

Oregon Freight Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2016
CCBI, 626 High Street
Salem, Oregon

Attendees: Mike Montero; Susie Lahsene; Martin Callery; Greg Gilmer; Mike Quilty; Wayne Bauer; Jerry Grossnickle; Brodie Harvey; Scott Parkinson; David Anzur; Gary Cardwell; Mitch Swecker; Mark Landauer; Kevin Downing; Sal Hernandez; Lonny Welter; Robert Hillier; Terry Fasel; Timothy Collins; Nick Fortey; Jana Jarvis

On Phone: Alan Unger

Guests: Trevor Sleeman; Paul Mather; Walter Chuck; Bob Melbo

Staff: Erik Havig; Scott Turnoy; Sharon Kautz

Call to Order - *Susie Lahsene*

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM.

Review of Minutes

Minutes of the February 11, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved. Motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Walter Chuck with the Port of Newport gave input in support of their *ConnectOregon* application. They do have a TIGER grant to use as match the project is ready to go, and will be a catalyst for another 30 acres of private development by bringing water, sewer and electricity to the property.

Federal Updates – *Trevor Sleeman*

FASTAct – Funding in the program is locked in through 2020 and contains funding growth of 5% in the first year and a couple of percent each year after. The reforms related to freight have the most implications for Oregon.

2015-2018 STIP Projects Review – *Paul Mather*

The FASTAct legislation is dropping down in the middle of our 2015-18 STIP program. We need to have the funds obligated by September 2016 for freight projects. The direction we got from the OTC was to focus on seismic and safety. The proposed freight projects for allocation of FASTAct funds in 2016 and 2017 are:

- I-5 SB: Hwy 217 to I-205 auxiliary lane - \$13M
- I-205 Stafford to Oregon City – \$2.5M
- I-5 Rose Quarter – \$2.5M
- I-5 NB third lane, Commercial to Kuebler – \$14.5M
- I-5 add third lane Salem to Albany - \$3.0M
- I-5 NB climbing lane Roberts Mountain - \$7.0M
- I-84 Ladd Canyon EB climbing lane - \$7.4M

FASTLANE Grant Program – *Trevor Sleeman*

This is the first year of the grant program and the timeline for the application process is very tight for getting support for the proposed projects from OFAC. We are asking for your support on the proposed projects at this meeting with the knowledge that any future requests will be submitted with time for vetting by the committee, possibly through a Project Subcommittee.

This is a competitive program with \$800M available nationally. Each applicant is limited to three applications. The grants are open to states, ports, MPOs, local governments and tribes. The official Notice of Funding Opportunity was issued February 26 and closes on April 14, 2016. Considerations include:

- Funding projects over \$100M in total cost with a minimum request of \$25M. The most you could expect to receive would be 60%. (Match: 20% federal funds/20% other funds.)
- 25% of funding is set aside for projects in rural areas
- 10% of funding is set aside for total cost under \$100M with a minimum request of \$5M.
- Construction by September 30, 2019.
- Project should be included in a State Freight Plan.
- Project should be supported by the State Freight Advisory Committee.

The three projects we have tentatively identified for the 2016 application process are as follows:

- Large project category – I-205 Expansion Project between the Abernathy Bridge and Stafford, adding a lane in each direction on the bridge, with ramp and seismic updates.
- Rural category – Ladd Canyon EB truck climbing lane. This is a choke point.
- Small project category – I-5 between Kuebler and Commercial, adding a lane in each direction.

ODOT would also be looking for support from OFAC for other local government applications once they had been presented through Trevor's office.

There was discussion on the various projects presented plus on the two known local projects, the Port of Portland/City of Portland Rivergate Grade Separation Project and the Benton County Hwy 20 Railroad Bridge Project.

Action Items

A motion was made for OFAC to write a letter of support for the 2015-2018 STIP Proposed Project list. The motion was seconded and approved.

A motion was made for OFAC to write a letter or support authorizing ODOT to apply for FASTLANE grants for the three projects presented: I-205 Abernathy Expansion; Ladd Canyon; and I-5 Kuebler to Commercial. The motion was seconded and approved.

A motion was made for OFAC to write a letter of support for ODOT to apply for a rural FASTLANE grant for the Rivergate Grade Separation Project. The motion was seconded and approved.

The committee felt there was not enough information to support a motion for OFAC to write a letter of support for Benton County to apply for a FASTLANE grant for the Hwy 20 Railroad Bridge Project. No motion was made.

ODOT Business – *Erik Havig*

Freight Plan Update - We have until November 2017 to update our freight plan. Our updated plan should:

- Be compliant with the national goals.
- Identify a list of freight issues and develop an inventory of needs
- Identify highway bottlenecks and identify intermodal connectors.
- Prioritize the list of bottlenecks
- Create a tiering of the projects for future funding applications.

State Highway Freight Bottlenecks – Roseann O'Laughlin is leading a technical advisory committee. The first TAC meeting is in April. We will have a bottleneck workshop at the May meeting of OFAC. A draft list is due in September 2016. Roseann will send a copy of the membership list to OFAC.

Intermodal Connectors – A consultant selection has been made and we are working on the contract scope of work. We should have a prioritized list of inventory needs by early 2017 for highway bottlenecks, intermodal connectors and the multi-modal elements.

New Member Info Packet

Deena Platman and Roseann O’Laughlin have put together a New Member Info Packet that we would like you to review and send comments back to Roseann.

Susie – Add the information that OFAC was established by state legislation to inform ODOT and the Legislature of freight related issues.

Oregon Rail Overview – *Bob Melbo*

Bob Melbo from the ODOT Rail Division gave a presentation of Oregon’s Railroads in 2016.

- Today’s Oregon Rail System – 2,377 miles
- Railroads and Regulations
- Government Designations
- Safety
- Focus on Crossings
- Operations
- Land Use
- State and Federal Funding

ConnectOregon List Endorsement – *Scott Turnoy*

The Subcommittee met this morning to finalize the list of rankings of the 26 projects we were given to review based on the following six statutory considerations:

- Economic benefit to the State of Oregon
- Reduction to cost of Oregon businesses
- Critical connections
- Ability to provide match
- Project readiness
- Lifespan of the project

For the record, the following OFAC members have acknowledged an actual or potential conflict of interest (financial gain) with a CO application: David Anzur; Brodie Harvey; Jerry Grossnickle; Susie Lahsene.

Scott gave a quick overview of the rankings and the final changes that had been made and asked for an endorsement of the list to go forward to the Final Review Committee. A motion was made by Kevin Downing to accept the list as proposed. The motion was seconded and approved.

Nomination of OFAC members to the *ConnectOregon* Final Review Committee scheduled for June 14-15, 2016. The nominees are Lonny Welter and Mike Montero, with Martin Callery and Jana Jarvis as alternates.

May Agenda Look Ahead – Erik Havig

The next OFAC meeting is May 11 at CCBI in Salem. The Bottleneck Workshop item will be the majority of the May agenda. If you have other items for the agenda send them to Roseann or Erik.

Trade and Logistics – Erik Havig

Business Oregon was at our December meeting to give an update of the Trade and Logistics work. The final report has been completed. Business Oregon has take the lead to form a number of sub-teams to work the recommendations to determine which ones are the most feasible and have the most potential for return on investment. Erik will be convening one of the policy teams.

Hot Topics – All

Round table – members shared items of interest with the committee.

Lonny: NWACTION - Oregon Visioning Team spoke about bottlenecks, particularly in Portland.

Sal: Trucker Information System – how do you handle big data and make it useful.

Kevin: EPA has a competitive grant funding announcement out for the end of April to upgrade diesel engine. They are looking for projects between \$300 and \$800 thousand dollars - 25% toward vehicle replacements, 100% for exhaust control retrofits; 40% for engine repowers. Contact Kevin if you are interested.

Bob: 1) SMART GRANT application - the deadline is in May. 2) Large fee on trucks.

Mitch: Received a grant from FAA to upgrade the Oregon Aviation Plan.

Scott Parkinson: Coos Bay Railway Centennial Celebration will be held August 5, 6, 7.

Brodie: Knife River has sponsored research with OSU to look at construction work zones to minimize accidents.

Jana: 1) National Historical Truck Society is having their annual meeting in Oregon in May. 2) Portland Gas Tax. 3) Received \$250,000 this legislative session for the Driver Loan Program.

Jerry: 3-1/2 month closure of the river system to barge traffic at the end of 2016 for Corp of Engineer rehabs.

Wayne: City of Portland attended the Governor's Task Force Visioning Panel session. Comments are due end of March.

Mike Quilty: 1) Medford viaduct; 2) Hwy 62 project has started; 3) Natural gas fueling station construction has started; 4) Rogue Valley Airport has started their CO5 project.

Susie: Port of Portland is recruiting for a Director of Cargo Service.

Martin: Jordan Coe L & G project was denied. Pipeline component of the project was slow to provide requested data. They will need to reapply or ask for a reconsideration of the denial.

Alan: 1) In the month of May the Redmond Airport will be closed to all traffic for three weeks to complete the runway project; 2) Speeds on Hwy 97 have been increased to 65 MPH; 3) The five cent Bend gas tax went down in flames.

David: Ramp meters on I-5 in Portland are turned off on the weekend which contributes to congestion – any reason why they cannot be turned on for the weekend? Also the ramp meter in Wilsonville is on some kind of timer and only seems to come on after the traffic is congested.

Future Meeting Topics

- Agriculture
- Aggregate Industry and Freight
- Barge and river traffic
- Ports
- Marine

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.