



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Transportation

Public Transit Division

Mill Creek Office Building

555 13th Street NE, Suite 3

Salem, OR 97301-4179

Telephone (503) 986-3300

FAX (503) 986-4189

Website: oregon.gov/ODOT/PT

DATE: May 8, 2006

TO: Public Transportation Advisory Committee

FROM: Martin W. Loring
Administrator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item B: Administrator's Report

Grant County Transportation District

A recent site review for the Grant County Transportation District revealed some significant compliance issues. As a result, ODOT internal auditors were dispatched to review operations in more detail.

This issue was covered by the local newspaper, and, subsequently, two board members and the director resigned.

The District must demonstrate that it can and will address the compliance issues identified in the Site Review Report and any subsequent findings by ODOT's auditors within a reasonable period of time. Should the District be unwilling or unable to comply, ODOT will be left with no choice but to withdraw financial support from the District.

PTD has offered additional training and technical support services to assist the District and awaits their response to the Site Review Report as well as the audit findings from ODOT's internal auditors.

Oregon Transit Association Conference

The annual OTA conference will be held October 10-12 in Seaside. We are currently planning and welcome your suggestions for classes, topics, or speakers. Please contact Sherrin Coleman, Planning Program Manager, with your suggestions via email or telephone at sherrin.k.coleman@odot.state.or.us or (503) 986-4305.

Public Transit Recruitments

We would like to welcome our newest employee, Ivan Presnyy. Ivan has taken over for Rita Rogerson as our Transportation Analyst. Ivan formerly worked

with the City of Salem with accounting duties and will help PTD process grant payments among other responsibilities. He speaks Russian fluently and has excellent computer skills.

We have final interviews for our Fiscal Analyst position on Thursday, May 11. We have several excellent candidates with a wide range of skill sets.

Public Transit Budget

ODOT has approved part of PTD's budget request to increase staffing levels. We requested 3.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) to provide technical assistance and meet greatly increased workloads that have been growing steadily over the last decade at the same time staff remained constant. We were permitted to request one additional FTE through the Governor's Budget process, and, hopefully, through the Legislature.

We will request authority to hire the position temporarily then seek to create the position permanently through the budget process.

OPTIS - Oregon Public Transit Information System

The contract for OPTIS is pending Department of Justice approval, and we are working with the vendor and a process consultant to define and streamline our processes in preparation.

Given SAFETEA-LU's multitudinous additional program and planning requirements, increased grant processing and monitoring activity, and the increased policy role that we have been asked to perform, we will do our best to maximize the investment in our new information system, OPTIS, to assist in meeting stakeholder expectations.

As noted last month, we will need a several volunteers to work with the Division and vendor to ensure that the system will meet providers' needs. The application is web based, so providers will be able to submit payment reimbursement requests, quarterly reports, and access grant accounting information via the internet. Given all of this, we would like to make sure that the system is optimally configured and will request volunteers from small, mid, and large sized agencies to work with the division. If you have someone with the aptitude or interest to assist in this regard, please contact Adam Torgerson at (503) 986-6579 or adam.m.torgerson@odot.state.or.us.