



Governor's Transportation Vision Panel

Aviation, Marine, and Freight Rail Subcommittee

MEETING MINUTES, February 6th

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING #2 MINUTES

February 6th, 2015
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Port of Portland
Channel Conference Room

Subcommittee Chair:

Bruce Starr

Subcommittee Members:

Sen. Lee Beyer (by phone)

Roger Lee

Craig Reeder

Jill Eiland

Panel Co-Chair:

Gregg Kantor

Panel Sponsor:

Karmen Fore

Facilitator:

Cheralynn Abbott

Resources and Support:

Sam Haffner

Chris Cummings

Bob Melbo

Dave Harlan

Mark Freeman

Susie Lahsene

Topic 1: Introductions, Review of Minutes and GTVP Charge

Changes or additions to minutes:

- Minutes were approved as written
- Suggestion of greater clarification between discussion and action items
[note: some attendees did not receive minutes. Will ensure advance distribution to all members in the future]

Karmen gave a review of the Panel and Subcommittee's Charge. For a copy of this presentation, [click here](#).

Key Points:

- The current legislature is focused on a potential package in 2015. This Panel is tasked with looking at 2016 and beyond.
- Panel should consider how modes serve the needs of the economy *and* livability across the state.
- The Governor wants the Panel to identify actionable items; policy changes, recommendations, revenue.
- A limit to what this Panel can accomplish. We can recommend a deeper dive or identify where we need an update.
- Ports are significant but their needs vary across the state

Comments and Questions:

- Need to keep in mind passenger rail and freight rail connection- any recommendation on one will impact the other.

Topic 2: Structure of Issues and Focus Areas

Committee members developed an initial inventory of *Aviation* topics for further discussion/action:

- What is the long term forecast for PDX? Could Salem or another nearby airport be a relief valve?
- How does air freight funnel into and out of PDX? (also a road issue)
[note: some of this information can be found in Mitch's handout. For a copy, [click here](#)]
- Funding issues for smaller regional airports. For consideration by the Transportation Finance committee?
- Land use restrictions- there is a shortage of industrial land.
- Should we discuss the environmental impacts? Issues including noise raised in Hillsboro.
- Maintaining commercial air service across the state. Commercial airlines are moving toward larger planes.
- Maintaining international air service important to economy.
- Mitch is working on providing further info on volume of air freight being delivered across the state

Initial inventory of *Marine* topics for further discussion/action:

- funding- limited control of the system –need feds
- Lack of a modal plan. No funding source for a plan.
- Lack of a public consensus about the role and importance of marine in Oregon
- Market and labor issues? Impacts shipping line decisions, decline in west coast activity
- Engagement with private terminal operators needs to be increased. Involve with a modal plan
- Dredging issues limiting transport options
- Port needs are diverse: coastal needs, river needs, Port of Portland needs, etc.
- Consensus needed on jetties at mouth of Columbia. Modal plan can address this
- Locks and dams should be included as part of the conversation
- *Capacity* on rivers is the main issue, not *congestion*

- Focus has been on moving freight on water. What about moving people?
 - Big visioning; fast ferry system on Columbia and Willamette.
[note: question was also brought up in BTPR Subcommittee]

Next steps or actions:

- Can we get info from the Freight Advisory Committee for the next meeting?
- Consider what it would take to fund a marine modal plan

Topic 3: Presentations on Freight and Freight Rail by Chris Cummings and Bob Melbo

Chris Cummings gave a presentation on Freight Rail in Oregon. For a copy of this presentation, [click here](#).

Key takeaways:

- There are three types of rail lines, they are corporate and family owned
 - Class 1 (UP and BNSF lines; legacy lines)
 - Class 2
 - Class 3 (shortlines)
- Railroads can't deny by user type, but can set prices based on commodity type
- Many shortlines still owned by UP and BNSF. Lost competition with carriers. Competition with trucking.
- Class 2 and 3 lines came out of deregulation in the '80s. They provide first and last mile service. Often can't maintain upkeep costs. Old track often can't handle increasing weights and speeds.
- Diminishing volume of industrial lands near rail lines
- Challenge is in maintaining lines where there are a small number of industries
- Transload facilities; strategic investment near multiple commodities can create long-term benefit and cost savings
- Public crossings a major issue. Tied to land use decisions.

Questions and comments:

- Challenge asking public funding for private infrastructure
- Are there national rail groups we could use as resources? Yes, Association of American Railroads (AAR).
 - What would be their top priorities? Likely grade separation; this is a safety and speed issue.

Committee members should review sections of his Freight Rail PowerPoint not covered in his presentation: [Click Here](#).

Committee members should also review the Freight Presentation. [Click Here](#).

- The presentation covers freight demand, flow, and volume; a request from the first meeting
- A key item for review is "freight Issues" (page 24)

Topic 3: Wrap up and Next Steps

Items for the next meeting:

- Return to Chris's Freight Presentation

Proposed time and location for the next meeting:

- **Thursday, February 26th, 1pm to 3pm.**
- **Location: Aurora Airport**
- Work with Sen. Beyer on meeting availability

Action items:

Item:	Person(s) responsible:	Deadline:
Subcommittee members review meeting minutes and be prepared to share questions or changes	Committee members	Before next meeting
Coordinate with chair on agenda and content for next meeting	Chair and support staff	Before next meeting
Committee members should review sections of his Freight Rail PowerPoint not covered in his presentation: Click Here .	Committee Members	Before next meeting
Committee members should also review the Freight Presentation. Click Here .	Committee Members	Before next meeting
Coordinate with Sen. Beyer on his available meeting times and location	Sam	ASAP
provide further info on volume of air freight being delivered across state	Mitch	ASAP