

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND
TRANSPORTATION**

January 18, 2001 Hearing Room 343

3:00 PM Tapes 06 - 09

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Sen. Gary George, Chair**
 Sen. Rick Metsger, Vice-Chair
 Sen. Margaret Carter
 Sen. Ken Messerle

MEMBERS ABSENT: **Sen. Beverly Clarno**

GUESTS: **Sen. Roger Beyer**
 Rep. Cliff Zaunders
 Former Rep. Juley Gianella
 Marion County Commissioner Patty Milne

STAFF PRESENT: **Patrick Balducci, Administrator**
 Nancy Masee, Committee Assistant

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:
 Implementation of SB 909
 Hazardous Materials Safety
 Transportation Safety Issues in Woodburn

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 03, A | | |
| 002 | Sen. Gary George | Chair. Calls the meeting to order at 3:00 pm at Woodburn Council Chambers. |
| 004 | Patty Milne | Marion County Commissioner. Welcomes the committee to Woodburn area. Relates traffic problems in Woodburn that need to be addressed. Comments on fatalities recently at the Hwy 214 High School crossing. |
| 009 | Chair George | Introduces the committee and their districts. |
| | | Implementation of SB 909 |
| 050 | Patrick Balducci | Staff. Explains SB 909 and its purpose to set a minimum threshold expenditure level for highway safety projects. |
| 112 | Tom Lulay | ODOT Executive Deputy Director, Chief Engineer. Discusses safety features that are being considered in relation to the governor's recommended budget (EXHIBIT A). |
| 185 | Sen. Carter | Asks what SB 909 asks ODOT to do other than their regular programs. |
| 190 | Lulay | States that accountability to the Legislature is the main thing that the bill addresses. |
| 200 | Balducci | Responds that ODOT has identified \$57 million in safety projects. ODOT has identified components of other types of projects to comply with SB 909. |
| 235 | Sen. Messerle | Asks how the safety projects are prioritized. |
| 239 | Lulay | ODOT presents their expenditures on safety. Bridge projects and |

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| | | modernization projects also include safety elements, which is considered a safety expenditure. |
| 270 | Sen. Messerle | States that a specific safety concern should be identified. |
| 279 | Lulay | Answers their program does identify specific safety needs also. |
| 284 | Sen. Messerle | Asks if there is a specific way to prioritize safety needs. |
| 288 | Lulay | Answers prioritization is based on accident statistics. |
| 294 | Sen. Beyer | Asks for ODOT's prioritized list of safety concerns. |
| 300 | Lulay | Says he will get a prioritized list. |
| 307 | Chair George | Asks what will be different from SB 909's intentions. |
| 317 | Lulay | Says they will be in compliance with SB 909. |
| 323 | Chair George | Gives example on Hwy 22 of rumble strips, lighted intersections, and other safety enhancing projects. Asks ODOT for their specific priorities. |
| 366 | Sen. Carter | Comments that present priorities came from previous legislative sessions. |
| 409 | Troy Costales | Manager, Transportation Safety Division, ODOT. States there are specific projects being done because of safety needs, as well as safety elements being added to projects (EXHIBIT B). |
| 450 | Costales | States there are 50,000 traffic crashes on average per year across the state of Oregon. There were 448 persons killed in the year 2000 highway accidents. ODOT, with the assistance of the legislature, communities and individuals, in the last 24 months has made a huge difference in implementing highway safety. |

TAPE 7, A

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| 012 | Lulay | States ODOT's future safety priorities will be made available to the committee. |
| 017 | Chair George | Asks for a list of priority safety expenditures and also a list from the past. |

Hazardous Materials Safety Regulation Compliance

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| 023 | Robert Roberts | Former Truck Driver. Discusses his personal experience in training new truck drivers. Explains a packet he developed for truckers on emergency safety response to hazardous materials accidents. |
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Transportation Safety Solutions in Woodburn

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| 160 | Dave Bishop | ODOT. Region 2 Manager. Introduces Don Jordan, District 3 Maintenance Manager. Discusses the I-5 Exit at Woodburn and describes the present proposal which is not finalized. The project would create a right hand turn lane first in the year 2005. Explains a cost of \$3 million including all studies for the interchange and purchase of right-of-way (EXHIBIT C). |
| 309 | Sen. Carter | Asks what precluded action when the high school was built. |
| 314 | Bishop | Explains that later decisions were made to locate major housing developments on the south side of the highway; the highway was improved to be a major thoroughfare, and decisions were made to locate the high school on the north side. |
| 320 | Sen. Carter | Asks if the community made this decision in location. |
| 325 | Bishop | Says that not enough attention was paid to how the student traffic would emerge onto Hwy 214. It was felt at that time to be reasonably safe. |
| 350 | Sen. Roger Beyer | Discusses prior land use decisions and how they affect highway and building decisions. Asks if the issue has been brought up at the land use meetings. |
| 376 | Bishop | Relates the background on safety planning by the commission. Various locations along the main highways are being looked at in |

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| | | accordance to the auto crash rate statistics. Says with increase in local traffic, priorities were made. |
| 415 | Sen. Metsger | Asks if developers should pay for providing safety precautions when new additions are built in a city. |
| 450 | Bishop | Says ODOT is now paying closer attention to that land use problem. |
| TAPE 6,B | | |
| 005 | Sen. Metsger | Asks whose responsibility it is to mitigate safety hazards in these situations. |
| 007 | Bishop | Defers to Don Jordan. |
| 009 | Don Jordan | Maintenance Manager. Discusses how ODOT can recommend a development to follow highway safety measures (EXHIBIT D) |
| 021 | Chair George | Discusses the large number of residential units across from the high school that impacts the student traffic. Asks if anticipated problems are factored in. |
| 030 | Rep. Zauner | Asks if the lighting has been put in yet. |
| 034 | Bishop | States he will cover suggestions from the December 15 meeting of ODOT, the city, and the high school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing speed limit (already done) • Build a school crossing with pedestrian safety island • Install school crossing signs and better advance warning signs to alert drivers of pedestrians • Complete the city street light and sidewalk system • Develop a local driver and pedestrian education program aimed at Woodburn school kids and local residents Explains the speed study that recommended further signing and reducing speed in the designated area. The City of Woodburn hired a contractor to put up temporary lights at the new crossing. A pedestrian safety island will be built in January funded by ODOT's program. School crossing signs and approaching signs are to be installed. PGE will be providing electricity. The school will be working on access plans to the school. |
| 070 | Bishop | States the City of Woodburn plans to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install permanent lights. • Expand school zone further. • Install new sidewalks. |
| 085 | Bishop | ODOT and the city, through their police department, are working on an education program for students, residents, and drivers in the area. Explains costs of improvements to city and school district. |
| 124 | Jordan | Explains the proposed pedestrian island at the high school entrance. Construction is now underway. |
| 159 | Sen. Messerle | Asks for clarification of the diagram. |
| 165 | Jordan | Explains the island design, lighting, and pedestrian use. |
| 190 | Bishop | Explains the issues at the high school entrance, slowing the speed of automobiles, and eliminating the left turn into the driveway. The driveway is open only during the morning and evening hours |
| 195 | Sen. Messerle | Suggests it may be safer to go west and put a crosswalk. |
| 200 | Jordan | Responds the east side would catch the majority of students. |

215 Bishop Explains ODOT will be installing school crossing and island warning signs. An environmental assessment of Hwy 214 is yet to be done. There is no identified funding or completion date as yet. Commends the City of Woodburn, the School District, the High School, friends and family of victims who have all worked together to solve this issue.

300 Chair George Opens public hearing on transportation and safety issues in Woodburn.

Public Hearing on Transportation Access and Safety in Woodburn

305 Sen. Roger Beyer Thanks chair and defers speaking to the citizens.

307 Rep. Zauner Introduces Woodburn School superintendent and principal.

310 School Principal? Introduces Marina Segura who is the daughter and sister of the two victims of the recent automobile accident at the high school entrance. Relates to the committee that the father (and husband) of the victims stresses that this tragedy should never happen again. There must be short-term solutions as well as long term solutions to the safety crossing.

350 Sen. Carter Offers consolation to the victims and states that public policy will make a great effort to implement safety at the high school crossing.

TAPE 7, B

050 Carlos Medina Administrator, Salud Medical Center. Explains the Center's purpose and describes the large number of poor people that are treated there. Comments that many patients must walk a long distance to the clinic. States there has been inadequate effort to improve safety and transportation conditions for pedestrians in the area.

034 Sen. Carter Asks ODOT if they are notified by cities in situations like this or how are they informed about unsafe situations. Asks how many meetings ODOT has had with the city of Woodburn on these safety issues.

061 Bishop Responds that typically the city notifies ODOT. Answers there have been many meetings with the city on different traffic problems.

066 Sen. Carter Explains each government level has an obligation, the priority needs to be identified and communications take place between the government levels to reach a solution. Stresses that preventing any loss of life is the priority.

095 John Brown Woodburn City Administrator. States that ODOT has been cooperative and persistent to find a solution with the city.

119 Chair George Asks if the administrator is familiar with monies available.

125 Brown Discusses implementation of temporary flashing lights. Explains Woodburn is seeking a grant to complete the sidewalks in that section of highway. Discusses different approaches that are being considered for safety. Comments on the lack of sufficient funds available to build these improvements.

170 Chair George States that the large number of pedestrians crossing Hwy 214 needs to have safe passage.

175 Maria Martinez Resident of Nuevo Amanecer, the large low-income apartment development across from the high school.

178 Interpreter For Martinez. Comments on the lights and the islands to be installed. Asks why there has not been a plan prior to this accident. Maria says that in California all the high schools have lighting and crosswalks. States residents are at risk in crossing at

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| | | the high school. Says Salud Medical Center has a night program to accommodate workers who work late and needs safe crossing accommodations. |
| 280 | Chair George | Says the committee will work to make changes more quickly. |
| 300 | Laura Isiordia | Social Service Coordinator, Farmworker Housing. Asks why there can't be an underpass put in to alleviate the problem area by the school. |
| 330 | Isiordia | Implores ODOT to take action. |
| 348 | Karen Thomas | Woodburn parent. Asks why the problem was not fixed to begin with. Asserts that the school zone is obviously dangerous. Emphasizes the need to protect children. |
| 372 | Tom Mann | Concerned Business Owners Highway 214. Represents businesses along the highway. Recalls a plan to install a median for pedestrians that would have hindered business access. Says the highway was an issue 25 years ago. Thanks those legislators who worked on the issue last session and helped put Woodburn on the map. Says they have only been told what cannot be done. ODOT has not accepted a proposal to make Hwy 214 a 5-lane road. |
| 420 | Mann | Asserts that Hwy 214 needs a cloverleaf interchange from Interstate 5 as many other communities have received. Asserts the entire corridor is a traffic safety problem. |
| 455 | Chair George | States that he is going to suggest that the city request that the road be turned over to the city. Refers to alternative projects related to highway capacity. |
| TAPE 8, A | | |
| 004 | Mann | Comments that Hwy 214 is the road that is used to travel to the Mt. Angel Octoberfest and sees additional heavy traffic during that period. |
| 021 | Andrea Grijalva | Woodburn High School Student. States that she walks to school but does not need to cross the street. Says that many students are forced to cross the road and have no crosswalk. Hopes that protective action is taken soon. |
| 035 | Chair George | Asks if the drawing of the plan for the intersection looks like a good solution. |
| 042 | Grijalva | Thought about an overpass or a crosswalk. Asserts that one crosswalk would probably not be enough. Says that buses make the road harder to cross. Students will try to make the trip faster and not walk all the way to a crosswalk. |
| 057 | Beverly Racine | Teacher, Woodburn High School. Explains she organized the letter writing campaign that brought attention to the members. Appreciates the efforts that have been made thus far. Area is an accident waiting to happen. Children have a right to expect road safety getting to and from school. Must act without delay before more are lost. |
| 080 | Chair George | Asks about the loss of the left turn into the school |
| 082 | Racine | Remarks that is how she gets there. The area needs a traffic light not just flashing light and a pedestrian island. Suggests a tunnel is the ideal solution. |
| 092 | Sen. Beyer | Thanks Ms. Racine for the letter campaign. Asks her to express thanks to the students for their participation. |
| 106 | Maria Reiz | Speaks about the increase in traffic when the apartment complex was built. Says that kids will not walk too far to get to a crosswalk. Would rather walk on a sidewalk because cars do not |

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| | | slow down. Explains there are many more kids in the school now. |
| 155 | Chair George | Implores those with safety and traffic concerns to contact their elected officials. |
| 158 | Reiz | Explains there are some hours of the day when it is better to avoid the school section because of the heavy traffic and the large number of children in the area. Drivers do not always obey the time-sensitive speed limit. |
| 176 | Keith Woollen | Retired Architect. States he has a background in city planning. Testifies on behalf of Woodburn Senior Estates. Says he has studied the problem with the school entrance in how to keep students from crossing the highway. Suggests a nearby road could be made into an alternate entrance to the school grounds in addition to installing fences to prevent access near the uncontrolled highway access area. Says an overpass would make it difficult to see the planned pedestrian island. |
| 230 | Woollen | Mentions that a new grocery store is going in nearby and could complicate the intersection. States present planning is insufficient. Says the only way to solve the traffic problem is to add another entrance to the school, perhaps the Butteville overpass. Mentions he has submitted a letter to the <i>Woodburn Independent</i> to that effect and offers to provide copies to the committee and ODOT. Refers to the wall map. Says the long-term solution would include a loop around the city to cope with the heavy-town traffic. |
| 310 | Woollen | Describes the difficulty the school has in keeping kids safe. Asserts there is a need for another arterial to deal with traffic. |
| 335 | Melissa Tittle | Woodburn High School student. Asserts that it should not have required a fatality for something to get done. Says her soccer team runs alongside the highway. Describes the lack of safety around the school highways. Asks why can't the state help protect WHS students. States that other schools and other areas in the city have better protection than the high school. |
| 382 | Selene Valadez | Woodburn High School student. Thanks the committee for coming to Woodburn. Comments on the letter writing campaign. Acknowledges the need to do something immediately to protect student pedestrians. Says that before the entrance is closed something else should be done for those who drive to school. |
| 435 | Jack Reeves | Superintendent Woodburn School District. Supports the testimony by students and teachers. |
| TAPE 9,A | | |
| 002 | Lynn King | WHS teacher. Testifies that there are many students turning off Hwy 214 to go to the high school. Testifies that the traffic on Hwy 214 is very heavy at all hours. States that over 215 students walk that highway. Says there is a lot of flooding in that low area where the crossing is suggested. |
| 022 | Alicia Hernandez | Woodburn Human Rights Group and resident. Comments on the heavy pedestrian traffic on Front Street. Suggests speed bumps. Says there are five stop lights west of the high school and asks why nothing has been done for the school. States during the Octoberfest at Mt. Angel the Hwy 214 traffic is extra heavy. |
| 093 | Marta Matoya | President of Woodburn High School Student Body. Explains her |

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| 140 | Mel Zucker | responsibility to the studentbody. Tells personal experience of walking in the dark to and from school and the danger of heavy, high-speed traffic on Hwy 214. There is no sidewalk, no lights, and there are many high-speed cars. Oregon Transportation Institute. States that there are 240 cities in Oregon where traffic patterns are changing. Comments there has to be a better way of managing state roads in urban areas. There needs to be a policy change to transfer state roads to local jurisdictions in urban areas because overlapping jurisdictions cause problems in implementation of safety measures. Urges the committee to look to the future and determine mobility and safety. |
| 184 | Carl Vestiga | Retired Highway Division Employee. Comments on the importance of expediting safety measures. |
| 203 | Chair George | Thanks audience for meeting. Adjourns meeting at 5:40 pm. |

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Nancy Masee,
Committee Assistant

Patrick Balducci,
Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A – Written testimony, Tom Lulay, 1 p

B – Written testimony, Troy Costales, 1 p

C – Written testimony and map, Dave Bishop, 6 pp

D – Diagram of Proposed Safety Island, Don Jordan, 1 p