

Oregon Rail Crossing Action Plan Stakeholder Meeting 2 Summary



Sept 25, 2018

ODOT Technical Leadership Center

4040 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE, Salem

1pm-4pm

Committee Members in Attendance:

Bryon Alger, ODOT Rail

Mark Barrett, ODOT Region 4

Traci Pearl, ODOT TSD

Matt Rodrigues, City of Eugene

Terrel Anderson, UPRR

Katie Johnson, ODOT Traffic – Roadway

Jeff Stewart, FRA

Jon Rolufs, G&W Western Region

Bob Melbo, ODOT Rail

Peter Fernandez, City of Salem

Fahad Alhajri, ODOT

Don Newell, Marion County

Mike Eliason, AOC

Kim Roske, City of Portland

Steve Kreins, Operation Lifesaver

Donald Leep, A.O.R.T.A. / Oregon Rail Advisory Committee

Nike Fortey, FHWA

Others in Attendance:

Nick Cantonwine, Oregon Operation Lifesaver

Randy Smith, Portland State University

Project Manager Team:

Rick Shankle, ODOT

Michael Rock, ODOT

Roseann O’Laughlin, ODOT

Welcome and Project Introduction

Roseann O’Laughlin welcomed the group and thanked them for attending the meeting and introduced Rick Shankle for a safety message. After project team and stakeholder introductions, she then provided an overview of the meeting agenda, housekeeping items and provided a reminder of the committee charter.

Review of Last Meeting

Roseann provided a refresher of the previous meeting including purpose and need for the plan, project schedule and milestones and data highlights. Roseann also provided information on the Plan Objectives, discussed at the previous meeting. Also, a review of incident contributing factors and the group’s discussion and factor voting was provided.

Rail Crossing Incidents – Overview and Follow-up

Roseann provided an overview of new data analysis based on discussions at the stakeholder meeting 1 in June. Additional data analysis was completed for crossing incidents between 2008-2017 in the areas of crossing angles, AADT, road speed, train speed, number of tracks, bus routes, number of lanes and presence of bike lanes and sidewalks. Also, information was revised to exclude 9 confirmed suicides and revised analysis was provided and discussed.

Further, multiple incident locations were discussed in detail as well. FRA guidelines recommend investigation of multiple incident locations. Although 20 locations in Oregon have experienced multiple crossing incidents, no trend was identified by the stakeholder group. This information will be included in the final plan.

Rail Crossing Action Plan – Plan Outline

Roseann provided an overview of the Plan outline which includes: current system, rail incidents overview and analysis, key trends and analysis, Plan objectives, strategies, examples and tools.

Plan Strategy Development

Roseann provided an overview of key terms such as vision, goal and actions related to the plan to set the stage for the strategy development discussion. Roseann emphasized this the Plan is not a policy document but rather is an implementation plan with distinct and targeted strategies and actions that will provide guidance and detail to ODOT and its partners for improving rail crossing safety.

Roseann also provided strategy highlights and approaches from other states including Utah, Minnesota, Nevada, California and Georgia. Roseann explained that the Plan strategies will be defined to be the best fit for Oregon. Additionally, Roseann explained that the draft strategies fall into two basic categories: “Influencing Driver Behavior” and “ODOT Process and Sharing.” A handout was provided to initiate a discussion on the draft strategies, focusing on whether the strategies address Oregon’s needs based on data analysis, trends and other relevant factors.

The group engaged in a robust and detailed discussion of the strategies and related actions. The group gave consensus that the draft strategies are heading the correct direction for meeting Oregon’s needs.

Crossing Project Funding Prioritization Criteria Discussion

Roseann provided information on the current ODOT rail crossing funding process including a brief overview of the JAQUE prioritization tool and general process. It is anticipated that the Plan will provide an improved crossing project funding prioritization process that includes establishing criteria to enhance the JAQUE. A handout with draft funding prioritization criteria was provided for discussion. The group discussed potential factors and agreed that supplementing JAQUE is a strong approach.

Next Steps

Roseann revisited the project timeline and explained that the project team will synthesize input from both stakeholder meetings and any additional input stakeholder provide into the final Plan document. The document will be shared with stakeholders for their timely review and input.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.