



Governor's Transportation Vision Panel Aviation, Marine, and Freight Rail Subcommittee

MEETING MINUTES

SUBCOMMITTEE KICKOFF MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2015
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**ODOT Headquarters, Room
240**

355 Capitol St. NE,
Salem OR 97301

Subcommittee Members:

- Bruce Starr (by phone)
- Sen. Lee Beyer
- Roger Lee (by phone)
- Jill Eiland (by phone)
- Craig Reeder (by phone)

Panel Sponsor:

- Karmen Fore

Facilitator:

- Pete Pande

Resources and Support:

- Sam Haffner
- Chris Cummings
- Mitch Swecker
- Dave Harlan
- Mark Freeman

Topic 1: Introductions and Ground Rules

Discussion: Committee members started with a round of introductions and developed preliminary ground rules

Conclusions:

- Yield to others' expertise
- All questions are good questions
- Keep an informal, flexible meeting style
- Acknowledge that some topics are sensitive
- Precede comments with one's name (when teleconference meetings)

Topic 2: Roundtable of Comments and Questions

Discussion:

- Unsure about role in subcommittee of consulting community members. What is the breadth of perspective and role of synthesizing local feedback? Conclusion was that committee should not preclude conversations with locals but not required to be effective
- What is the impact of a Low Carbon Fuels Bill on a transportation package? Bruce clarified that the role of this committee is not to influence the 2015 session. We are focused on a broad vision of where we want to be in 20 to 30 years.
- How do we move more freight off the highway onto rails and marine? Is this a real possibility? Can we make more use of the Port of Portland or Coos Bay? What are our options for funding? How can we prioritize to minimize the "something for everyone" approach? *[note: a similar concern for prioritization was raised in other Subcommittees]*
- What is the intersection between public and private – and further, between investment and infrastructure? How do we make sure the Vision synchronizes with the private side? What input do we need from the private side to avoid working at cross-purposes?
- Our vision needs to be implementable, though not all elements will be in our control. Example: waterways that cross into non-Oregon resources.
- We should be interested in movement of freight in general, and not be commodity-specific.
- Freight rail is not interested in investing in areas like central Oregon beyond "pass-through" country. What can we do to encourage these investments?

Topic 3: Aviation Presentation by Mitch Swecker

Key takeaways:

- 97 public airports, 55 of which receive federal funding, 28 of which are state sponsored
- Aviation in Oregon is a \$22 billion industry

- ConnectOregon has been critical to meet 10% grant match for rural airports
- Major challenges include loss of commercial air service across state, local grant match, land use constraints limiting ability to do sewage and water infrastructure

Discussion:

- What freight is moved by air? What volume? What kind of freight (commodities)? What feeder services? Does financial freight move by air?
- What are the local revenue opportunities? Leases, rentals.
- What's the statewide interest in Aviation? Aim of the department is to encourage economic development around airports
- Is there more opportunity for "Aviation through the fence"?
- Are there aviation funding shortfalls? Yes, there is life expectancy of runways, and many onsite needs and land site improvements that are not eligible for federal funding.
- How do we balance state resources – e.g., the value of airports vs other options. private vs public support? What are the corporate/ business implications and expectations?
- What cross-state data is available on Aviation?
- What is the conversation on the potential for a commercial airport in the Portland area? How might this be considered in our 30 year vision? What are the expectations for Portland growth? What is the historical context of city growth – looking back 30 years?

Action items:	Person(s) responsible:	Deadline:
Share list of airports that move freight, including volume and commodity type if possible	Mitch → Sam	ASAP

Topic 4: Marine Presentation by Dave Harlan

Key Takeaways:

- There are 23 public ports in Oregon, 2 have appointed port commissions; Portland and Coos Bay
- Needs include last mile improvement, a modal plan, deeper anchorages

Discussion:

- Where are the opportunities in Ports and how do political issues and other constraints affect them?
- Panama Canal could dramatically change the global marine shipping environment depending on how it works
- Opportunities and challenges of dry land ports
- Why is there little port activity on the lower Columbia? This is related to development history and the interstate system
- Shortage of anchorages inhibits flow through ports
- Private docks and harbors are a major part of the overall marine freight picture, may be overlooked
- Desired for future meetings: more discussion on the unit train loop

Action items:	Person(s) responsible:	Deadline:
Share electronic version of paper handout on marine	Dave → Sam	ASAP

Topic 5: Wrap up and next steps

Discussion:

- Next meeting will include an overview of Freight Rail
- Committee should aim to set consistent meeting times
 - A majority of committee members prefer meeting in Portland over Salem
 - Thursday or Fridays may work for future meetings with a preference for Fridays

Action items:	Person(s) responsible:	Deadline:
Share meeting PowerPoints with committee	Sam	ASAP
Direct links to useful data in Freight Plan	Chris → Sam	
Set dates and locations for future meetings	Sam	2 weeks before 2 nd meeting