



## URBAN FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Introduction

Greetings from the beautiful Northwest! It's a pleasure to be back with this committee. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself. I'm Roseann O'Laughlin from Portland, Oregon.

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### Professional Background

I began my career as a civil engineer in Chicago after graduating from the University of Illinois at Urbana. It didn't take me long to discover urban planning and soon I returned to school to complete a Masters in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago. I worked as a land use planner, working on comprehensive, corridor and neighborhood plans as well as zoning ordinances and historic district designations before returning to transportation.

While working as a transportation planner in Chicago, I led the *Chicago Downtown Freight Study*, my first foray into freight. It didn't take long for me to realize how interesting, challenging and important this field is and soon I was hooked. Since then, I joined the Oregon Department of Transportation, Freight Planning Unit. This unit manages the *ConnectOregon* program, a multimodal transportation program designed to spur economic development through investments in non-highway transportation. Additionally, I staff the 32 member Oregon Freight Advisory Committee and work on implementation of the Oregon Freight Plan, policy development and programming.

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### TRB Involvement

I have been attending TRB since my graduate school days and was invited to present the findings of the *Downtown Freight Study* to the Urban Freight Committee in 2008. Soon after, I was invited to join the committee as a member. After a hiatus, I have returned to the committee and am also a member of the Transportation History Committee.

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### Personal Note

The beauty and wonder of the Northwest never cease to thrill me but I do miss baseball. I have made many voyages to Seattle in the name of major league baseball and have taken great pleasure in discovering my neighbor to the north. In addition to travel, I enjoy hiking, sports, photography and architecture. In fact, I was previously a docent at the Chicago Architecture Foundation.