

TransPort / draft summary

TransPort, Subcommittee of Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC)
Thursday January 18, 9:30 to 11 a.m. online

Attendees:

Adrian Pearmine	STV Inc.
Alison Tanaka	City of Portland
Andrew Brown	ODOT
Bassem Elazzabi	PSU/TREC
Bikram Raghubansh	City of Portland
Caleb Winter	Metro
Dennis Mitchell	DKS
Grayson Isbell	ODOT
Ioana Cosmas	Clackamas County
Jason Anderson	PSU/TREC
Jim Gelhar	City of Gresham
Kara Hall	Fehr & Peers
Kate Freitag (Chair)	ODOT
Katie Bell	ODOT
Matt Dorado	Washington County
Matt Egeler	City of Hillsboro
Mike Burkhart	ODOT
Miles Crumley	TriMet
Nick Fortey	FHWA
Pam O'Brien	DKS
Peter Koonce	City of Portland
Saba Doulabi	TriMet
Scott Langer	WSDOT
Scott Turnoy	ODOT
Shawn Strasser	ODOT
Summer Blackhorse	Metro
Tammy Lee	PSU/TREC
Ted Leybold	Metro

Introductions and Announcements

Chair Kate Freitag with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. She asked for introductions and announcements.

Artificial Intelligence in Traffic Signal Operations

Peter Koonce with the City of Portland and a former Chair of the Traffic Signal Systems Committee, gave a presentation on Artificial intelligence (AI) and addressing signal system management, including applications for transit priority and pedestrian conflict notification. He discussed the current state and future of AI in transit signal priority systems and shared insights in implementing AI in signal control systems, highlighting the need to upgrade outdated technology. Peter also expressed skepticism about the readiness of certain technologies, such as video-based detection for widespread use in these systems. Further, he emphasized the importance of maintenance and the need for investment in accessibility improvements. Peter also noted that the steps needed for bringing signal system innovation to the forefront would depend on the specific objectives of the project.

Peter discussed the potential for improvement in traffic signal organization, emphasizing the need to utilize data more effectively to enhance mobility. He highlighted the significance of building relationships within the industry and the value of identifying companies with long-term staying power. Peter also mentioned the ongoing development of AI applications, particularly in the detection of pedestrians near rail tracks and predicting user behavior at intersections. Additionally, he stressed the need to transition from a reactive to an automated system and expressed interest in an improved user interface for more efficient management of traffic signals. He also noted the importance of implementing equity and climate goals within the system.

Peter discussed the need for safety measures and their potential impact on performance metrics. He touched on continued collaboration with Oregon State and the Smart City Challenge. Finally, he expressed concern about the long-term costs of software as a service and the need for value, highlighting the importance of communication and the standardization of controllers.

Bikram Raghubansh with the City of Portland shared that they are already implementing AI and machine learning in Division transit corridors and emphasized the need for good communication and controllers. Peter also questioned cybersecurity associated with cellular connections and the increased costs associated with these technologies. In closing, he mentioned that they had decided against using a cloud-based AI system for fire prevention due to cost and suggested continuing to explore innovative solutions for future projects.

PORTAL/BikePed Portal 2024 Enhancements & Engagement

Tammy Lee and Bassem Elazzabi with Portland State University (PSU) updated the committee on the PORTAL bike/ped 2024 enhancement and engagement. Tammy shared a new approach to enhancement tasks and is planning to solicit ideas annually for different types of engagement and enhancement activities. She noted that they aim to form a community-based advisory committee to better understand transportation needs and are also seeking suggestions for other types of engagement activities. Potential enhancement projects could include adding a new data source, creating a user interface for an existing data source, and rebuilding or modifying existing pages.

The committee discussed the importance of open communication for suggestions, issues, and potential projects. Caleb emphasized the need for training, particularly for new staff. Peter discussed the potential applications of data from the 120th Street project and the importance of analysis in identifying problem

areas and opportunities for improvement. Tammy encouraged the committee to propose research projects and ideas for collaboration. Finally, Chair Freitag reminded the committee that Tammy would need this information no later than January 31.

'Round the Table Updates

- Caleb Winter with Metro gave an update on safety, highlighting the new laws taking effect in Oregon in 2024 and potential revenue and budget concerns. He also mentioned attending the Transportation Research Board (TRB) and his role as co-chair of the Planning and Operations Subcommittee.
- Caleb gave an update on the Metro-region Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Coalition and covered a workshop he attended on responding to electric vehicle fires and shared resources for TIM. He highlighted the unique challenges posed by electric vehicle fires and the importance of proper training.
- Caleb and Ted Leybold with Metro also discussed updates to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Regional Mobility Policy update. They emphasized the need for effective communication for intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) and the importance of increasing capacity with the Transportation Systems Management (TSMO) program. Ted will present updates on funding allocations for region wide TSMO projects at a future meeting.
- Caleb also discussed the upcoming drafts that will be presented to the Transportation Policy Alternative Committee (TPAC). Further, he noted that TSMO projects were in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and that they are ready to begin project scoping with ODOT. Funding will begin FFY25 and include sidewalk data project, program evaluation, and the Carbon Reduction Fund Program for Line 33.
- Tammy Lee with PORTAL provided updates on the integration of ATR and bike data and an NSF-funded research opportunity for undergraduate students.
- Bikram shared updates on several projects, including road improvements, communication infrastructure upgrades, fiber expansion, safety strategy implementation, and the signing of a consultant contract for a safety project.
- Alison mentioned an upcoming meeting with Q-free to showcase a new mobility platform.
- Caleb noted that the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Network meeting will be next Wednesday, January 24. He also discussed integrating Beaverton into the switch and reported progress on construction at the Port of Portland, with plans to reintegrate them once construction is completed in early 2024.
- Chair Freitag with ODOT gave a brief update on the TV highway fiber project's final design plans. Andrew Brown with ODOT is working on the concept of operations for the I-5, I-205 Intelligent Corridor Management (ICM) effort.
- Iona Cosmas with Clackamas County mentioned that the Winter Workshop in Oregon is still looking for abstracts. The deadline for submitting an abstract is January 20.
- John Fasana with Washington County shared updates on the controller conversion and expansion of the snow zone system in Washington County, he also gave an update on the Transportation Safety Action plan.
- Nick Fortey with The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) noted that he is working through the two-year adoption process of the new Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Chair Freitag noted that the State of Oregon will officially adopt it when ready.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Chair Freitag adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m. The next online meeting will be February 14, 2024.