

**Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization**  
**Meeting Summary – Region 1 ACT working lunch, East Metro area tour**  
**Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Members Present: Sen. Beyer, Co-Chair; Sen. Edwards, Sen. Johnson, Sen. Monroe, Sen. Winters; Rep. McKeown, Co-Chair; Rep. Bentz; Rep. Lively; Rep. Olson, Rep. Smith**

**Visiting Legislators Present: Sen. Monnes Anderson; Rep. Keny-Guyer**

**Members Excused: Sen. Boquist, Sen. Girod; Rep. McLain, Rep. Smith-Warner**

**Working Lunch with Members of Region 1 Area Commission on Transportation**

Committee members shared a networking lunch with members of the Region 1 Area Commission on Transportation (ACT). Welcoming remarks were provided by Washington County Commissioner Roy Rogers, Chair of the Region 1 ACT, Clackamas County Commissioner Paul Savas, Vice-Chair, and by Rian Windsheimer, Manager of Region 1 of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Other attendees included: Mayor Denny Doyle, City of Beaverton; Mayor John Cook, City of Tigard; Mayor Lori DeRemer, City of Happy Valley; Mayor Jeff Dalin, City of Cornelius; Pia Welch, FedEx Freight; Craig Dirksen, Metro Councilor; Steve Novick, Portland City Commissioner; Bill Wyatt, Executive Director of the Port of Portland; Bill Avison, Region 1 ACT; Bill Merchant, Region 1 ACT; and Kelly Brooks, ODOT.

**East Portland Metropolitan Area Tour**

The Committee assembled at the Portland Community College (PCC) Mt. Tabor building and boarded a TriMet bus for a tour of several transportation facilities along Interstate 205 and Highway 212/224. Members were welcomed by Oregon Transportation Commission member Alando Simpson. Rian Windsheimer, Region 1 Manager for ODOT, provided statistics for I-205, indicating that 160,000 vehicles use the highway each weekday.

Committee questions and comments for this portion of the tour included: usage rates and cost for multi-use paths; whether right of way has been obtained for phases 2 and 3 of the Sunrise Corridor project; and whether small local businesses will use the new alignment in the corridor.

***Abernathy Bridge***

At a stop near the Abernathy Bridge on I-205 in Oregon City, ODOT engineer Mark Johnson provided planning details on a proposal to widen the bridge by one lane in each direction, a project with an estimated cost of \$150 million, of which \$50 million is expected from the federal government. Bill Wyatt, Executive Director of the Port of Portland, spoke to the importance of I-205 as a shipping corridor and the potential for shipping many of those goods by air. Mr. Windsheimer indicated that congestion on the bridge will increase to an expected 17 hours per day by 2030.

Committee questions and comments for this stop included: difficulties that must be overcome for widening the bridge; backup plans in the event that the federal government does not provide the

expected \$50 million; how long before one additional lane in each direction is insufficient to accommodate increased traffic volumes; and a remark that easing the bottleneck at the bridge will ease congestion on Interstate 5 as well.

#### *Fred Meyer Distribution Center on Highway 212*

Mike French, Fred Meyer Regional Logistics Manager, noted that the Sunrise Corridor project has been important in keeping the distribution center open and operating. Currently 3,400 trucks move through the center every week, serving 129 retail locations. He provided a list of the types of goods moving through the facility. Mr. Windsheimer provided details on possible expansion of the Sunrise Corridor project, should additional resources be made available. The current project, which will open to the public July 1, cost \$100 million, of which \$10 million was provided from federal funds and a majority of the rest from the Jobs and Transportation Act (2009).

#### *Driving the New Sunrise Corridor Alignment*

The bus traversed the new alignment scheduled to open July 1, becoming the first bus to do so. Committee questions and comments during this portion of the tour included: why median barriers were included in the project; the possibility of adding an auxiliary lane on I-205 between Highway 212/224 and Sunnybrook; and noting that Oregon Ironworks tests streetcars nearby.

#### *Outer Powell Boulevard*

The Committee noted that there is a lack of sidewalks on much of this portion of Powell Boulevard, a subject of much community outreach. Kem Marks, with East Portland Action Plan, explained the importance of safe walking conditions to the neighborhood and argued for lowering the speed limit on the road. Pastor Jennifer Beil, St. Timothy Lutheran Church, emphasized the community frustration with the state of the road, the sidewalks and the inadequate lighting in the corridor.

#### *Return Trip*

Neil McFarlane, General Manager of TriMet, noted that the bus route the tour was traversing at that point carries 8,000 passengers per day. He provided an overview of TriMet services overall and in the region, and noted the possibility of increasing capacity through purchase of larger buses. Committee questions and comments included: the anticipated size of a legislative transportation funding package; and the percentage of metro region citizens that use transit.