

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

January 26, 2005 Hearing Room C

1:00 P.M. Tapes 6 - 7

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. George Gilman, Chair

Rep. Terry Beyer, Vice-Chair

Rep. Chuck Burley, Vice-Chair

Rep. Deborah Boone

Rep. Scott Bruun

Rep. Dave Hunt

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Kim Thatcher

STAFF PRESENT: John Houser, Committee Administrator

Mike Reiley, Committee Assistant

MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:

Transit Presentations – Informational Meeting

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
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TAPE 6, A

002 Chair Gilman Calls the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Opens the informational meeting on Transit Presentations.

TRANSIT PRESENTATIONS – INFORMATIONAL MEETING

006 Roger Martin Executive Director, Oregon Transit Association. Submits and summarizes “The Economic Impact of Public Transit in Oregon” (**EXHIBIT A**). Explains the development of public transportation in Oregon. Highlights the transportation districts throughout Oregon. Commends the work of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Introduces Fred Hansen, Ken Hamm, and Heather Ornelas.

080 Fred Hansen General Manager, TriMet. Submits and summarizes prepared TriMet Overview and Facts about TriMet (**EXHIBIT B**). Describes bus and light-rail operations and services to the elderly and disabled. Describes the future plans for TriMet including the Metropolitan Area Express (MAX) line along I-205. Highlights economic benefits, federal funding, private funding, and freight mobility. Notes that TriMet is the most fuel efficient transit agency in the United States.

327 Rep. Hunt Describes the change in attitude among his constituents toward light-rail over the last several years.

351 Chair Gilman Asks if TriMet offers free transit passes for those attending events in Portland such as conventions.

360 Hansen Describes “fareless square” in downtown Portland and passes associated with conventions.

390 Doug Barber Lane Transit District (LTD). Explains the bus rapid transit project that was started by LTD.

TAPE 7, A

001 Ken Hamm General Manager, LTD. Submits prepared information on LTD bus rapid transit plan (**EXHIBIT C**).

030 Barber Displays a video for the committee demonstrating bus rapid transit.

126	Hamm	Describes the LTD bus system and notes that Phase 1 of the bus rapid transit plan is in development in Eugene/Springfield.
136	Barber	Highlights prepared information (EXHIBIT C). Describes the emphasis on economic development along with project development. Notes that Royal Caribbean has located a call center in Springfield and points out their interest in the local transportation system. Explains the new Peace Health medical center and their reliance on LTD for transportation. Discusses the preliminary budget for Phase 2. Highlights the relationship to <i>ConnectOregon</i> . Commends U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio for helping with funding.
200	Heather Ornelas	General Manager, Tillamook County Transportation District. Highlights (EXHIBIT A). Describes the development of public transportation systems in different communities in Oregon. Notes that Tillamook's ridership has increased 40% over the last year. Mentions the pullout of Greyhound bus lines from rural areas and its effect on public transit. Stresses the need for legislative support for transportation.
306	Rep. Boone	Asks what needs to be done to support rural transit.
308	Ornelas	Describes legislation that will revise ODOT statutes to allow the voids in transportation to be filled and cites the need for legislative support.
335	Roger Martin	Union Pacific (UP) Railroad. Introduces John Gray.
385	John Gray	Executive Director, Interline. Submits a prepared UP Railroad overview (EXHIBIT D).

TAPE 6, B

010	Gray	Begins summarizing the UP overview (EXHIBIT D).
054	Gray	Explains that the rail business is a drive-demand business, relying on the business of its customers.
115	Gray	Explains the importance of the agricultural industry and ports on the lower Columbia River, including the Port of Portland.
250	Gray	

Explains that UP invests a great deal of money to support the amount of rail traffic that operates in Oregon.

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| 275 | Gray | Describes shortline railroads and the benefits to various communities. Notes that their capital needs grow as they get older. |
| 400 | Gray | Explains freight train delays associated with passenger trains if proper investments are not made to support the passenger service. |

TAPE 7, B

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| 007 | Gray | Notes that \$1.25 billion is spent annually on capital maintenance and explains the capital expenditures for rail lines between Eugene and Portland and other lines around Oregon. |
| 091 | Rep. Beyer | Asks if maintenance expenditures normally include tunnels. |
| 095 | Gray | Explains the maintenance needs of tunnels between Oregon and California to allow them to accommodate modern containers and trains. Explains the flood losses in California. |
| 120 | Chair Gilman | Asks if UP and the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) stop in Chicago. |
| 122 | Gray | Answers yes. |
| 124 | Gilman | Asks how many carriers operate in the eastern United States. |
| 126 | Gray | Answers that there are “two large carriers in the east, two large carriers in the west, and two large Canadian carriers.” |
| 130 | Rep. Hunt | Asks for an explanation of the specific needs of Oregon railroads. |
| 135 | Gray | Answers that there have been some projects coordinated with ODOT to improve passenger rail. Addresses the conflicts between passenger rail and freight lines. Notes the importance of maintenance and development projects to allow trains to move through the network more effectively. |
| 175 | John Houser | |

Committee Administrator. Asks about creating rail corridors in congested areas such as the port areas of Portland and the effect on other modes of transport such as trucking.

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| 180 | Gray | Defines “rail corridor” as one that has no highway crossing. Explains that corridors do not interfere with other transportation networks. |
| 210 | Martin | Explains coordination with ODOT in rail development projects. |
| 232 | Chair Gilman | Closes the informational meeting on Transit Presentations. Adjourns the meeting at 2:38 p.m. |

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A. Transit Presentations, The Economic Impact of Public Transit in Oregon, Roger Martin, 8 pp**
- B. Transit Presentations, TriMet Overview and Facts about TriMet, Fred Hansen, 16 pp**
- C. Transit Presentations, Lane Transit District information, Ken Hamm, 9 pp**
- D. Transit Presentations, Union Pacific Railroad PowerPoint overview, John Gray, 5 pp**