



Summary of March 5, 2009 OTREC Board of Advisors Meeting

Prepared by Jon Makler on 3/12/09 (revised 4/1/09)

Members Present: Scott Bricker, Mike Hoglund, Phil Ditzler, Cam Gilmour, Lavinia Gordon, Ruth Harshfield, Mike Hoglund, Rob Inerfeld, Dr. Bernie Jones, Susie Lahsene, Randy McCourt, Neil McFarlane, Dr. Nancy Nihan, Tom Schwetz, Bill Upton

Also Present: Dr. Robert Bertini, Dr. Chris Higgins, Jon Makler, John MacArthur, Hau Hagedorn, Jennifer Sheldon, Pete Briglia, Mary Moller

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. OTREC Progress Report (Hau Hagedorn)

Hau gave a presentation summarizing OTREC's major accomplishments since the last Board meeting (November 2007). A handout, "OTREC by the Numbers," described the scale of the grant program and she described some of the other highlights, such as congressional testimony given by OTREC faculty. Dr. Kristin Tuftte and Dr. Miguel Figliozzi, two OTREC faculty from PSU, spoke briefly about their research and how OTREC has enabled it. Hau concluded by mentioning efforts to draw in non-USDOT funding, such as a grant from the Miller Foundation for sustainability research and an allocation from Metro for Dr. Tuftte's work on transportation data.

3. Professional Development (Jon Makler)

Jon shared a memo that had been prepared by Dr. Chris Monsere (PSU) and Dr. Robert Layton (OSU). Jon asked the Board for its reaction to the memo, which proposed that OTREC should act as a coordinator of professional development activities and that the Board should form a committee to oversee such an effort. Members noted the need for financial support to attend trainings and the problem of low-quality offerings. Some noted the value of OTREC creating training based on its core competencies or partnering with existing organizations (APA, ITE) to enhance or support their programs. Mike Hoglund, Rob Inerfeld and Randy McCourt volunteered to help get this started. Bernie Jones also noted that the next Northwest Transportation Conference will be in early 2010 and welcomed volunteers for its planning committee.

4. Authorization (Mary Moller)

Mary Moller, of Portland State University's government relations office, gave an overview of efforts underway regarding OTREC and the next round of authorizing legislation for transportation. SAFETEA-LU expires at the end September 2009 and OTREC's future is not guaranteed. Members generally shared the view that OTREC will have to compete for funding in one way or another and had several ideas on how to approach the situation, including addressing the rules that govern how UTC's are awarded.

5. Next Steps (Dr. Robert Bertini)

In closing, Dr. Bertini mentioned that OTREC will be developing a business plan to help chart its course through this legislative uncertainty and beyond. He asked for help on the scoping of this effort and Lavinia Gordon and Susie Lahsene volunteered. The next meeting of the Board will likely be in the early fall.