

MEETING REPORT

DATE OF MEETING: November 14, 1985

GROUP/SUBJECT: Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation
(JPACT)

PERSONS ATTENDING: Members: Richard Waker, Fred Hansen, Ed Ferguson, Larry Cole, Eldon Edwards (alt.), John Frewing, George Van Bergen, Marvin Woidyla, Wes Myllenbeck, Jim Gardner, Dick Pokornowski, Margaret Strachan, and Pauline Anderson (alt.)

Guests: Susie Lahsene, Multnomah County; Bebe Rucker, Port of Portland; Ted Spence, Hank Wakerlig and Ed Hardt, ODOT; Keith Ahola, WSDOT; Geraldine Ball, DJB, Inc.; Bruce Warner, Washington County; Steve Dotterer and Grace Crunican, City of Portland; Bob Post, Tri-Met; Jane Cease, Oregon State Senator (Senate Transportation Committee); Robin Lindquist, Oregon State Representative (House Transportation Committee); Peter Fry, Central Eastside Industrial Council; Sheldon Edner, Portland State University; and Max Talbot, Clackamas County

Staff: Andrew Cotugno and Lois Kaplan, Secretary

MEDIA: None

SUMMARY:

Chairman Waker introduced and welcomed Eldon Edwards, Councilman of Wilsonville, who was attending his first JPACT meeting as alternate for the cities of Clackamas County.

PRELIMINARY PROJECT PRIORITIES FOR ODOT'S SIX-YEAR HIGHWAY PROGRAM

Andy Cotugno pointed out that the selection of projects for ODOT's Six-Year Program was accomplished based on policy direction and criteria adopted by the Oregon Transportation Commission.

The ranking of proposed projects is intended to provide input to the Department of Transportation prior to release of the draft Six-Year Program to the Commission. The recommendations are based on projects of significance to the state highway system and economic development significance. The draft program will be prepared by the State in November/December.

During discussion, it was noted that the project listing for both those on the state highway system and for economic development would eventually have to be trimmed down an additional \$10 million in each category.

Action Taken: It was moved and seconded to recommend the preliminary priority listing of projects for possible inclusion in the ODOT Six-Year

Highway Improvement Program. Motion CARRIED unanimously. It was understood that the project listing would later be referred back to the Committee for further consideration in trimming the list of projects.

It was also requested that staff delineate on future project listings the engineering phase/stage of the project (whether PE or right-of-way).

ALLOCATION OF INTERSTATE TRANSFER REGIONAL RESERVE

Andy Cotugno explained that there is approximately \$17 million of Interstate Transfer "Regional Reserve" funds outstanding and \$649,299 in FAU "Regional Reserve" funds available for allocation. In view of anticipated shortfalls on currently authorized projects, the TIP Subcommittee recommends that the funding allocation be restricted to projects within the program, that consideration of these reserves be postponed until February or March, 1986 when more definite cost information on the Banfield and I-505 projects will be available, and that alternative funding sources be explored for replacement of Interstate Transfer funds for the conduct of transportation planning studies. In line with this recommendation, projects initiated prior to September 30, 1986 will be eligible for Interstate Transfer funding after that date; any jurisdiction wishing to initiate preliminary engineering on projects within funding allocated to their jurisdiction may do so -- at the risk of having to pay back to FHWA any PE funds incurred should construction not take place.

During discussion, it was emphasized that in the next three to four months, some decisions need to be made on Metro's work program, including the use of Section 9 and/or Interstate Transfer funds.

A discussion followed on whether or not an analysis, from a regional perspective, had been undertaken to establish the priorities recommended over others not listed. Andy Cotugno indicated that an overall ranking had not been done and that identified projects are either from past priority rankings or had been added recently as high local priorities.

Another issue raised was whether or not it would be easier for a jurisdiction to receive federal financial support if PE was complete. It was noted that when funding becomes available, projects that are "ready to go" generally receive first consideration.

Chairman Waker emphasized the importance of pursuing other alternatives for funding the needs of our regional transportation system.

Jane Cease (representing the Senate Transportation Committee) and Robin Lindquist (representing the House Transportation Committee) expressed their concern and frustration over the inability to generate support for an increase in the state gas tax in view of the recent tax imposed by Tri-Met on the petroleum industry. They indicated that, even with the court possibly overturning the Tri-Met tax, they did not feel they could secure the needed support in the Legislature in view of the political climate. They suggested an effort be made during the next year.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Andy Cotugno announced the availability of the FY 1986 to Post 1989 Transportation Improvement Program for anyone wishing a copy.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

REPORT WRITTEN BY: Lois Kaplan

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Don Carlson
JPACT Members