

RAC Membership and Recruitment Refresh

Review Background

- In December 2005 the Oregon Transportation Commission created the Rail Advisory Committee (RAC) and authorized up to 20 positions representing the rail industry, both freight and passenger and other appropriate stakeholders.
- House Bill 2985, passed by the 2021 Legislative Assembly, directs ODOT to diversify its advisory committees to reflect Oregon's population's racial, ethnic and ability composition as determined by the most recent American Community Survey from the United States Census Bureau.
- March of 2022 the RAC began discussing refreshing membership to meet HB 2985 requirements
- At the special RAC meeting on May 18, 2022, twelve permanent seats were approved by the RAC:
 - Class 1s (BNSF and UP) (2), [2 Filled]
 - G&W (1) [1 Filled]
 - Shortlines (3) (Aim for geographic diversity. Chair to ask for volunteers with a preference for geographic diversity and for small SL representation) [2 Filled, 1 Vacant]
 - Passenger railroads (Amtrak) (1) [1 Filled]
 - Rail passenger and transit user representation (1), [1 Vacant]
 - Ports and industries with strong rail connections or use
 - Oregon Public Ports Association to appoint one permanent seat. (1) [1 Vacant]
 - An industry user of rail freight would be one permanent seat. (1) [1 Vacant]
 - Rail labor union (1) [2 Filled]
 - Local government (1) [1 Vacant]

Current Proposals for Approval:

- Proposed Local Government Evaluation Criteria, for review and approval at the March 21, 2023, RAC meeting.
 - Develop evaluation criteria for local government (AOC/LOC) (1) [currently none]
 - Overall interest of all cities and counties
 - Provide statewide social equity perspective
 - Interest/knowledge of rail program
 - On membership on Area Commission on Transportation is preferred
- Proposed At-large Seats for review and approval at the March 21, 2023, RAC meeting:
 - Proposed Seats:
 - Tribes (1)
 - Organization representing persons with disabilities (1)
 - Community Based Organizations (2) (Application)
 - Environmental (1)
 - Up to seven at-large positions are available.
 - It was recommended that we do not fill all seven seats.
 - Staff has met with the ODOT Office of Social Equity and they liked the thought and effort that has been put into the refresh.

RAC Membership and Recruitment Refresh

- Proposed Membership Application:
 - General Information
 - Introduction to the RAC purpose and mission
 - Expectations
 - Meeting schedule
 - Links to guiding documents
 - Applicant Demographic information
 - Evaluation Questions
 - HB 2992 Information and signature
- Proposed application review process:
 - Staff to review applications to ensure the applications are complete. (1 week)
 - Staff will send applications to review panel for scoring based on established criteria. (1 week)
 - Review Panel will meet to discuss applications and make recommendations to bring to the next RAC meeting.
 - RAC will vote to approve recommendation at the next RAC meeting.
 - Staff will prepare and distribute letter for Division Administrator review and recommendation and Director approval.
 - Staff to notify applicants not selected.
 - Staff to email selected applicant and provide necessary information to begin their term.
- Proposed review panel
 - Committee Chair or Co-Chair (1)
 - Class 1 representative (1)
 - Shortline representative (1)
 - Ports/Industry representative (1)
 - Historically excluded/underrepresented representative (1) (Will fill with Union rep until we fill one of these positions.)
- Proposed evaluation criteria
 - Does applicant:
 - Represent a historically excluded group, business, or community-based organization?
 - Have knowledge or interest in rail?
 - Have experience or a position in life that provides a perspective previously unrepresented on the committee?
 - Have a primary geographic location that contributes to geographic diversity?
 - Have ability to engage as required to meet committee needs?

RAC Membership and Recruitment Refresh

Background Information

[ODOT Strategic Action Plan – 2021-2023 Strategic Outcomes](#)

- Increase our workforce diversity
- Implement a social equity engagement framework
- Reduce our carbon footprint
- Electrify Oregon's transportation system
- Improve access to active and public transportation
- Reduce congestion in the Portland region
- More dollars to black, indigenous, people of color, and women-owned businesses
- Implement transformative technologies
- Implement a large-scale road usage charging
- Achieve sufficient funding

[ODOT Equity Policy](#)

- ODOT is committed to serving all Oregonians equitably. The voices of our customers matter and influence the work we do.
- A focus on equity ensures we look beyond merely improving the system to improving the quality of life of every Oregonian.
- We must be mindful of the benefits and burdens created by our work and ensure they are distributed equitably.
- ODOT's Equity Goal: Prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion by identifying and addressing systemic barriers to ensure all Oregonians benefit from transportation services and investments.
- Our framework on membership, inclusion and equity must look at the individual, the institutions that are in place and current levels of racism.
- In addition, one must not forget the history and how they impact specific groups of individuals.
- We must never forget that in and of itself the subject of race or inequity can keep groups from working together in an effective manner.
- Looking past the differences to the commonalities will help build the bridge or clear the lens to reach some level of consensus.

[HB 2985](#)

- Advisory committees reflect the racial and ethnic and ability composition of this state as determined by the most recent American Community Survey from the United States Census Bureau.
- HB 2985 provides a means to break down barriers that impact public input into matters of public trust.

Rail Advisory Committee 2023 Membership

RAC Representation	Name
Class I - BNSF (1)	Johan Helman
Class I - UPRR (1)	Aaron Hunt
G&W (1)	Ross Lane
Shortline (1)	Bruce Carswell
Shortline (1)	Toby VanAltvorst
Shortline (1)	Vacant
Passenger Railroad (1)	Chase Kitchen
Rail Passenger/Transit User (1)	Vacant
Ports (1)	Carmen Merlo
Industry User (1)	Gary Cardwell
Rail Labor Union (1)	Glenn Carey & Chris Myron
Local Government - (1) (Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) or League of Oregon Cities (LOC))	Vacant
Tribes (1)	Proposed
Organization Representing Persons with Disabilities (1)	Proposed
Community Based Organizations (1)	Proposed
Community Based Organizations (1)	Proposed
Environmental (1)	Proposed

General Information

The Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) vision is to provide Oregonians with a safe, equitable, modern and well-funded transportation system.

The purpose of the Rail Advisory Committee (RAC) is to provide state government sound advice on priorities, issues and investments for advancing freight and passenger rail transportation as components of a multimodal Oregon. The committee's work includes scoring for rail projects, such as, Connect Oregon grants. Applicants must have interest in and some understanding of rail transportation. However, interest can embrace a broad spectrum ranging from championing the benefits of rail transportation to voicing alternative perspectives, such as negative community impacts. Above all, the committee needs members who can indulge in constructively interactive dialogue and bring to the table a wide diversity of perspectives for consideration. As you complete this application think about what goals you think should be the RAC's focus. Why do you want to serve on this committee and what do you think you would bring to it?

Regular RAC meetings are held on the third Tuesday of March, June, September and December. These meetings are in person with a remote option and typically last three hours. Members who miss two consecutive regularly scheduled meetings may be removed from the committee. Participation on subcommittee meetings is voluntary and subcommittee meetings are scheduled as needed.

Before applying please review these documents.

- [ODOT's Strategic Action Plan](#)
 - [Oregon State Rail Plan](#)
 - Oregon State Rail Plan Implementation Plan – Coming soon
 - [Rail Advisory Committee Charter](#)
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Public Transportation Division
Rail Advisory Committee
Membership Recruitment Application

First Name: _____ MI: _____ Last Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____ Title: _____ Suffix: (Jr., PhD) _____

Permanent Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

To better assist us in meeting our equity goals and in alignment with [HB 2985](#), we would appreciate information about your gender identity and background. Below are a series of questions. This information is optional and is used for data collection only. Under state and federal law, this information may not be used to discriminate against you. Thank you for your participation. If you prefer the following information be submitted anonymously, please use the following survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XLHYCCK>. Answers submitted via online survey will be collected by the Office of Social Equity.

Check here if you submitted responses for A-E via online survey

A. Gender Identity:

Female Male Non-Binary Transgender Other

B. Race/Ethnicity (Select One):

American Indian/Alaska Native/Tribal Member Asian
Black/African American Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Hispanic/Latino/a/x
Multiracial/Multiethnic White/Caucasian

C. Ability: I identify as a person living with a developmental, psychological, learning, or physical disability.

Yes No

D. Language: My native or first language is: _____

E. Age: Under 18 18-25 26-64 65 and over



Public Transportation Division
Rail Advisory Committee
Membership Recruitment Application

Please provide brief answers to the following questions.

Which of the following best describe your interest in rail? (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Passenger Rail	<input type="checkbox"/>	Freight Rail
<input type="checkbox"/>	Connected System	<input type="checkbox"/>	System Investments and Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partnership, Collaboration and Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding, Finance and Investment Principles
<input type="checkbox"/>	System Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	Preserving and Enhancing Quality of Life
<input type="checkbox"/>	Economic Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

More information can be found in the [Oregon State Rail Plan Goals](#) and [Strategic Action Plan](#)

If you checked other, please describe:

How would your participation on this committee further the RAC charter mission to advise ODOT, the OTC and Oregon Legislature on priorities, issues, projects and funding needs to improve rail infrastructure and to advocate for a safe, efficient, and commercially viable rail system to support the economic vitality of the State of Oregon?

Extensive understanding of freight and/or passenger rail services is not required. What, if any, experience or understanding do you have regarding freight and/or passenger rail services? If no specific understanding, what is your interest in participating on the RAC?

What goals or priorities would you like to see the committee address?



Public Transportation Division
Rail Advisory Committee
Membership Recruitment Application

I understand that I am entitled to payment for my expertise and experience being used to advise program, processes, policy, and projects. If I receive more than \$600 in total compensation during a calendar year, I understand that I will receive a 1099 Tax Form from ODOT Financial Services Office that I am responsible for submitting these taxed dollars alongside my annual tax filing. As such, I choose the following for my payment plan in alignment with HB 2992 and ODOT's Equitable Engagement Compensation Policy. Below please select ONE box that best describes your status on the committee.

I am serving on this committee as a part of a job function for which I am being paid for by my employer.

I am currently on an ODOT appointed committee and wish to receive \$20 to \$30 per hour for my service, dependent upon qualifying for the Equitable Engagement Compensation Policy program criteria.

Participants must not be receiving payment from any third party, including their employer for their time spent in an ODOT engagement activity. I would not like to be paid for my service on this committee.

I will be serving on an Advisory Committee and have an adjusted gross income of \$50K a year or less filing single or \$100K a year or less filing jointly, so I wish to receive \$155 per diem for my service.

By signing below, I certify that I understand the payment policy for my committee, and know that I may receive a 1099 Tax Form if my total compensation exceeds \$600 and certify that I am not being paid in any other way.

Signature

Date