

PORTLAND FREIGHT COMMITTEE NOTES Meeting No. 219

WHEN: Thursday, November 4, 2021 @ 7:30 AM

WHERE: Virtual Zoom Meeting



Please click this URL to join:

<https://zoom.us/j/97499103224?pwd=Y3RxeGJpTEZYREcWIFGeStZL1hndz>

09 Password: 101442

<u>Time:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Lead:</u>
7:30 AM	Welcome and Zoom Meeting Protocol: Minutes approved.	Nubia Milpas
7:35 AM	Hot Topics, Points of Interest, Successes:	Jana Jarvis / All

PFC members report on current activities from their respective industry and agencies.

- Members discussed the Interstate Bridge Replacement Project.
- Kate Merrill and committee members shared concerns about reducing the width of the Burnside Bridge. They explained that the bridge would be critical in the event of an earthquake and should have sufficient lanes to service Portlanders and Freight.
- Steve Kountz shared that the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) announced a Clean Air Surcharge Tax on DEQ-regulated air pollution.
- Mark Lear provided an update on the Pricing Options for Equitable Mobility Project.
- Corky Collier announced an upcoming round of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants for the Diesel Reduction Act.
- Committee members discussed recent thefts of catalytic converter impacting Portland freight shippers and carriers.
- Gabriela Giron Valderrama announced an upcoming public survey on related to the 2040Freight Plan.

8:00 AM	RFFA Project Scoping/Estimating Efforts	Zef Wagner
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- Zef Wagner provided a brief update on the Regional Flexible Funds Allocations. He noted that the criteria would be more focused on multimodal transportation.
- Mr. Wagner reviewed the eight projects PBOT was scoping for RFFA funds.
- Mr. Wagner provided an overview of the Cornfoot and 7th Avenue projects.

8:20 AM	Supply Chain Disruptions Panel Discussion
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Tom Bouillion, Port of Portland

Aaron Hunt, Union Pacific

Jana Jarvis, Oregon Trucking Associations

Rob Freeman, Fred Meyer

- Panelists explained that they were experiencing issues recruiting drivers due to age restrictions in the truck driving profession.
- Jana Jarvis stated that the vaccine mandates would impact the driver work force.
- Tom Bouillion explained that ports were experiencing delay times in moving products.
- Mr. Bouillion noted that the Port of Portland was experiencing an uptick in container traffic.
- Aaron Hunt discussed challenges impacting rail freight. He announced that Union Pacific had added a vaccine mandate for their employees.
- Rob Freeman highlighted the ongoing driver shortage. He discussed the importance of recruiting younger drivers into the industry.
- Mr. Freeman explained that Fred Meyers was contracting private fleets for their services which was driving up costs. He added that those costs would ultimately be passed along to consumers. He noted that Fred Meyer's fleet of drivers had chosen to not get vaccinated which could lead to supply chain delays.
- Mr. Freeman shared Fred Meyer's challenges obtaining truck parts due to supply chains delays.
- Committee members noted that some driver applicants are disqualified from becoming drivers due to drug testing mandates.

9:00 AM PedPDX Update

Michelle Marx

- Michelle Marx explained that PBOT was working on defining the required widths for the sidewalk corridor. She noted that those widths were going to become required for all PBOT capital projects and sidewalk improvements.
- Mrs. Marx shared that Portland sidewalks would be 15 feet wide on pedestrian dense neighborhoods and 12 feet wide on other corridors. She noted that this was consistent with current City of Portland requirements.
- Mrs. Marx explained that members of the public were interested in maximizing opportunities for large-form trees in Portland.

9:25 AM Public Comment

Michelle Sprague: This is in regard to the 7th Avenue Complete Streets Project. I live on Southeast 13th. So, I travel down southeast 7th a lot. And this came up with the Central City in Motion quite a while ago. 7th has a turn lane all the way down it. So, what happens is that the vehicles, the trucks, have to park in the turn lane and they bring the forklifts in and out in order to load and unload in that area. And I was wondering if this could be put somehow as an acceptable way of loading. When they take out parking, that also takes out loading zones. I'm not sure if that would be possible.

9:30 AM Adjourn

Questions about this agenda or other questions about the Portland Freight Committee please contact:

- Mark Lear, Mark.Lear@PortlandOregon.gov
- Gabriela Giron Valderrama, Gabriela.GironValderrama@PortlandOregon.gov - Also, visit the Portland Freight Committee website at:
<https://www.portland.gov/transportation/freight-committee>