with an emphasis on the portion of the system managed by ODOT. Future editions of this publication will expand to provide a more comprehensive report on the transportation system regardless of ownership. It is important to note that the first edition does not provide a complete picture of the roles fulfilled by local, tribal and federal jurisdictions nor facilities such as the rail system, marine ports, pipelines and airports. Jerri requested OFAC review the document and provide feedback.

**11. Freight Master Plan UpdateMichael Bufalino, Senior Freight Planner
ODOT Freight Mobility Section**

Michael Bufalino reported the Freight Plan Kick-Off Meeting was held October 30 with over 50 attendees including OTC Commissioner Lohman, ODOT Director Garrett and members of the Freight Plan Steering Committee and Working Groups in attendance. Freight Plan progress reports will be on each OFAC quarterly agenda and members of the Steering Committee or in one of the three Working Groups will have the opportunity to update OFAC. The Freight Plan Steering Committee will be discussing Freight Plan objectives, tasks for working groups, and “next steps” at its meeting on December 10. It is anticipated Working Group meetings will commence in early February as the work on Technical Memos concludes.

12. 2008 Annual Report to OTCSusie Lahsene, Vice-Chair

Martin Callery will draft the OFAC 2008 Annual Report in a letter format for submittal to the OTC at its February 18 meeting. It was determined the introduction should include the importance of investing in the freight system as it supports transportation and Oregon’s economy. Other topics for inclusion in the report are: OFAC’s input to STIP process, review of bottlenecks and earmark projects, quality research, and long-range investment strategies. A draft report needs to be submitted to staff by January 17.

13. Other Business and AnnouncementsSusie Lahsene, Vice-Chair

a) Next Combined Policy and Projects Subcommittee Meeting

Date: December 17, 2008

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Lane Council of Governments

99 E Broadway, Ste. 400, Upstairs Conference Room

Eugene, OR 97401

- b) The Transportation Policy Institute will be holding a half-day “Transportation 101” session for Oregon Legislators at Willamette University next week. Please go to either the Willamette University or Transportation Policy Institute websites for more information.

14. Public Comment - None

15. Adjournment at 4:00 pmSusie Lahsene, Vice-Chair

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

2008 OFAC COMBINED POLICY AND PROJECTS SUBCOMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Building	Address
December 17, 2008	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Lane Council of Governments (LCOG)	99 E Broadway, Ste. 400, Upstairs Conf. Rm. Eugene, OR 97401

OFAC Committee Meeting Attendee List December 3, 2008

Name	Organization
Steve Bates	Redmond Heavy Hauling
Martin Callery	Oregon International Port of Coos Bay
Tammy Dennee	Oregon Wheat Growers League
Greg Gilmer	NORPAC
Dave Harlan	OECD
Shirley Kalkhoven	City of Nehalem/ NWACT
Susie Lahsene	Port of Portland
Michael Montero	Montero & Associates
Ray Neil	Pendleton Grain Growers, Inc.
Mike Quilty	Medford-Rogue Valley MPO
Bob Russell	Oregon Trucking Assn.
Charles Tindall	Blue Line Transportation Company
Glenn Vanselow	Pacific NW Waterways Assn.
Lonny Welter	Columbia County Road Department
Tracy Ann Whalen	ESCO Corporation
Paul Zalec	Portland & Western RR, Inc.

ODOT REPRESENTATIVES

Commissioner Dave Lohman	OTC
Jeri Bohard	TDD Administrator
Michael Rock	Long Range Planning
Lucia Ramirez	Long Range Planning
Betsy Imholt	Rail Division
Teddie Baker	Freight Mobility
Michael Bufalino	Freight Mobility
Lloyd Fobi	Freight Mobility
Patty Penick	Freight Mobility