



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director
DATE: October 25, 2016
SUBJECT: **Bus on Shoulder Feasibility Study - Update**

AT A GLANCE

This informational item is to update the Board on the status of the Bus on Shoulder Feasibility Study and the Bus on Shoulder Workshop scheduled for December 5 and 6, 2016.

INTRODUCTION

The RTC Board approved a BOS Feasibility Study at their April 5th meeting. The purpose of the Study is to examine the technical, operational, geometric, and policy options regarding part-time shoulder running for transit bus operations along I-205 and SR-14. This effort will culminate in findings and recommendations in regards to the viability of this transit strategy and if warranted, a recommended BOS concept within the bi-state region.

The study corridor encompasses the I-205 corridor from the 18th Street interchange, now under construction, south to the I-84 interchange and on SR-14 from I-205 to 164th Avenue. SR-14 is included because of the high congestion levels and the number of buses traveling between Fisher’s Landing Park and Ride facility and Portland that use the facility. (See attached map.)

PROGRESS TO DATE

The BOS Technical Advisory Committee, made up of representatives of C-TRAN, WSDOT, TriMet, ODOT and Metro have met twice since the beginning of the Study. The first meeting focused on the study purpose and goals as well as data collection needs required to support the analysis and feasibility of BOS concepts. This included roadway geometrics, traffic volumes, traffic speeds, bus specific speeds, and crash and incident history in the corridor. Most of the summer was spent on gathering this and creating an inventory of available data. In addition, a consistent and comprehensive mapping system for geometric conditions and operations data was created for the study area.

The second meeting of the TAC reviewed all the information compiled and mapped during the summer especially for travel time, bus speeds, and geometric data and to determine data gaps and accuracy of mapping. In addition, the committee reviewed the national experience with bus on shoulder projects and initial information on minimum conditions for a BOS project, including a preliminary look at the legal, policy, and operating parameters to support the BOS facility.

BUS ON SHOULDER WORKSHOP

RTC is hosting a bus on shoulder workshop with agency stakeholders and policy makers on December 5 and 6 at the Rose Besserman room at C-TRAN’s Fisher’s Landing Facility and is a

key element of the study. The information developed over the summer and fall feed directly into the workshop which is split into two sessions.

Session one, on December 5, will be about 2.5 to 3 hours long and will include a broad set of participants. The audience will consist of policy and management staff and other stakeholders, such as public safety and incident management personnel, who can provide input to the discussion of bus on shoulder. The first session will focus on an educational overview of best practices around the country regarding policy, engineering, operational, and technical issues associated with BOS. The workshop will present information about existing conditions, geometrics, and characteristics in the study corridors and also include technical information on a potential pilot project on SR-14.

The second session, on December 6, will be 4 hours long and have more of an engineering emphasis. It will be made up of technical and operations staff and other stakeholders potentially affected by any proposed system. It will work to identify and discuss potential BOS concepts and associated engineering, operational and geometric issues for the candidate corridor segments with the goal of selecting a feasible BOS strategy for the study corridor.

NEXT STEPS

“Save the Date” invitations will be sent to the RTC Board members, the C-TRAN Board, agencies, agency representatives, and stakeholders in the next week.

Attachment

Bus on Shoulder Feasibility Study Area

