

## **OMPOC Meeting Notes May 4, 2007, Salem**

Central Lane MPO Attendees: Anne Ballew, Greg Mott, Byron Vanderpool

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Vice Chair Linda Modrell (Benton County Commissioner.)

Jerri Bohard asked to add a State Freight Planning item to the agenda.

### **Amendment to OMPOC Bylaws**

The Salem MPO had requested a bylaws amendment to allow OMPOC representation by an elected official chosen by the MPO but not a voting MPO member. Upon discussion, it was determined the current bylaws would allow the official in question to represent Salem as the person is an alternate to their MPO. No amendment was made to the OMPOC bylaws.

### **Statewide Freight Plan**

Jerri Bohard (ODOT) indicated ODOT had been planning to take the plan to OTC on May 23, but due to scheduling difficulties, now expected to do so in June.

TAC staff and other state agencies are conducting a survey, with Randy Pape' as the OTC liaison. This survey and report are in preparation for the next legislative session.

Ms Bohard provided a list of 7 questions and requested feedback from the MPOs as soon as possible. Ms Modrell asked whether OMPOC should provide a common response on some or all of the questions. It was agreed that MPOs should discuss the survey, and that a subcommittee of OMPOC would develop a proposed OMPOC response and send it out for comment/approval by e-mail. ODOT would like to include a member of OMPOC on its steering committee.

### **Legislative Activities**

Art Black of the AOC provided the following summary of several transportation related bills:

HB 2033 – this would provide additional funding for small counties, primarily in eastern Oregon, by reprogramming \$1.5M of ODOT funds. Likely to pass.

HB 2034 – would require new Oregon residents to get an Oregon drivers license, vehicle registration and title within 30 days. This would bring Oregon more in line with Washington and California (15 days) practices.

HB 2653 – gas tax “placeholder”. To “keep the concept alive.” This would increase the gas tax by \$0.05, then an additional \$0.05 after 5 years, with another \$0.05 after another 5 years. Not expected to pass.

HB 2278 – Connect Oregon II in Ways & Means. Would provide \$100M with a regional distribution of 10% (rather than current 15%.) Expected to pass.

HB 3018 – Originally to increase vehicle registration fees. Has had a \$20 per license plate for all new vehicles added. (All new or replacement plates would be assessed the fee.) Would raise \$20M per year, used as revenue stream for bonds, would leverage \$200M. Expected to pass.

HB 3082 – would allow counties to enact a vehicle registration fee without a vote of the people. Also would give counties the same rights as cities to enact a gas tax. Would leave the 60/40 split requirement.

SB 566 – creates a joint interim legislative committee to review local government transportation support options – e.g. set up utility districts on a regional basis. ODOT to look at how it manages its assets.

SB 855 - \$30M bridge to counties for loss of Secure Rural Schools funding. Would be paid for from ODOT project funds.

In general, it is not expected that funding measures (except HB 3018 and HB 2278) will pass this session. Consensus of opinion is no opportunity for transportation in 2008 special session. Lobbying groups preparing for “big push” in transportation funding for 2009 session.

Randy Tucker, Lobbyist for Metro:

The Oregon Business Council has made a late in the legislative session run at \$350M to fund freight improvements based on their recent “statewide cost of congestion” study. This is not likely to succeed.

Senator Metsger is calling for a transportation summit in conjunction with the Oregon Business Summit. Looking at an all-day session. This would be modeled after Texas’ transportation summits.

Metro is sponsoring a pair of bills, HB 2051 and SB 1011, which would give Metro 2 years to complete a UGB/land study. (Metro is currently required to conduct a land study at least every 5 years.) These bills would allow for the creation of “rural reserves”, paired with urban reserves. A rural reserve would make certain properties off limits for development for at least 40 to 60 years. There would be a new process for designating urban reserves which bypasses the normal land use hierarchy and instead applies an urban standards analysis first, after which the land use (Goal 14) designations would be considered.

The HBA has proposed a construction excise tax which school districts would be allowed to impose. This would be a \$1/sq ft residential, \$0.50/sq ft commercial, and \$0.75/sq ft industrial tax. The proposal also includes a preemption of all local governments restricting any new fees/taxes on these properties.

### **OMPOC Legislative Policy**

OMPOC considered attachment IV-c, OMPOC Legislative Policy Concepts and Objectives.

The group agreed to work on this document at its October summit, in the meantime processing the draft through the individual MPO policy boards.

### **OMPOC Roundtable**

#### **Rogue Valley MPO (Dan Moore):**

- RVCOG has asked the MPO to develop the transportation component of their regional problem solving project.
- RVMPO has made a TGM application to take the RPS strategy and create an integrated land use and transportation plan.
- Developing performance measures for their RTP. Have adopted 7 alternative measures and are conducting their analysis and performing bench-marking.
- Developing a regional traffic count program.

#### **Metro (Tom Kloster):**

- Doing their RTP update.
- Working on a level of service project.
- Have a \$2B need to develop the transportation system for the 12K acres brought into the Metro area through a UGB expansion (the new city of Damascus.)

#### **Salem Keizer Area Transportation Study (SKATS) (Richard Schmid):**

- Expect to adopt a SAFETEA-LU compliant RTP in May.
- Working on a new IAMP in Keizer.
- Adding traffic count equipment to their system.

#### **Corvallis Area MPO (Ali Bondakar):**

- Working on achieving SAFETEA-LU compliance.
- Have conducted their CETAS review.
- Doing a TPR analysis in conjunction with their member agencies and will modify the RTP as a result.
- Doing an AMS analysis.

#### **ODOT (Jerri Bohard):**

- Funding for OMPOC's travelshed study is right at the budget cut line. Unknown if it will be in the new budget.
- OTC approved pass-through PL funds for '08, but will require an agreement to be executed prior to approving '09 funds. (We have received the letter on this.)
- Oregon freight plan – OTC is expected to adopt bike/ped design guidelines in September.
- ODOT is developing criteria for multimodal decision making.
- The Pioneer Mountain/Eddyville project – contractor indicating they've discovered a new landslide issue which they estimate will require an additional \$60M on the \$150M

original project. This was a design/build contract. Contractor wants to be released from contract. ODOT determining whether to continue to work with contractor or find another way to complete project.

**AMPO (Mike Quilty):**

- Mike is now on AMPO's planning committee.
- AMPO will have a meeting April 16 & 17 to plan for the next federal transportation bill. Don't expect administration to be able to put a transportation bill together until 2010.
- Various AMPO ideas:
  - Develop a new vision for the Interstate Highway System.
  - A strategic terror/China/oil market/global warming/et al initiative:
    - Achieve transportation energy independence by 2025.
    - Add a federal \$1/gal tax (or indexed equivalent), with ½ going to the highway trust fund and ½ to projects reducing America's dependence on foreign oil.
    - Increase global competitiveness.
    - Improve metropolitan mobility.
    - Develop a strategic compact to improve/maintain transportation infrastructure.
    - Have federal incentives for better integration of transportation and land use.

**OMPOC Work Plan**

OMPOC Summit will be held October 12 and 13 at the Wittenberg Inn in Keizer. Send Pat Emmerson a list of people we should invite.

The theme will be "Where are We Going?"

Speakers may include – Gail Akterman, Mike Meyers of Georgia Tech?, Barb Yarrow, Al Neuring.

Topics will include land use, water, ecodemo, and transportation.

Should the OMPOC Summit include a discussion with the Big Look Committee?

The OMPOC work program was distributed (Attachment VII). We should add any studies we may know about.