

House Transportation Committee

1/13/99 Hearing Room D

8:00 a.m. Tapes 1-2

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Bob Montgomery, Chair

Rep. Mike Lehman, Vice Chair

Rep. Richard Devlin

Rep. Jim Hill

Rep. Jeff Kropf

Rep. Jerry Krummel

Rep. Jackie Taylor

Rep. Vicki Walker

Rep. Larry Wells

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Jane Lokan

STAFF PRESENT: Janet Adkins, Administrator

Brad Daniels, Assistant

MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD: Organizational meeting

Introduction to the Oregon Department of Transportation

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 1, A		

005	Chair Montgomery	Opens meeting at 8:03 a.m. Asks administrator to explain committee rules.
015	Janet Adkins	Administrator. Explains committee rules, highlighting necessity for majority vote, motion procedure, quorum, minority reports, and role of Legislative Counsel
030	Chair Montgomery	Explains formalities. Notes Friday's meeting at Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV). Asks for questions.
090	Rep. Wells	Asks if meeting will be held at 8:00 instead of 8:30.
095	Chair Montgomery	Explains that 8:00 is solid meeting time. Requests that everyone introduce themselves.
110	Rep. Walker	House District 41. Introduces self and notes location of district.
115	Rep. Krummel	House District 27. Introduces self as former mayor of Wilsonville.
118	Rep. Devlin	House District 24. Introduces self and explains experience with transportation issues.
127	Rep. Wells	House District 30. Introduces self and district. Notes that transportation has been of consistent personal interest.
132	Rep. Lehman	House District 47. Introduces self and district. Explains that this is his second session on transportation committee.
138	Chair Montgomery	House District 56. Introduces self and district.
143	Adkins	Administrator. Introduces self; relates personal and employment history.
148	Chair Montgomery	Excuses Rep. Lokan.
151	Rep. Taylor	House District 1. Introduces self; explains importance of transportation to her district and her personal experience with issue.
157	Rep. Hill	House District 5. Introduces self and stresses importance of transportation to district.
163	Rep. Kropf	House District 37. Introduces self and relates importance of transportation to personal and business interests.

182	Chair Montgomery	Asks if there are any questions about rules.
184	Rep. Lehman	MOTION: Moves to ADOPT the proposed Committee Rules (EXHIBIT A).
		VOTE: 9-0 EXCUSED: 1 - Lokan
Chair Montgomery		Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
190	Chair Montgomery	Introduces Joan Robinson, Legislative Counsel who writes all or most of the Transportation bills and amendments.
201	Chair Montgomery	Introduces Paul Siebert, Fiscal Analyst.
208	Adkins	Notes that Siebert and Robinson will not usually be in the committee meetings. Provides list of transportation contacts and lobbyists (EXHIBIT B).
250	Grace Crunican	Director, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), calls attention to ODOT staff in audience. Explains structure of Oregon Transportation Commission and members. Relates ODOT's mission statement and notes tension between economy and environment. Stresses importance of safety to ODOT. Explains responsibilities of ODOT as ranging from airports and highways to bicycles and pedestrians. Describes state road system and the percentage that is ODOT's responsibility (EXHIBIT C).
292	Adkins	Asks for clarification of term "federal roads."
295	Crunican	Explains that federal roads are those owned and operated by agencies of the federal government, such as the Bureau of Land Management, not interstate highways. Indicates that ODOT tracks numerous bridges. Notes ODOT's ownership of 31, mostly smaller airports. Says that ODOT inspects large number of miles of railroad track. Points to personnel chart and notes changes since last session. Introduces deputies who are present in the audience.
350	Crunican	Begins to walk through specific programs referring to Exhibit C: Highway programsó Emphasizes growing importance of preservation and defines preservation in ODOT terms as extending the life of the road. Defines modernization and maintenance. Describes other specific components of program.
400	Crunican	

437	Rep. Lehman	Inquires about any overlap between the three terms Crunican is referring to: preservation, modernization, and maintenance.
445	Crunican	Admits that the terms and their uses are not mutually exclusive: paving could be both preserving and modernizing a road.
468	Rep. Lehman	Asks if using the three definitions is significant for allocating money.
472	Crunican	Acknowledges that definitions play a role in accounting, but adds that facilitating communication and organization are additional purposes for the three categories.
TAPE 2, A		
038	Crunican	Explains regions of state highway mileage and division of ODOT employees within regions. Stresses difference between center line mile and lane mile.
053	Chair Montgomery	Reiterates difference between number of lanes that ODOT controls versus those that counties or cities control. Indicates potential for ODOT to control more actual road surface than the term mile would indicate due to the larger roads in their jurisdiction.
060	Crunican	Agrees with the Chair's observation. Refers to regional map to underline differences between regions. Stresses difficulty in maintaining Terwilliger Curves, as opposed to problems in La Grande.
097	Crunican	<p>Describes separate divisions and their responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation Safety DivisionóCommends safety record and relation of safety to federal funds received. • Public Transit DivisionóDescribes responsibilities as funding- guidance and planning, not bus operation. Notes involvement with smaller companies and non-profit organizations. • Aeronautics DivisionóDescribes responsibilities of this program, including operation of airports, licensing and technical assistance. • Rail DivisionóNotes management of rail operations and safety. • Transportation Development DivisionóNotes control of planning, policy and research. Expresses importance of separate plans and interaction of local jurisdictions and ODOT. Relates complexity of working with local jurisdictions and importance of planning process. • Motor Carrier Regulation and EnforcementóDescribes focus on trucking, weight-mile collection. Underscores ODOT's efforts to streamline this program and sometimes strained relationship with trucking industry. • Central ServicesóDefines as a broad umbrella that includes personnel, payroll, equipment, computers, etc.
160	Crunican	

220	Crunican	
268	Rep. Hill	Asks if ODOT has inter-government agreements to share equipment in order to maximize savings.
273	Crunican	Agrees with the common sense of these agreements and notes progress in this area. Describes responsibilities of DMV and expresses pride in their improved customer service.
335	Chair Montgomery	Notes plans for field trip on Friday from 8-10 a.m. Introduces Joan Plank, Manager of ODOT's Government Relations Section, as a resource for obtaining information from separate agencies.
350	Crunican	Refers the committee to agency managers as resources for information. Describes allocation of total funds in percentages.
380	Chair Montgomery	Asks if federal money includes TEA21 money, half of which goes to "pork" in his terms.
385	Crunican	Agrees that TEA21 money includes funds for special projects, but special projects do not constitute half.
392	Chair Montgomery	Addresses TEA21 money and the controversies arising from that money as funding for special projects. Indicates that ODOT is not responsible for conceiving these controversial projects, and one needs to take up the issue with the particular legislator.
397	Crunican	Describes division of funds in highway program. Notes increased attention to bridge program. Describes where dollars are spent and ODOT's uses of highway funds. Goes into more detail for each percentage. Describes Highway Fund distribution.
TAPE 1, B		
045	Chair Montgomery	Defines STIP, Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.
050	Crunican	Further explains STIP and process for construction and funding. Notes problems with previous method of STIP administration. Contests impression of ODOT as renegeing on projects.
090	Crunican	Underscores ODOT accountability and success.

100	Chair Montgomery	Acknowledges mistake in installing, and prematurely covering, expensive striping on I-5.
110	Crunican	Explains Dura-Stripe, expense, and ultimate savings because of its longevity. Describes why stripe was paved over on I-5.
138	Crunican	Returns to ODOT accountability. Notes steps taken to monitor performance: audit by Secretary of State and Efficiency Committee, an oversight group of citizens and legislators (EXHIBIT D).
175	Rep. Hill	Asks how Representatives can respond to critics of ODOT and those who contend there is wasted or hidden money in ODOT.
183	Crunican	Denies suggestions of hidden money. Stresses her efforts in answering all questions about funding.
195	Rep. Hill	Explains purpose of question as improving efforts of Representatives and the committee in addressing misinformation about ODOT.
205	Chair Montgomery	Looks to next week as possible time for Crunican and others to explain budget and to help members understand funding.
215	Rep. Wells	Asks if the agenda of audits composed during the interim has been completed.
225	Crunican	Explains her good-faith effort to answer questions about ODOT's progress. Notes that they have now defined all or most of these issues through state and private audit, and they are in the process of making changes. Praises accounting system; again stresses lack of malfeasance. Expresses willingness to answer specific questions or concerns.
267	Rep. Krummel	Asks when private audit will be available.
270	Crunican	Replies that all audits are available now and will be given to the committee.
275	Rep. Kropf	Compliments ODOT Rapid Response Teams. Asks Crunican to expand on previous mention of workers being shot at in some areas.
300	Crunican	Describes bullet holes at Baldock station and employee contact with gun-toting criminals.
310	Chair Montgomery	Asks how many times ODOT is audited per year.
322	Crunican	Explains that there has not been a full-fledged performance audit since the 1980s, but smaller scale audits occur periodically.

340	Rep. Wells	Asks about accounting system in layman's terms; notes previous criticism of system.
350	Crunican	Protests presence of criticism. Explains accounting structure and forthcoming improvements.
380	Rep. Wells	Refers to rumors of site managers' ability to determine costs more accurately than ODOT. Asks about ODOT's knowledge of project costs.
390	Crunican	Underlines ODOT's extensive knowledge of each project's cost. Expands on difference between administrative and indirect costs and where they fit within project costs.
437	Chair Montgomery	Excuses Crunican and adjourns meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Brad Daniels, Janet Adkins,

Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A --House Transportation Committee Rules, staff, 2pp.

B --Transportation Telephone Contact List, staff, 2 pp.

C --Testimony, Grace Crunican, 29 pp.

D --Final Report, Advisory Committee on Efficiency, 14 pp.