

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

March 12, 1999 Hearing Room D

8:30 a.m. Tapes 45 - 46

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Bob Montgomery, Chair

Rep. Mike Lehman, Vice-Chair

Rep. Richard Devlin

Rep. Jim Hill

Rep. Jeff Kropf

Rep. Jerry Krummel

Rep. Jane Lokan

Rep. Jackie Taylor

Rep. Vicki Walker

Rep. Larry Wells

STAFF PRESENT: Janet Adkins, Administrator

Brad Daniels, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: Invited testimony on senior and disabled transportation services

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 45, A		
004	Chair Montgomery	Opens the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

023	Grace Crunican	Director, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Discusses the funding amounts and structures that are used to meet the mobility needs of seniors and disabled citizens. Stresses the importance of additional funding to satisfy these needs.
040	Gary Weeks	Director, Department of Human Resources. Emphasizes community concern about improved transportation. Outlines the separate groups that require transportation services. Lists the various sources that meet citizens' needs, including taxis, buses and volunteers (EXHIBIT A).
099	Weeks	Notes that, though intracity service is generally the most common, intercity and statewide routes are also important in allowing people to access services and relatives that are not in the immediate area. States that single seniors and disabled persons rely on volunteers and local transportation systems. Supports increasing brokerage services. Emphasizes the broad need for transportation services.
146	Rep. Lokan	Asks Weeks to define brokerage services.
151	Weeks	Replies that the focus is on leveraging the client's grant dollars with a provider.
160	Rep. Wells	Asks what bill Weeks is referring to.
170	Chair Montgomery	Responds that it is probably being printed.
176	Crunican	Lists the three elements to be considered in transportation funding: capacity, coordination and connection. States the requested funding amount of \$20 million and outlines how the money would be distributed to improve elderly and disabled services, including increased rail and bus services. Cites the efforts to meld client-based and other transportation services (the brokering earlier mentioned) (EXHIBIT B).
230	Crunican	Describes the goals and function of the brokerage services that would address transportation needs. Explains the intercity bus connection and possible contracts with the private sector.
278	Rep. Lokan	Supports working toward privatization without subsidization.
284	Mary Lou Ritter	Director, Washington County Department of Aging and Veteran Services. Describes a survey underlining the need for elderly and disabled transportation. Outlines the decline in rides per capita that has resulted from static Special Transportation Funding (STF).
350	Ritter	Reviews the funding required to maintain the 1994 level of service and to provide expanded service. Reports the survey's findings about the lack of services in rural communities and the similar level of need across the state. Stresses the need for additional funding.

430	Rep. Lokan	Asks why so few people would use dial-a-ride.
TAPE 46, A		
008	Ritter	Responds that some people may not have understood what dial-a-ride is when completing the survey or may maintain a hope for more independence.
015	Ruth Bascomb	Former mayor, Eugene. Discusses the renewed interest in passenger train service. Describes the progress toward achieving the 2-2-2 goal (two trains in two hours by 2002) and the current status of train service and ridership. Notes that the Talgo train is the only ADA-equipped train in the United States.
055	Bascomb	Discusses the sources of current funding for the rail program and the requests for further funding.
085	Eva Lashmett	Citizen, Beaver Creek. Explains her need for transportation service and use of the trip program. Describes the friendships she has formed with the drivers.
115	Rep. Lokan	Asks Lashmett the name of the program and where she lives.
119	Lashmett	Replies that it is the trip program, and she lives in Beaver Creek.
121	Rep. Lokan	Asks about if the trip program is a volunteer, private program. Asks if Lashmett has a choice about where to go.
135	Lashmett	Replies that it is a volunteer program. Adds that she has some choice about where to go.
137	Rep. Lokan	Asks if there is a per-ride charge.
138	Lashmett	Replies yes.
145	Mary Jo Carpenter	Community Connection, Baker County. Briefly describes her agency. Cites transportation as a major priority for seniors. States that funding has been static for 10 years and service has suffered as a result. Emphasizes the need for additional funding.
196	Rep. Walker	Asks Carpenter if the senior population has increased in the past 10 years.
201	Carpenter	Replies that population has always been high in her area and has increased.
214	Rep. Wells	Asks for an explanation of the funding stream. Notes the difficulty that legislators have in determining the funding stream for particular programs.

227	Carpenter	Describes the process for receiving funds and funding sources. States that they now have a per-ride charge.
238	Rep. Wells	Asks how the cigarette money (STF) is distributed.
240	Carpenter	Replies that it is given to the local governing body, and her agency is a sub-contractor.
251	Rep. Wells	Asks if the funding is based on population.
254	Carpenter	Replies that it is based on a formula that includes population. Adds that they also receive Federal Transit Authority (FTA) money.
261	Rep. Wells	Asks if that is all the money they receive.
263	Carpenter	Replies yes.
266	Sen. Castillo	Asks Carpenter how many people her agency will be forced to turn down if they do not receive the requested funding.
270	Carpenter	Replies that they are already limiting service.
284	Roberta Laveaux	Citizen, Portland. Describes the way Northwest Ministries helped her with her transportation needs. Discusses the use of this service by seniors in her community and the need for further funding.
350	Ed Necker	Citizen, Lane County. Discusses STF advisory committees and their function in the distribution of STF funds. Notes that the elderly and disabled population is growing.
400	Necker	Relates the importance of transportation in his life and his use of special transportation. States that the STF money is not keeping up with the need increase.
TAPE 45, B		
011	Adkins	Explains the source and distribution of STF money.
018	Rep. Devlin	Inquires if the STF funding has mirrored the Oregon Health Plan's decline in revenue.
029	Don Butsch	Chairman, Governor's Commission on Senior Services. Recognizes the enthusiastic membership of the Governor's Commission. Stresses the

		importance of transportation to the elderly community. Notes that the rise in the elderly population is due to improved medical services. Adds that this rise overtaxes existing resources.
070	Butsch	Underscores the need for increased funding.
082	Scott Cantonwine	President, Cascade Warehouse Company. Expresses his support for a solidly grounded transportation network as well as passenger and freight rail. Explains that a state contribution to an effective transportation network is essential.
132	Patrick Rogers	Oregon Disabilities Access Committee/Oregon Paralyzed Veterans. Acknowledges the importance of transportation to elderly and disabled citizens. Supports local control of transportation services.
178	Lokan	Expresses understanding of Rogers' concerns.
195	Sharron Coleman	General Manager, Rogue Valley Transportation District. Reviews the service her organization was able to provide last year. Notes that her area is a magnet for many elderly and disabled persons. Outlines the reductions required by static funding. Describes her experience as a disabled person and the importance of transportation in her life.
257	Cindy Howe	Executive Director, Sunset Empire Transportation District. Reviews the history of the transportation district in her area (Astoria-Seaside). Stresses that seniors and disabled riders utilize the majority of her service. States that they are not able to serve 300-400 people each month due to a funding shortfall. Lists the types of services that are available to seniors and disabled citizens (EXHIBIT C).
335	Howe	Notes that the new kidney dialysis center will double requests for service in her area. Lists the number of requests for dial-a-ride service. Stresses the need for further funding.
385	Rep. Lokan	Asks how much is charged per ride and if those charges can be increased.
393	Howe	Replies that seniors pay 50 cents per trip on a fixed route and one dollar for a dial-a-ride service. Adds that the general population pays \$1.50 for a one-way trip
411	Josephine Claflin	Columbia County. Stresses the need for increased funding. Reviews the frequency and types of service in her area. Notes that younger children are also served by the system in her area. Adds that they are turning down riders and their vans need repairs. Notes that the number of people they are able to serve has declined (EXHIBIT D).
TAPE 46, B		

030	Susan Brody	Vice Chair, Transportation Commission. Supports the entire transportation network and its various components. Notes the importance of rail and bus systems. Indicates that trains will be required to discontinue service on June 30 th if no funding package is passed.
051	Rep. Krummel	Asks Brody if she knows of a bill dealing with a smart "jitney" that would facilitate ride services.
060	Brody	Replies no.
066	Chair Montgomery	Adjourns the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Brad Daniels, Janet Adkins,

Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñWritten testimony, Gary Weeks, 3 pp.

B ñWritten testimony, Grace Crunican, 17 pp.

C ñNewspaper article, Cindy Howe, 1 p.

D ñWritten testimony, Josephine Claflin, 1 p.