

## Freight Plan Moving Forward

### Background Technical Memos

Before preparing the freight plan, ODOT commissioned a series of background technical memos covering several key issues. For each memo, consultants Cambridge Systematics Inc. and PB Americas are preparing an outline and a draft memo. ODOT will forward the draft technical memo to the appropriate freight plan working group for review. ODOT will compile the working group's comments, along with any corrections ODOT makes, and send them to the consultants to include in the final technical memo. The final technical memos will be forwarded to the Freight Plan Steering Committee and posted online, and they will serve as primary sources during the writing of the freight plan.

ODOT has received two draft technical memos from our consultants, a "Freight Regulations Technical" memo and a "Document Review and Analysis of Economic Forecasts" memo. ODOT is currently working with the Freight Policy and Process Working Group to revise the draft Freight Regulations memo. In the past month, ODOT has signed two additional contracts with consultants for memos on

commodity flows and freight infrastructure.

### Working Group News

The Freight Policy and Process Working Group met on April 17 to discuss the draft of the Freight Regulations Technical Memo. This technical memo summarizes the major federal and state regulations that will be important during the development of the freight plan. To a lesser extent, the memo reviews statewide policies and local agency regulations that affect freight planning. The working group discussed two major areas that need to be addressed further in the memo:

- 1) finance-related regulation; and
- 2) multimodal influences, including marine, aviation, and pipeline regulations.

ODOT staff will work with the consultants on these issues.

The Freight Plan Traffic and Infrastructure Working Group will meet for the first time on Monday, May 18 from 9:00 a.m. – noon.

The second meeting of the Freight and the Economy Working Group will be held on Thursday, May 14 from 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### Related Planning Efforts

In addition to the background technical memos, ODOT will draw from many other sources to prepare the Freight Plan. The Freight Plan will reference the existing 1999 Oregon Highway Plan and the 2007 Oregon Aviation Plan. In addition, the Freight Plan will incorporate information from two ongoing efforts, the ODOT Rail Study and the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department Strategic Port Plan.

The OECCD Strategic Port Plan will include a "key issues" assessment focusing on how the ports work as a system. It will cover port funding, port business and operations, the condition of port infrastructure, and potential service improvements. OECCD and ODOT entered into an Interagency Agreement that allows OECCD to use the expertise of the ODOT Freight Plan consulting team to conduct its Statewide Strategic Port Plan.

ODOT's Rail Study will review the condition of Oregon's rail infrastructure, how the rail system is being used today and how it may be used in the future. A portion of the work for the ODOT rail study will be completed by the ODOT Freight Plan consulting team.

## What the freight plan will include

ODOT anticipates the development of a six chapter freight plan, briefly summarized below.

### **Chapter 1. Introduction**

This chapter will provide an overview of the plan contents, the relationship to the Oregon Transportation Plan, Statewide Planning Goals, and Federal Mandates. It will also document the objective of the Freight Plan and include an OTP consistency analysis.

### **Chapter 2. Freight Plan Strategies and Initiatives**

We will include a series of action-oriented strategies and initiatives here to implement the identified plan objectives. The Freight Plan Strategies and Initiatives will be developed with the participation of the Freight Plan Steering Committee and Working Groups and supported by the facts presented in chapters 2 – 5 of the plan.

### **Chapter 3. Economic Structure and Logistic Patterns**

This chapter will document the economic structure of the state's freight system, including industries that are major components of the state's economy. It will include industry supply chains and logistics as major components of transportation demand and in impacts on traffic conditions.

### **Chapter 4. Freight Infrastructure**

This chapter will define the freight transportation system as an economically strategic component of the entire transportation system. The focus will include freight modal facilities and intermodal facilities. We will define multimodal and single-mode freight corridors and identify performance measures for these corridors.

### **Chapter 5. Traffic Flows**

In this chapter, we will document the existing operational characteristics of identified freight facilities, including service areas, freight bottlenecks, flow rates, capacity, restrictions and system deficiencies.

### **Chapter 6. System Funding and Finance**

We will discuss options to finance the state freight system in this chapter, along with how to apply the identified strategies to various agency funding programs while maintaining a balance for all system users.



For the latest meeting schedule and other information, visit  
[http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/FREIGHT/FREIGHT\\_PLAN.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/FREIGHT/FREIGHT_PLAN.shtml)



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