

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

January 29, 1999 Hearing Room D

8:30 a.m. Tapes 9 - 11

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Mike Lehman, Vice-Chair

Rep. Jeff Kropf

Rep. Jerry Krummel

Rep. Jane Lokan

Rep. Jackie Taylor

Rep. Vicki Walker

Rep. Larry Wells

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Bob Montgomery, Chair

Rep. Jim Hill

Rep. Richard Devlin

STAFF PRESENT: Janet Adkins, Administrator

Brad Daniels, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: HB 2478 Public Hearing

HB 2195 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.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 9, A		

007	Rep. Lehman	Opens meeting at 8:40 a.m. Opens public hearing on HB 2478.
HB 2478 PUBLIC HEARING		
010	Rep. Juley Gianella	District 38. Supports HB 2478. Emphasizes the need for Newberg/Dundee bypass funding (EXHIBIT A).
019	Rep. Leslie Lewis	District 29. Supports HB 2478. Reviews the problems surrounding Highway 99 and Highway 18 in her district. Notes the need for a Newberg/Dundee bypass. Stresses the importance of accessibility to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and greater funding accountability. Underlines that identifying the specific projects to be built generates public support.
060	Rep. Lewis	Notes that the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has asked for more fiscal flexibility in the bill and agrees that greater flexibility is needed. Discusses the importance of Section 7 of the bill and access to coherent funding reports.
082	George Lewis	City Administrator, Dundee. Notes the importance of fiscal accountability and supports HB 2478 as a good step in this direction. Expresses a desire to change the wording in Section 4 dealing with the Highway Construction Plan. Describes his experience with traffic problems in his area, especially on Highway 99 in Dundee. Supports the construction of a bypass on this highway. Notes that members of local government have discussed the possibility of legal action against the state. Reiterates his support for HB 2478.
148	Rep. Wells	Asks why this particular project has not received priority in the STIP and how HB 2478 would change the prioritization process.
160	Lewis	States his hope that the Highway Construction Plan, implemented by HB 2478, will eliminate the separate A and B lists that the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) uses to prioritize projects.
174	Rep. Wells	Expresses a concern about politicizing the transportation funding process. Asks how the process can be de-politicized under HB 2478.
184	Lewis	Replies that HB 2478 provides this opportunity by leaving the STIP process alone. Cites the importance of the OTC in prioritizing projects.
202	Rep. Lehman	Relates an example that shows how the process could be politicized, and representatives could hold their votes hostage in order to ensure the construction of particular projects. Asks if the process is still political under HB 2478.
223	Lewis	Responds that HB 2478 would provide a timetable for construction.
237	Rep. Taylor	Questions whether the funding process or the lack of a funding increase is the

		problem.
244	Lewis	Indicates that the problem is poor public policy; new construction and modernization has taken a back seat to preservation. Concedes that money is needed, but stresses the importance of a balance in how money is spent.
257	Chuck Cox	Mayor, City of Newberg. Expresses frustration with the current ODOT system and trying to discover the status of projects. Supports HB 2478 as a mechanism for locating specific projects. Adds that the process is already political, but the Newberg/Dundee bypass can stand on its own merit. Expresses conditional support for a gas tax increase.
298	Bret Veatch	City Councilor, Newberg. Emphasizes the importance of informing local communities and providing some sense of project scheduling. Supports HB 2478 because it will provide a time frame for projects.
322	Rep. Lokan	Expresses hope that HB 2478 will establish accountability. Reviews the positive aspects of HB 2478.
345	Rep. Krummel	Asks why they are unable to find a project that is in the STIP.
363	Lewis	Discusses the difficulty of reading the STIP.
384	Cox	Expresses a general lack of confidence that projects in the STIP are being built.
396	Rep. Taylor	Cites the large size of past STIPs. Expresses a concern that people may be asking for voluminous documentation. Expresses her belief in the current process and that projects will be able to stand on their own merit.
448	Rep. Lokan	Comments on the Highway Construction Plan and how it ties funding to the biennium rather than the four year STIP.
TAPE 10, A		
042	Larry Bonzack	Radio station owner and political talk show host, Yamhill County. Describes the road through Newberg as a disaster. Stresses the seriousness of transportation issues in his area. Supports HB 2478, not as a direct solution, but as a method of increasing ODOT's credibility.
068	Rep. Lehman	Asks what the number one problem is in most local communities.
076	Bonzack	Replies that transportation is probably a serious issue everywhere. Reiterates his negative impression of ODOT's money management and his frustration with the relatively small portion that is actually spent on roads.

083	Rep. Wells	Disagrees with Bonzackis statistics. Notes that \$700-800 million is spent on roads.
095	Dave Haugeberg	Chair, Yamhill County Parkway Committee. Relates the history of Newberg/Dundee bypass project, especially the funding problems.
150	Haugeberg	Supports HB 2478 because it gives a global picture of projects. Stresses the importance of accountability and modernization projects. Relates an example from McMinnville that shows how projects can get funded with public support if transportation agencies provide clear objectives.
197	Rep. Taylor	Asks if his opinion is that priority should be given to modernization over preservation.
206	Haugeberg	Responds that both types need to be balanced.
218	Rep. Taylor	Cites the five audits of ODOT. Expresses a concern that ODOT is getting "slammed," even though they have been doing good work. Supports ODOT's efforts to provide the pertinent information.
252	Haugeberg	Replies that he does not intend to criticize ODOT. Suggests that HB 2478 will provide a mechanism to move funding forward. Acknowledges that additional funding is needed.
274	Rep. Lokan	Notes that HB 2478 is not critical of ODOT management, but seeks to establish credibility for the agency.
294	Rep. Lehman	Expresses sympathy with the problems of local communities, but recognizes a problem with connecting the increased prioritization of the Newberg/Dundee bypass to HB 2478. Notes that HB 2478 probably will not change the nuts and bolts of project prioritization.
327	Haugeberg	Stresses that additional revenue for ODOT is needed. Notes that the Newberg/Dundee project is a good one. Explains the importance of creating a political consensus behind modernization.
400	Rita Baller	City Councilor, Willamina. Testifies on behalf of the Willamina City Council against the Fort Hill project. Notes that the council was not contacted by ODOT about the project prior to the start of preliminary engineering (EXHIBIT B).
475	Baller	Asks the committee to listen to her community and consider delaying or changing the project. Notes the importance of highway safety in her area.
TAPE 9, B		

048	Rep. Wells	Asks how the need for highway modernization can be balanced with business access concerns.
062	Baller	Responds that widening the highway will decrease traffic problems and increase safety.
094	Rep. Lokan	Asks Baller when she knew the Fort Hill project was in the process.
101	Baller	States that the council was only recently aware of the project. Notes that the community has been caught off guard.
110	Rep. Lokan	Inquires if HB 2478 would have helped to notify Baller's community about this particular project.
121	Baller	Responds that HB 2478 would have been influential. Supports HB 2478.
139	Rep. Lehman	Asks about the role of Polk County in the Fort Hill project.
143	Baller	Notes that she has not contacted county officials. Reports that 35 deaths have occurred in the Highway 18 corridor.
159	Rep. Lehman	Asks about the conflicts between widening the road and private property access.
163	Baller	Explains that the unknown (not being informed about the Fort Hill project) is much more uncomfortable than the known. Notes that the need for access is inevitable.
187	Rich Maben	Maben Trucking, Willamina. Cites the amount of taxes he pays and expresses his lack of confidence in the Fort Hill project. States that the problem will not be solved by the current projected changes. Stresses the importance of citizen input and the importance of transportation in Oregon. Discusses the importance of safety and speed enforcement.
254	Rep. Wells	Asks if he is willing to pay more than 13.6 cents a mile on his trucks to obtain the necessary funding.
267	Maben	Expresses a willingness to assent to the new OTA proposal and pay more diesel taxes if he can see positive results.
270	Rep. Kropf	Relates an example of a similar problem on Highway 34. Expresses his hope that ODOT will work with the local community and fulfill its commitment to safety. Notes that accountability is important when a tax increase is proposed.
323	Rep. Taylor	Indicates her support for ODOT's priorities. States that the problem may be the

		lack of time or notification. Asks how the problem should be solved at Fort Hill.
343	Maben	Explains that the proposed turn lanes will not solve the Fort Hill situation.
370	Wesley Shenk	Community of Fort Hill. Mentions that he owns property along the highway. Supports HB 2478 if it requires ODOT to notify local communities and property owners about forthcoming projects.
409	Rep. Lehman	Expresses skepticism that HB 2478 would provide more notice to property owners.
419	Rep. Lokan	Underscores that HB 2478 endorses the public process. States that HB 2478 would inform legislators, and local residents then would be informed through the public process.
444	Shenk	Refers to Section 4 of the bill. Indicates that stakeholders should also be included in the consultation list. Agrees with Maben's analysis of the problems with the proposed project.
TAPE 10, B		
020	Shenk	Describes further problems with the intersection and the proposed changes. Comments on the need for bridge improvement.
043	Rep. Wells	Expresses confusion about how the process went so wrong. Questions some of the motives of the testimony because it pertains to an access issue.
051	Shenk	Expresses concern that the proposed project will cut down on business.
057	Rep. Wells	Asks how the petition should be interpreted and what changes ODOT should make.
067	Shenk	States that a larger highway, with a median, would help, or at least a merging lane.
090	Kathy Thole	City of Grand Ronde. Stresses the importance of livability and of this intersection to the entire community. Notes that business will be hurt because of the proposed large barrier. Explains the problems with traffic in this area. States that the project in the draft STIP is a waste of money.
143	Rep. Wells	Asks what the process should be in order to resolve the Fort Hill dispute.
150	Thole	Discusses the history of the Fort Hill project, its presence on the STIP and the involvement of Polk County in the process. Opposes the proposal for a new state

		park. Explains the geography of the project (EXHIBIT C).
234	Mel Zucker	Oregon Transportation Institute. States that an ideal bill on accountability would include: a budget using zero-based budgeting techniques, a good reporting system that contains the units produced related to the amount of spending per unit, cost accounting, and conformity between reports.
300	Zucker	Discusses the lack of clarity and conformity between terms and the need for similar definitions. Emphasizes that some relation to the past, some historical context, is important. Mentions the importance of specificity. Cites Section 3 of HB 2478 and expresses confusion about the terms in this section (EXHIBITS D & E).
340	Rep. Lokan	Reports that a proposed amendment addresses the consistency of terms and categories.
364	Zucker	States that system modernization and expansion should be separate categories, and modernization needs to be defined specifically.
379	Rep. Lokan	Indicates that ODOT's Program Budget does show specific sub-areas that are assigned to each category.
427	Zucker	Discusses the confusion between engineering and planning. Stresses that all categories should add up to 100% of the funds.
TAPE 11, A		
026	Zucker	Refers to section 4 of the bill and recommends more specific definitions of terms in this section.
045	Rep. Lehman	Closes public hearing on HB 2478 and opens public hearing on HB 2195.
HB 2195 PUBLIC HEARING		
050	Kelly Taylor	Government Relations Section, ODOT. Explains that HB 2195 establishes uniform fees for renewing vehicle plates and allows the Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division to send notices by first-class mail (EXHIBIT F).
072	Rep. Wells	Asks if the bill does increase revenue.
075	Taylor	Cites the change in tree plates as the source of much of the revenue.
080	Rep. Lokan	Refers to Section 1 (5). Asks why it is necessary to charge the \$10 fee.

087	Taylor	Responds that changing an existing plate at times other than renewal represents an additional cost because the DMV staff is not already working on that particular file. States that the \$10 fee reflects this additional cost.
100	Rep. Lokan	Asks if the \$10 fee covers the renewal sticker.
105	Taylor	Responds that the \$5 and \$10 are administrative fees.
111	Rep. Lokan	Asks if a change needs to be made every time plates are renewed.
115	Taylor	Explains the renewal process. Responds that HB 2195 applies only to changing the existing plates.
139	Taylor	Notes that some people will experience a reduction and some will have a modest increase.
148	Rep. Lehman	Closes public hearing on HB 2195 and opens work session on HB 2195.
HB 2195 WORK SESSION		
158	Rep. Wells	MOTION: Moves HB 2195 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.
		VOTE: 6-0 EXCUSED: 4 - Rep. Devlin, Rep. Hill, Rep. Krummel, Chair Montgomery
		Rep. Lehman Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED. Rep. LEHMAN will lead discussion on the floor.
175	Rep. Lehman	Adjourns meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Brad Daniels, Janet Adkins,

Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñHB 2478, written testimony, Rep. Juley Gianella, 1 p.

B ñHB 2478, public letter, Rita Baller, 1 p.

C ñHB 2478, map, Kathy Thole, 1 p.

D ñHB 2478, ODOT Program Totals, Mel Zucker, 3 pp.

E ñHB 2478, 2000-2003 draft STIP analysis, Mel Zucker, 3 pp.

F ñHB 2195, written testimony, Kelly Taylor, 3 pp.