

Coalition for Public Transportation - Joint Leadership Meeting

Meeting Date: Friday, May 19, 2006

Time: 12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Location: St. Luke's Meridian Basement Conference Center

Meeting Notes:

Co-chairs Chuck Winder and Mayor Garret Nancolas welcomed those in attendance.

Summary of previous meetings

Ray Stark provided a recap of the work of the Coalition since its first meeting in November 2005. Stark also talked about the Resource Group of the Coalition and its efforts to set meeting agenda and provide research materials. He said the Resource Group will continue to meet and during the summer and fall to refine messages among other efforts.

During a question and answer period, specifics of the draft legislation were discussed, including:

- The draft legislation is contained in the existing local regional public transportation authority law.
- Passage of any local transit tax would be by a simple majority;
- Provides a Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) the ability to ask for between one-tenth (0.10) and one-half (0.50) of one percent sales tax increase for transit. The local entity will decide the amount. Additional public elections on transit taxes can be held, but the total amount of sales tax that can be collected for transit is capped at three-quarters (0.75) of one percent.
- Setting a 20-year sunset clause for the tax to expire. The RPTA can ask voters to approve an extension of the local transit tax no earlier than two years prior to its expiration date. If voters turn down the extension, the tax will continue to be collected until any bonds are paid off.
- Bond language, which was described as standard "boiler plate bond language" taken from existing laws.
- Sideboards, or restrictions as to when the vote can be scheduled, the amount that can be asked for, etc.

Members reiterated the importance of getting this proposed legislation passed by state legislators. To that end, members agreed that it is important that the legislation is not presented as only benefiting the Treasure Valley. Rep. Jana Kemp said it must be presented as the Treasure Valley is pursuing this issue first and that other areas of the state can draw from any local success.

Coalition members also asked that a website be available that can show the original RPTA legislation and the proposed changes in the draft legislation.

There also was general discussion on the eminent domain provisions in the proposed legislation and whether or not those provisions should remain. Brian Ballard, who drafted the legislation, said any existing laws regarding eminent domain would apply to the proposed legislation. While several coalition members did not want the eminent domain language in the draft legislation, others said it would help in negotiations and provide a topic for discussion when the proposed bill is circulated statewide for discussion. Rep.

Nicole LeFavour said the wording “when all alternatives have been exhausted” could be added to the legislation.

Kelli Fairless told Coalition members that the Resource Group would refine the draft legislation and send it out to them for comment via e-mail.

Dale Higer moved that the general provisions of the draft legislation be approved by the Coalition and that the Resource Group refine the proposed legislation based on comments made during the meeting. Seconded by Chuck Hedemark. Approved unanimously by Coalition members.

Final Report

Coalition members reviewed a template for the Coalition’s final report and recommendations. This report will document all of the work of the Coalition and include the final draft legislation. Rep. Jana Kemp asked whether the report would include information that would help get other areas of the state to support the draft legislation. Kelli Fairless said the final report is designed to chronicle the work of the Coalition, but changes could be made to address her concerns.

Fairless said a draft of the final report would be sent to Coalition members for review and comment as soon as it is completed. Rep. LeFavour suggested that a press conference be scheduled when the final report is done and that Coalition members be in attendance.

Community Outreach Plan

Coalition members reviewed a community outreach plan that provides details of outreach with the media, business community, hosted meetings, local officials and legislators, the public, etc. Chuck Winder told Coalition members that they would be contacted in the next 30 days to see if they wanted to participate in the outreach efforts.

Coalition members in attendance

Co-chair Chuck Winder, The Winder Co./Idaho Transportation Dept.

Co-chair Mayor Garret Nancolas, City of Caldwell

Brian Ballard, Holly Troxell

Jean Basom, Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center

Mayor John Bechtel, city of Wilder

Ross Borden, Boise State University

Sabrina Bowman, Ada County Highway District

Jim Brooks, City of Eagle

Bob Bruce, CH2M Hill

Mayor Tom Dale, City of Nampa

Ray Flachbart, Blue Cross of Idaho,

Ralph Gant, Canyon County Highway Districts

Ralph Hallquist, Meadow Gold

Chuck Hedemark, Capitol City Development Corporation

Dale Higer, Stoel Rives

Clarence Jones, Meridian Development Corporation

State Rep. Jana Kemp, District 16

State Rep. Nicole LeFavour, District 19

State Sen. John McGee, District 10

State Sen. Curt McKenzie, District 12
State Rep. Janet Miller, District 17
M.C. Niland, WITCO
Steve Rector, Idaho Housing and Finance Association
Kâren Sander, Downtown Boise Association
Nancy Vannorsdel, Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce
Chris Veloz, Northwest Sales and Distribution
Rick Yzaguirre, Ada County Commissioner

Resource Group members in attendance

Mark Carnopis, Valley Regional Transit, Kelli Fairless, Valley Regional Transit, Steve Purvis, City of Boise, Ray Stark, Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce, Jon Barrett, Idaho Smart Growth; Matt Stoll, COMPASS

Others in attendance

John Cunningham, COMPASS, Ken Burgess, COMPASS, Cynthia Sewell, The Idaho Statesman

Next meeting: TBA