

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND
TRANSPORTATION**

April 03, 2001 Lincoln County Courthouse
NEWPORT, OREGON
3:00 pm Tapes 69 - 71

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Sen. Gary George, Chair**

MEMBER EXCUSED: **Sen. Rick Metsger, Vice-Chair**
 Sen. Margaret Carter
 Sen. Bev Clarno
 Sen. Ken Messerle

Guest Legislator: **Rep. Alan Brown**

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

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:
 Coastal Highways Improvement Program
 Alaskan Scenic Byways
 Transportation Issues on the Oregon Coast

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
TAPE 69, A		
010	Sen. Gary George	Chair. Opens meeting as a subcommittee at 3:20 p.m. at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Commissioners' Hearing Room. Introduces Rep. Alan Brown, District 4 and Ron Kreskey, from Congressman Peter DeFazio's office.
018	Ron Kreskey	States that he represents the southern coast area and is very interested to hear about Highway 101 plans.
022	Chair George	Discusses Oregon Coastal Highway Improvement Plan (CHIPS). Explains renewing TEA-21 federal government assistance.
052	Patrick Balducci	Committee Administrator. Continues discussing TEA 21 and suggests Oregon align with other states that have coastal improvement plans. Explains how this would bring more dollars to the state.
100	Balducci	Discusses future highway improvement needs along the coastal highway. Projects future funding needed for the highway maintenance, preservation, and retrofitting.
150	Balducci	Describes in 1998 the federal government re-authorized every six years establishing financial policies for various highway related programs and public transportation programs. These programs are established and funded by the federal government. From 1998 to 2003, TEA-21 guaranteed \$198 billion for the programs. The money is distributed to those states that carry out the intent of the programs.

190	Balducci	Explains the federal gas and use tax and how it is returned to the states. Emphasizes that it is important that Oregon try to get back its money. The Coastal Highway Improvement Program's purpose is to provide allocations from the federal transportation system (USDOT) and its related planning organizations.
250	Balducci	Re-emphasizes that Oregon should align itself with other powerful coastal states in order to be eligible for funding. Summarizes the need to establish the CHIPS program to assist the coastal highways.
280	Chair George	Opens informational meeting with a subcommittee.
TAPE 70,A		
010	Balducci	Explains the taxation system of trucks.
015	Chair George	Discusses the calculations of determining the fair share of truck taxation. Explains the committee's work groups.
030	Chair George	Sets up the slides for the Alaskan tour.
035	Chair George	Narrates slides from Seward to Sitka, Alaska highlighting roadway amenities. Discusses "Scenic Byways" projects and funding.
100	Chair	Continues presentation of Alaska highways. Shows different types of overpasses and bicycle paths. Mentions the need to appeal to tourists.
140	George Priest	Oregon State Geologist. Comments on the geologic features and asks if they were noted for the tourists.
145	Chair George	Explains how Alaskan tourism offices made the effects of the great earthquake points of interest for travelers.
151	Terry Thompson	Former state representative. Comments that Lincoln County has only six state police officers. Asks if any of the Alaskan money was "pork barreling." Good projects help get the byways money.
170	Balducci	Explains the priority programs that make up part of the six year federal highway program. It is up to the Departments of Transportation of the individual states to put together good projects and get selected for the byways programs.
179	Thompson	Comments that he probably used the term "pork" inappropriately because "pork" is what goes to another district for economic development.
185	Chair George	Refers to the extra special Alaskan roadside amenities that appeal to travelers and states that Oregon needs to have some vision into future programs. Alaska also appealed to tourism through displays of native American culture.
210	Ono Husing	Oregon Coastal Association. Comments on scenic byway dollars in Oregon that have been attained. Says there has also been volunteer dollars and time put into projects.
236	Chair George	Shows slides of the Oregon Coast. Discusses reasons that draw tourists to the Oregon coast. Emphasizes that future planning is important. Shows slide areas where highways were destroyed.
300	Chair George	Discusses the problem of coastal soil that slides into the ocean. Comments on the problems of retaining highways on mountainsides along the coast. Discusses drainage problems of the coastal highways.
TAPE 69,B		
008	Chair George	Discusses disaster and emergency incidents that occur on the coast due to weather, earthquakes, tsunamis, etc. States ODOT's cost to deal with disasters.
030	Audience	Discussion. (Not Audible)

045	Chair George	Discusses alternative transportation including air flights on coast. Discusses small vans and buses, bicycles, and jitney in transit systems.
070	Audience	Discussion. (Not Audible)
100	Balducci	Discusses public transportation monopoly, Tri-Met and light rail. Gives example of a small transit system competing for federal dollars with a huge monopoly. The city of Sandy as well as Wilsonville and probably Canby have decided to go on their own with small systems.
200	Chair George	Encourages the public to communicate to legislators and the governor their support for their particular issues.
250	Balducci	Explains his concept of "CHIPS." It is still a proposal on paper.
260	Audience	Discussion. (Not Audible)
280	Chair George	Discusses ways that programs can be implemented. Use of Prison work force.
300	Balducci	Discusses discretionary programs that are programs resulting from ideas within the state that will produce dollars for the state.

TAPE 70, B

020	Husing	Discusses programs that did not get funded. Suggests the backlog of STIP projects that did not get funding.
056	Chair George	Discusses bonding programs. Asks what do they want to do for roads. Suggests different kinds of packages already to choose from.
075	Balducci	Reminds the audience that the voters spoke when they defeated Measure 82 defeating the fuel tax. Gives examples of ways of saving dollars for roads or recapturing funds. Discusses Garvey bonds. Explains the difference between federal bonds and state bonds.
140	Chair George	Discusses possible available funding and STIPS. Comments on Spencer Creek bridge.
200	Audience	(Not audible) Discusses different dollars set up for highways and projects.
225	Chair George	Discusses highways east and west in Oregon.
315	Balducci	Discusses marketing of the fuel tax, Measure 82.

MEASURE 71,A

033	Chair George	Discusses ways of using funds for an organized effort with a vision. Discusses the need to have an emergency plan and alternate routes ready for implementation.
100	Balducci	Explains in 1967 the gas tax was raised seven cents and then not until 1982 was the gas tax increased again. Between 1982 and 1993 the gas tax went from seven cents to 24 cents a gallon. Since then, no increase. Discusses indexing for more regular growth.
135	Chair George	Discusses how ODOT projects that are on budget and on time are showcases for what the department can do.
166	Balducci	Discusses Lincoln City highway development. Explains how the Department of Justice interpreted ODOT's drug testing for truckers as unconstitutional. DOJ identified other funds that were being used illegally based on constitutional law. Based on these findings, ODOT is increasing fees. Discusses New Zealand's solution to downsizing employees.
280	Chair George	Discusses the success that the Redmond Airport had by contracting out work to private companies. Discusses other projects that were cost saving by contracting.

TAPE 71,B

013	Chair George	Emphasizes the importance of speaking up and going after what is needed.
050	Chair George	Adjourns meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Nancy Masee,
Committee Assistant

Patrick Balducci,
Administrator

Janet Adkins
Administrator