

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

January 31, 2001
9:00 AM

Hearing Room D
Tapes 19-20

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

MEMBER EXCUSED:

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

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: **Transportation Funding**
 HB 2178 Public Hearing and Work Session

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>
TAPE 20, A		
004	Chair Starr	Calls Meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.. Reminds members that there won't be a meeting on Friday, February 2 nd .
<u>TRANSPORTATION FUNDING</u>		
010	Bob Melbo	President, Short Lines Railroad Association. Submits written material (EXHIBIT A). Gives an overview of organization and discusses the need for funding.
240	Chair Starr	Asks how helpful it would be if Oregon were to pass a law similar to New York, that exempted taxes for infrastructure improvements.
250	Melbo	Answers that New York exempts capital investment for 10 years and such a practice in Oregon would be a tremendous help.
260	Chair Starr	Asks if nothing is done, what would be the potential loss of short lines.
280	Melbo	Answers that many lines are in grave danger.
300	Rep. Verger	Discusses the emphasis on economic development and the part short-lines play. Asks question regarding opening at bridge - if rail bridge is impediment to navigation in the future.
332	Melbo	Answers that draw bridge is somewhat of an impediment.
355	Rep. Verger	Comments on the Port of Coos Bay, which is faced with serious economic impact.
373	Rep. Zauner	Asks whether the size of cars contributes to the weight problems on bridges.
376	Melbo	Responds that cars do exact a much heavier maintenance toll on railroads and bridges.

417	Rep. Zauner	Asks if cars need to be filled to capacity.
384	Melbo	Answers that it is difficult for clients to load less than capacity destroys economics.
<u>TAPE 21, A</u>		
009	Rep. Nelson	Comments that short lines are a great way to move freight. Asks if efficiency and effectiveness of rail business would be greater served if short lines were separate entity.
016	Melbo	Answers that the rail section of ODOT has been very helpful; however, division is only 30 people.
036	Rep. Verger	Question regarding last session moving aviation out of Oregon Department of Transportation.
041	Chair Starr	Answers yes and that an overview of the aviation department will be on next meeting's agenda.
044	John Watt	Representing Southern Oregon Businesses. Gives overview of anecdotal testimony representing a consortium of business people who are interested in statewide transportation finance.
020	Mike Burl	President, CEO of Burl Enterprises. Discusses Transportation Advocacy Committee (TRADCO) in Southern Oregon to further transportation issues. Gives an overview of freight and interlinkage of aviation, trucking and railroads.
120	Watt	Continues with testimony adding that Southern Oregon has worked hard to bring together partnerships to address all concerns of region. Discusses the growth of Southern Oregon.
164	Rep. Nelson	Asks if Evergreen Shipping Lines is leaving.
169	Burl	Responds that he does not know.
190	Rep. Nelson	Asks if Evergreen Shipping Lines is leaving because of an inefficient intermodal system or because Delta Airlines is leaving...
200	Burl	Answers that the size of the channel could be an issue.
207	Rep. Nelson	Asks Mr. Burl if he feels the Port of Portland is adequate.
208	Burl	Answers that he cannot answer that question.
209	Rep. Brown	Opines that the dredging of the Columbia River is the main cause of Evergreen leaving. Asks who owns railroad right-of-ways when they are abandoned.
222	Burl	Answers that he does not know.
237	Rep. Devlin	Comments that he believes that abandoned right-of-ways revert back to the property owners along the right of way.
243	Rep. Nelson	Asks what other sources of financial assistance or creative financing has Mr. Burl found for transportation process.
247	Burl	Answers that he does not have an answer, but suggests that the legislature funds a study of systems in other states and how funding is accomplished. Comments that Oregon's highways are not as bad as those in other states.

HB 2178 – PUBLIC HEARING

270	John Leon	Committee Administrator. Reads synopsis of HB 2178.
290	Kelly Taylor	Legislative Liaison, Oregon Department of Transportation. Submits written testimony (EXHIBIT B) and testifies in support of the bill.
466	Susan Schnieider	Government Relations Office, City of Portland. Testifies on a similar bill the City of Portland proposed in 1995.
488	Patrick Nelson	Retired Captain, City of Portland Police Bureau. Submits written testimony (EXHIBIT C) and testifies as to the efficacy of this bill.

TAPE 20, B

004	Captain Nelson	Continues with testimony.
042	Chair Starr	Asks about 15-day time limit.
045	Taylor	Answers that the legitimate users buy them for short periods of time. States that ODOT is trying to balance between making sure legitimate needs are met and making sure that people do not take advantage of the situation.
069	Rep. Kropf	Asks if the permit could be expanded to 21 days. Asks how the tracking system would be funded.
074	Taylor	Answers that funding will come from ODOT's highway fund dollars.
076	Rep. Merkley	Asks for clarification of bill.
085	Taylor	Answers that 2-year registration is \$30 and new vehicle would be for 4 years.
094	Rep. Devlin	Points out that if the bill passes there would be substantial growth in revenues due to evasions of non-collection of registration fees.
100	Taylor	Answers that this is correct. Notes that data is not available to show how many people will revert to legitimate registration.
118	Rep. Devlin	Asks if it is a severe situation when the vehicles are out of compliance, and whether ODOT has any of those figures.
120	Rep. Verger	Asks for clarification on the process of applying for a trip permit.
126	Taylor	Describes the process of applying for a trip permit. States she doesn't know what information is given to DMV.
130	Rep. Verger	Comments that an applicant could get permits at one DMV office and then go to another DMV office, and there is no consistent tracking. Comments on the inefficiency of the system.
133	Taylor	Concurs with Rep. Verger's assessment of the system as it stands now.
135	Rep. Merkley	Asks for clarification in the change of fees.
136	Taylor	Answers that it is \$5 for a 10-day permit, \$10 for 30 days, \$30 for 90 days and \$40 for 6 months. States that this bill is suggesting that the 15-day permit be \$20.
140	Rep. Merkley	States that for the legitimate short-term user the fees are jumping 2 ½ times.
143	Taylor	Affirms that if a person is buying one 10-day pass, the fee would jump 2 ½ times.
149	Rep. Devlin	Notes that there is no impact of issuing the permit in terms of employee time, but cautions that fee is enough to cover cost of issuing the permit.
160	Taylor	Concurs that time used in filling out and giving permit, because of tracking systems, will be longer and more time consuming.
167	Rep. Verger	Asks if there is a less expensive way of utilizing tracking system.
173	Rep. Kropf	Asks what is the projected time frame for this tracking system.
175	Taylor	Proposes that probably by January 1, 2002. Asks clarification of Rep. Verger's previous comment.
189	Rep. Verger	Clarifies that technology is not always the answer when trying to cut costs. Notes that if one were to install limitations on the permit process and take more information, that this would be a much better system.
198	Taylor	States that a manual system would not work.
200	Rep. Verger	Asks why not.
210	Taylor	Responds that the honor system does not work.

214	Rep. Verger	Asserts that perhaps a manual paper tracking system would work just fine.
216	Chair Starr	Comments that manual tracking system would not be efficient.
223	Taylor	Concurs.
225	Chair Starr	States that this bill will be referred to the Ways and Means Committee.
232	Rep. Nelson	Expresses concerns about trips out-of-state. Asks if tracking will be out-of-state, if there is reciprocation with other states.
258	Taylor	Responds that they do have reciprocation with other states.
205	Rep. Nelson	Asks question regarding uninsured motorists and if there is anything being done about this.
262	Taylor	Answers that legislature has put several tools in place such as vehicle confiscation and linkage between insurance company records and DMV records.
281	Rep. Nelson	Expresses desire for many of these processes to be combined into one tracking system in order to obtain the results more economically.
298	Chair Starr	Closed the public hearing and opens a work session on HB 2178.
<u>HB 2178 – WORK SESSION</u>		
<u>300</u>	<u>Rep. Kropf</u>	<u>MOTION: Moves to AMEND HB 2178 on page 1, in line 29, _____</u>
		<u>deleting “15” and inserting “21”.</u>
310	Chair Starr	Asks for discussion on the motion
317	Rep. Kropf	Asks if his motion needs to be amended..
324	Chair Starr	States that conceptual amendment is correct.
325	Rep. Nelson	Expresses concern for cost of yet another computer program for DMV. Recommends that system be combined.
330	Chair Starr	Notes that Rep. Hill is looking at some of those issues in the House Advancing E-Government Committee. Recommends that Ms. Taylor take that comment to the Ways and Means Committee.
344	Rep.	Asks Ms. Taylor if the tracking system would be a modification to existing software.
353	Rep. Kropf	Adds that Ms. Taylor pointed out that it would take 1,000 or so hours of programming which seems to indicate the existing system.
364	Rep. Merkley	States that he strongly supports the 21-day permit.
<u>TAPE 21, B</u>		
004	Rep. Nelson	Suggests 30 days inclusion.
011	Starr	Clarifies that Rep. Nelson does not support 21 days and would like to see 30-day permit.
015	Chair Starr	Clarifies that Rep. Nelson would like to change 21 days to 30 days.
018	Rep. Nelson	States that is correct.
023	Chair Starr	Asks for any discussion on Rep. Kropf’s motion. None noted calls for roll call vote on motion. Motion passes.
027		VOTE: 8-1
		AYE: 8 – Brown, Devlin, Kropf, Merkley, Rosenbaum, Verger, Zauner, Starr
		NAY: 1 – Nelson
	Chair Starr	The motion CARRIES.
033	Rep. Rosenbaum	Asks if this had a subsequent referral to Ways and Means.
035	Chair Starr	Answers that it did not but because of dollar threshold, it

040	Rep, Merkley	automatically is referred to Ways and Means. States sympathy with Rep. Nelson's concerns regarding the amount of time. Notes that perhaps government is putting too many restraints on the public to conduct ordinary affairs of life.
050	Chair Starr	Asks for any further discussion. Call for vote on motion.
051		VOTE: 9-0 AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye. Chair Starr The motion CARRIES. REP. DEVLIN will lead discussion on the floor.
056	Chair Starr	Closes the work session on HB 2178. Adjourns meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Kate Campeau,
Committee Assistant

John Leon,
Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A – Transportation Funding, written material, Bob Melbo, 16 pps.

B – HB 2178, written testimony, Kelly Taylor 1p.

C – HB 2178, written testimony, Patrick Nelson 2pp.