

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

March 7, 1997 Hearing Room C

1:15 P.M. Tapes 32 - 33

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Marylin Shannon, Chair

Sen. Ken Baker, Vice-Chair

Sen. Joan Dukes

Sen. Gary George

Sen. Mae Yih

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT:

Lin Ludwick, Administrator

Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:

Public Transit - Agency Overview

SB 372 - Public Hearing

Possible Introduction of Committee bills

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 32, A		
005	Chair Shannon	Calls meeting to order 1:18pm, opens public hearing, informational meeting.
<u>PUBLIC TRANSIT - AGENCY OVERVIEW</u>		
		Manager, Public Transit Section of Oregon Department of Transportation. Submits informational packets (EXHIBIT A). Begins

013	Joni Reid	overview: * services provided * who provides the service * who are public transit partners
040	Reid	Continues with public transportation; 220 special needs providers statewide and these systems rely on the transit section for funding; \$210 million annual operating budget.
069	Reid	Continues with integration history of the transit section with ODOT.
102	Reid	Continues presentation with description of programs. Notes key issues: * needed guidance to those who are addressing mobility and congestion issues * demand for public transportation is greater than the funding
145	Reid	Summarizes presentation
152	Sen. Baker	Requests clarification about the 1993 funding reduction, what was the size of the reduction and what was eliminated due to these reductions.
159	Reid	Responds prior to 1993 \$1 - \$3 million dollars was received from general funds each biennium, these funds were used in partnership with local transit systems reducing their matching requirements for federal funds. Notes that when the general fund moneys were eliminated, the transit section was not in a position to offer that assistance.
170	Sen. Yih	Questions if transit is primarily the bus system.
171	Reid	Responds that public transportation is a full range of services; includes large buses, special transportation vehicles, vans, and small buses.
180	Sen. Yih	Questions the funding distribution between riders, federal, state, and local moneys.
189	Reid	Responds that this varies, approximately one-third of the systems operate from fares; some systems have reduced rates relying on other sources for funding; 25 percent of funding is state or federal funding, and 75 percent local funding or fares. Notes that local funding is made up of property taxes, payroll taxes, and ridership.
199	Sen. Yih	Questions if out of the 75 percent, half is local and half is fares.
205	Reid	Responds that the break down is not that high.
208	Sen. Yih	Questions if 33 percent ridership, 33 percent state and 33 percent federal distribution is the average breakdown.
210	Reid	Responds no. 25 percent funding from state or federal, the transit section administers the moneys. State funding is specific for special transportation.
222	Sen. Yih	Requests in writing an explanation of the percentage breakdown.

227	Reid	Responds that information will be made available.
230	Sen. Yih	Comments that ideally public transportation should be supported by ridership alone. Continues comments that education about public transit is extremely valuable.
254	Sen. Dukes	Questions if the Commission will incorporate the public transit plan into the ODOT plan. Has ODOT combined the different pieces of the plan together.
258	Reid	Responds that the public transportation plan is built from policies of ODOT plan. Notes that these plans are well aligned.
263	Sen. Dukes	Questions if there was a 'rails' piece added to the Oregon transportation plan. Questions integration of all pieces of the plan.
273	Reid	Responds that all the modal plans are to be completed and an updated Oregon transportation plan will be generated. Notes that each modal plan has to address how it interfaces with the overall plan.
284	Sen. Dukes	Questions their budget for the current biennium.
285	Reid	Responds that it is approximately \$6.3 million.
294	Sen. Dukes	Questions if the Commission discussed providing a funding piece for transit this past year.
297	Reid	Responds that the Governor and the Commission have been discussing funding possibilities. Notes difficulty with funding, currently the funding is directed towards special transportation.
306	Sen. Dukes	Comments that the special transportation funding is limited to senior and disabled. Notes the need is much greater than that. Questions if the Commission's discussion addressed providing additional funds.
317	Reid	Responds that discussion has been directed towards providing a base system that each community can build on. This system would help improve general public services.
326	Sen. Dukes	Questions if these discussion were at the Commission level.
328	Reid	Responds that she does not have that information.
332	Sen. Dukes	Comments on the central assessment chart, questions if the public transit section is not being assessed because their budget is so small. Access fee would pay for the annex fee.
338	Reid	Responds affirmatively. Restrictions and legislative direction does not allow the section to use the special transportation moneys to pay for a central assessment.
351	Sen. Dukes	Questions if an access fee were to pass, would the section start paying assessments. Questions how many employees in the section.
366	Reid	Responds affirmatively, and there are ten employees.
	Sen.	Questions if the section has reviewed the assessment. Questions safety

369	Duke	training for public transit section. Questions staff turn-over?
380	Reid	Responds that she has reviewed an assessment in the past, employees do not receive safety training and employee turn-over can be high.
387	Sen. Dukes	Questions if public transit section has used ODOT's services for hiring new employees.
388	Reid	Responds affirmatively.
389	Sen. Dukes	Questions if services were used within the past year.
390	Reid	Responds affirmatively
396	Sen. Dukes	Comments on budget figures from ODOT.
416	Sen. Baker	Comments and questions local transit districts rely on property taxes, how will Measure 47 impact their budget?
TAPE 33, A		
003	Reid	Responds concerns are high, reduction of services will probably occur.
011	Sen. Baker	Questions where that information is located in the handout?
013	Reid	Responds it is the description of systems located in the later section of the pamphlet.
022	Sen. Baker	Comments that Measure 47 may be redrafted, requests a memo from the public transit section, possibly this afternoon.
025	Reid	Responds affirmatively
027	Sen. Baker	Comments that he will try to add language for additional assistance towards public transportation.
028	Roger Martin	Executive Director, Oregon Transit Association. Testifies in support of the transit section, continues with program development for the elderly and handicapped. Notes that Oregon has difficulty funding public transportation services. Two funding sources that are not available in Oregon: * sales tax * portion of gasoline tax
084	Martin	Continues discussion about transit funding. Notes difficulties experienced in Bend, no transit system in place because financing is so difficult.
103	Sen. Dukes	Comments on reductions in funding, questions the witness about ODOT employee overhead.
108	Martin	Responds that yes it would be nice to have some of that money for services. Continues with support of transit integration for public services.

126	Sen. Dukes	Comments and discusses the advantages of being a part of the Commission and being independent.
139	Reid	Responds having a more active voice would be a benefit.
142	Sen. George	Questions how the smaller district's can be 'nurtured' until they are able to sustain themselves.
167	Martin	Responds that with the new ODOT director, all district engineers are expected to plan for public transportation. Funding is the issue, creative financing is a must.
207	Sen. George	Comments if funding is provided for a mass transit system, maybe nobody will use it, the entire system will be locked up.
210	Martin	Responds that multiple financing for both mass transit and roads are needed.
222	Reid	Discusses rail line versus road conditions, adequate funding is still an issue.
229	Sen. George	Comments that a rail system and I-5 expansions do not help the coastal communities. There are no mechanisms in place to assist the smaller coastal communities.
241	Sen. Dukes	Requests ODOT be present at a future meeting.
249	Chair Shannon	Closes informational meeting
<u>SB 372 - PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
254	Chair Shannon	Opens public hearing on SB 372
260	Lin Ludwick	Administrator, summarizes SB 372
273	Sen. John Lim	Gresham, provides testimony in support of SB 372 in behalf of the Oregon Veterans Association.
309	Chair Shannon	Questions being revenue neutral? Any plans.
311	Sen. Lim	Responds that information is available.
314	Chair Shannon	Rep. Lonnie Roberts, Gresham, submits testimony in support of SB 372.
331	Ed Hughes	United Veteran's Group of Oregon, provides testimony in support of SB 372.
344	Richard Lucht	Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans Association, United Veteran's Group of Oregon; submits and provides testimony in support of SB 372 (EXHIBIT B).
395	Lucht	Continues testimony discussing concerns about legislation passed last session.
TAPE 32, B		

006	Lucht	Comments on discrepancies between DMV and the different non-profit organizations. Continues with request for Purple Heart medal recognition be available on license plate.
029	Chair Shannon	Questions if this would be a license plate sticker.
032	Lucht	Responds that it would be silk screened image of the medal on the plate.
034	Chair Shannon	Questions the color.
036	Lucht	Responds that the medal would be on the left side of the plate. Continues testimony and explanation of the surcharge being assessed to the individuals utilizing these plates. Requests that renewal applications be applied towards the 50 sets of plate requirement, ORS 803.535.
095	Lucht	Discussion continues for Oregon Veteran's Home being built and being self-sufficient. Notes that the license plate program will help raise funds towards this trust fund.
135	Lucht	Summarizes testimony summarizing SB 372.
155	Chair Shannon	Comments in support of SB 372, questions if there will be any cost to the taxpayers or the general fund?
190	Hughes	Responds with presenting supporting evidence regarding costs (EXHIBIT C), three pieces of information from DMV. Comments that nowhere in these documents are there any additional fees other than the plate fee.
227	Chair Shannon	Clarifies the proposed cost.
230	Sen. Dukes	Questions why the standard plate was not chosen.
240	Lucht	Responds that plates should acknowledge the different veteran organizations.
248	Sen. Dukes	Comments that veteran plates are available in current law.
250	Lucht	Responds in agreement. Continues with veterans having the capability to acknowledge their involvement with different veteran organizations.
288	Sen. Dukes	Questions how the veteran plates differ from other specialized plates. Continues with bill language, disabled veteran plates are available under existing law, the bill does not address purple heart.
311	Lucht	Responds and clarifies that current law states a collection fee at the time of issuance, the veteran's believe that a fee should be attached to

		the renewal of the plates also.
317	Sen. Dukes	Questions if this surcharge would go for the plates or into the veteran's trust fund.
319	Lucht	Responds that DMV would cover their costs, and the difference would go into the trust fund or any designated fund.
330	Sen. Dukes	Comments that with the veteran population in Oregon, the need to charge a fee at the time of renewal may not be necessary.
343	Hughes	Clarifies the renewal fee.
353	Sen. Dukes	Clarifies that it is not necessary to attach a fee for renewal. Continues with current law, and the impact on those in the purple heart category.
376	Lucht	Responds to Sen. Dukes comments. Addresses the trust fund goal.
391	Sen. Dukes	Responds in agreement, provides additional support for the veteran's fund. Comments that they don't need this bill for specialized plates, however the purple heart status is another issue.
410	Lucht	Comments that there are other small veteran groups, the purple heart group is one example.
TAPE 33, B		
005	Lucht	Continues with these fees being directed towards the trust fund.
008	Sen. Dukes	Notes the expense attached to the purple heart plate, questions if the group is willing to increase the initial cost of the plate?
019	Lucht	Comments that he does not believe the group will have any objections. Notes that the manufacturer quoted them that \$100-\$120 per plate is the initial cost.
031	Ron Harlan	Military Order of the Purple Heart, Salem. Provides testimony in support of SB 372. Notes that there are 330 members of Military Order of the Purple Heart, however, 2 percent of the Oregon veteran's are recipients of the purple heart, that figures could be as high as 4,000 individuals.
054	Keith Kingsley	Military Order of the Purple Heart, Portland. Testifies in support of recognizing the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Notes that members that he has spoken with have no objections to a surcharge being place on the plates. Recognition is being requested.
064	Jon Mangis	Director, Veteran Affairs in Oregon. Testifies in support of SB 372. Addresses surcharge being designated to the veteran's trust fund.
104	Chair Shannon	Questions if the witness agrees with the figures being presented and there would be no cost to the state, but raise money for the veteran's trust fund?
110	Mangis	Responds affirmatively.

120	Chair Shannon	Invites the Department of Transportation to respond.
123	Kelly Taylor	Department of Transportation, notes that the bill in current form, will not cover costs. Comments that she would like an opportunity to return with information regarding these costs and provide explanation of the group plate program.
130	Sen. Yih	Requests the information in advance.
132	Taylor	Responds that the fiscal impact is complete and she will review that information with the committee.
135	Sen. Yih	Requests detailed information be provided.
138	Chair Shannon	Recommends that Kelly Taylor and Mr. Mangis meet to review the issues.
144	Chair Shannon	Closes public hearing, adjourns meeting at 2:59pm.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Lin Ludwick,

Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A - Oregon's Public Transportation System, written materials, Joni Reid, 130pp

B - SB 372, written testimony, Richard P. Lucht, 4pp

C - SB 372, written testimony Ed Hughes, 86pp
