

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

January 22, 2001
9:00 AM

Hearing Room D
Tapes 9 - 11

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Alan Brown, Vice-Chair
Rep. Jeff Merkley, Vice-Chair
Rep. Richard Devlin
Rep. Donna Nelson
Rep. Diane Rosenbaum
Rep. Joanne Verger
Rep. Cliff Zauner

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Bruce Starr, Chair
Rep. Jeff Kropf

STAFF PRESENT: John Leon, Committee Administrator
Kate Campeau, Committee Assistant

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: Invited Testimony

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.

<u>TAPE/#</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<u>TAPE 9, A</u>		
	Rep. Merkley	Calls meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
<u>INVITED TESTIMONY</u>		
010	Ken Armstrong	Oregon Ports Group. Submits written material (EXHIBIT A) and gives a brief overview of Oregon's public port districts.
056	Keith Leavitt	Port of Portland. Submits written material (EXHIBIT B) and gives overview of Port of Portland's contribution to the economy of Oregon – discusses key issues (EXHIBIT C). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Air service to Asia;• Channel deepening;• How to meet demand for expanded service;• Dam breaching/fish recovery.
177	Rep. Brown	Asks if there is any loss of shipping opportunities because of channel depth.
180	Leavitt	Answers that this information is not known, however, it is a significant issue to carriers.
198	Rep. Nelson	Comments on the need for Newberg/Dundee bypass and impact on economy in that area.
199	Leavitt	Answers that ODOT has a study on this issue. Notes that the Freight Advisory Committee has raised issues of where there is freight flowing through critical corridors and how is the State of Oregon responding to freight mobility.
200	Rep. Nelson	Asks if there would be a report that addresses the impact of

		corridors on freight movement.
210	Leavitt	Responds that ODOT put out a study called <i>Freight Moves the Oregon Economy</i> .
227	Rep. Nelson	Discusses intermodal concept that she worked on which involves combining all means of transportation available - air, water, truck - to boost Oregon's economy.
255	Leavitt	Responds that he does believe the concept of "intermodal" is evolving and expanding.
280	Rep. Nelson	Asks what is the position as far as inventory warehousing is concerned.
290	Leavitt	Answers that the trend towards efficient transportation system to move out inventory rather than storing inventory is growing.
324	Gary Katsion	Chair, Legislative Committee, Consulting Engineers Council of Oregon (CECO) (EXHIBIT D). Gives overview and background of CECO, a non-profit, consulting organization – affirms that transportation funding is vitally important. Outlines the tactics needed to work with all agencies in improving public perception of proposed transportation projects.
TAPE 10, A		
004	Rep. Devlin	Asks about public's reluctance to approve new transportation dollars. States that we probably need about a \$.10 gas tax to keep Oregon at remedial level in transportation service.
020	Katsion	Answers that transportation service issues are very complex; there is no easy answer dealing with the increase of population, reluctance to institute gas tax and public awareness to support and fund sophisticated transportation systems. If the gas tax would have attachment/description of projects, public might be more willing to accept these tax initiatives.
140	Don Schellenberg	Associate Director, Oregon Farm Bureau and Jean Wilkinson, discusses pro active approach of members of Oregon Farm Bureau and how HB 2561 and HB 2562 are addressing concerns and practical solutions regarding two such concerns: sifting and leaking load permits and drivers license restrictions of young drivers.
247	Rep. Rosenbaum	Asks for clarification of exemption from provisional driver's license for farm workers.
255	Underhill-Wilkinson	Responds with more background information of farming practices during harvest season.
300	Buck Taylor	Oregon Pilots Association. Discusses uses of small airports in the state.
380	Jim Bellet	Oregon Pilots Association. Discusses funding needs for improving small airports around Oregon.
TAPE 9, B		
152	Rep. Brown	Asks if 12 million for Department of Aviation's budget comes from General Fund or from user fees.
160	Bellet	Answers that they are 100% funded by fuel tax, user fees and pilot registrations.
162	Rep. Nelson	Asks how much is the fuel tax.
165	Bellet	Responds that \$.06 on the dollar is paid.
170	Rep. Nelson	Asks when that came about.
173	Bellet	Answers that it was a two-step process recently increased over the past year.
180	Rep. Nelson	Requests written testimony from the witnesses.

184	Vice-Chair Merkley	Inquires if a bill from last session regarding self-service airports - was it signed.
188	Taylor	Responds that the bill was signed.
222	Craig Campbell	Represents AAA of Idaho. Outlines issues of interest in 2001 Legislature – discusses Ballot Measure 82.
356	Rep. Nelson	Asks if testimony could please be in writing. Asks what role does AAA have as an intervenor.
358	Campbell	Answers that AAA will be a completely separate party and not acting on behalf of the state, but will be closely aligned to the state’s arguments.
376	Rep. Verger	Asks if funding options other than a gas tax have been looked at.
380	Campbell	Answers that many kinds of options were looked at, and none of them were popular – the lack of support was surprising. Privatization of road and highway projects was supported, but Oregon already does a substantial amount of private construction work on highways
385	Rep. Verger	Asks if the public does not want to pay for transportation through taxes.
390	Campbell	Answers that poll does not provide answer to that question.
400	Rep. Devlin	Comments that many transportation projects have been funded by general obligation bonds, property tax-based, and in all of those instances the public has been offered specific projects and timelines. Notes that the public seems to have no objection to increased property taxes amounting to \$160 a year but cannot handle a \$.02 gas tax, which would amount to an extra \$15 a year.
410	Campbell	Answers that the public tends to be more accepting of a single project in their neighborhood that has immediate need and very visible results.
TAPE 9, B		
050	Rep. Devlin	Asks if the AAA poll generally showed problems with public’s perception with ODOT’s efficiency and managing of tax dollars
060	Campbell	Answers that polling shows around 60% of the public is actually very trusting of ODOT.
070	Rep. Devlin	Asks if public is not trusting of the legislature.
080	Campbell	Answers that public’s level of trust of legislature in making transportation decisions is not very high. Notes that the Oregon State Police are the number one group in making such decisions, according to the AAA poll.
100	Vice-Chair Merkley	Asks if AAA will become involved in the issue of studded tires.
120	Campbell	Answers that AAA is going to be looking at this issue very closely.
140	Jacqueline Zimmer	State Association Director, Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD). Submits written material (EXHIBIT E) and gives overview of organization. Estimates that funding needs to be around \$50 million per biennium.
196	Vice-Chair Merkley	Invites citizen advocates in audience to make comments.
206	Rep. Devlin	Asks if vehicles were purchased individually or if there was a plan to coordinate with other agencies in order to save money.
219	Zimmer	Answers that she will provide information to the committee in the very near future.
225	Rep. Verger	Asks how many partnerships with hospitals O4AD has

		throughout the state.
250	Zimmer	Answers that there are many contracts with hospitals and that the agency is very creative in resource sharing.
260	Rep. Nelson	Asks if the committee can look at O4AD's budget.
279	Zimmer	Answers that she will provide a breakdown of their budget to the committee.
281	Scott Cantonwine	President and CEO, Cascade Warehouse. Provides brief overview of company and talks about involvement in transportation and mobility of freight.
373	Vice-Chair Merkley	Adjourns meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Kate Campeau,
Committee Assistant

John Leon,
Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A – Invited Testimony, written material, Ken Armstrong, 2 pp.**
- B – Invited Testimony, written material, Keith Leavitt, 8 pp.**
- C – Invited Testimony, written material, Keith Leavitt, 30 pp.**
- D – Invited Testimony, written material, Gary Katsion, 4 pp.**
- E – Invited Testimony, written material, Jacqueline Zimmer, 5 pp.**