



TransPort Technical Advisory Committee

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

1:00 p.m. –2:30 p.m.

Portland State University

Meeting Notes

In Attendance

Alex Bigazzi (PSU), Dave Crout (TriMet), Kate Freitag (ODOT), Jim Gelhar (Gresham), Hau Hagedorn (OTREC), Tu Ho (Beaverton), Jabra Khasho (Beaverton), Peter Koonce (Portland), Sirisha Kothuri (PSU), Dennis Mitchell (ODOT), Jim Peters (DKS), Deena Platman (Metro), Shaun Quayle (Kittelson), Bikram Raghubansh (Clackamas Co), Jim Renner (Oregon Travel Information Council), Matthew Rohrbach (Metro), Stacy Shetler (Washington Co), Kristin Tufte (PSU)

TRB 2011 Debrief

A number of TransPort and PSU members debriefed their experiences at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in Washington D.C this January. Peter Koonce, city of Portland, touted the benefits of TRB for connecting ideas with practical application. He specifically cited the FHWA Connected Vehicle Initiative (formerly IntelliDrive) and the role of practitioners in the Connected Vehicle Initiative, particularly upcoming research grant opportunities. Mr. Koonce encouraged TransPort members to consider attending the TRB joint ITS/RTSMO committee meeting in Clark County NV (Las Vegas) this summer.

PSU student Brian Davis described his experiences as a first time attendee and shared lessons learned like: networking is important; TRB is overwhelming but don't over plan; and consider logistics when thinking about sessions as there is travel time between hotels to consider. Mr. Davis' highlight was the session to prepare engineering students for the workplace – his big takeaway is that students need to better their communication skills for success.

PSU student Alex Bigazzi talked about his poster session on Air Quality Emissions from PORTAL archived data. He used PORTAL ITS data to assess exposure to air pollutant emissions around freeways. Mr. Bigazzi also learned about MOVES, the air quality modeling software. The software is moving away from using modeled data inputs toward empirical data like GPS second by second speed data. Research in Asia is using second by second speed data and linking it with system data to create more detailed emissions profiles.

Dr. Kristin Tufte, PSU, spoke about her role as chair of the Archived Data Users subcommittee. She told the group that archived data is becoming ubiquitous. The areas of focus include: integration and fusion

of data; data quality especially for new sources; cost effectiveness; and how data is used to address policy issues. Other topics of interest included a traffic monitoring guide update, data center security, and privacy of GPS-enable data.

PSU student Sirisha Kothuri's experience focused on sustainability and livability as the hot topics of the annual meeting. There was lots of interest in arterial data and high speed rail.

Dave Crout, TriMet, found the TRB poster sessions valuable. He talked about an Ohio State University study of estimated origin-destination patterns use AVL data. He attended a session that talked about effect of transit maps on route choice, which found that map design influences path and transit route choice and that riders may not make the chose the most efficient choice because of design flaws.

Hau Hagedorn, OTREC, focused on workforce development issues. Transportation accounts for one out of every seven jobs in the U.S. There is a push to have community colleges step up their workforce training in transportation sector jobs to support employment demand.

Deena Platman, Metro, provided an update on the status of the federal transportation bill reauthorization. USDOT officials and others were fairly confident that some sort of bill would pass this year but it would be stripped down from the Oberstar vision. Transportation is a bipartisan issue and officials understand its link to jobs. Ms. Platman described a workshop on use of social media in transportation. Social media is ubiquitous and is changing the way we do business. There is lots of opportunity to harness its power for traveler information and performance measurement.

MTIP Amendment

Dennis Mitchell, ODOT, lead a group discussion on an amendment to the TSMO MTIP funding allocation to support program management for regional TSMO activities, currently housed at Metro. Deena Platman, Metro, prepared a memo that described the proposal and motivations behind making the change (attached). TransPort members agreed that their ability to effectively coordinate and implement regional ITS/TSMO investments was enhanced by program management support provided by Metro. It was noted that SW Regional Transportation Council's VAST program uses a portion of its federal flexible fund allocation to support program management. Members voted to recommend the amendment.

Announcements

Peter Koonce announced that the city of Portland was having issues with its 2070 controllers with 40 signals going into flash. It is a McCain product issues but there is an update.

April 25th is Traffic Day sponsored by Oregon ITE. Register online.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.