



METRO

Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation

MINUTES

August 10, 2006
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rex Burkholder, Chair
Rod Park, Vice Chair
Sam Adams
Rob Drake
Fred Hansen
Bill Kennemer
Paul Thalhofer
Don Wagner
Lynn Peterson

AFFILIATION

Metro Council
Metro Council
City of Portland
City of Beaverton, representing Cities of Washington County
TriMet
Clackamas County
City of Troutdale, representing Cities of Multnomah County
Washington DOT
City of Lake Oswego, representing Cities of Clackamas County

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Brian Newman
Dick Pedersen
Jason Tell
Royce Pollard
Roy Rogers
Maria Rojo de Steffey
Bill Wyatt
Steve Stuart

AFFILIATION

Metro Council
DEQ
Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT - Region 1)
City of Vancouver
Washington County
Multnomah County
Port of Portland
Clark County

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Charles Becker
James Bernard
Dean Lookingbill
Rian Windsheimer

AFFILIATION

Cities of Gresham, representing Clackamas County
City of Milwaukie, representing cities of Clackamas County
Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council
Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT - Region 1)

GUESTS PRESENT

Kenny Asher
Edward Barnes
Meeky Blizzard
Scott Bricker
Kathy Busse
Roland Chlapowski
Danielle Cowan
Jeff Dalin
Jennifer Dill

AFFILIATION

City of Milwaukie
Washington State Transportation Commission
Office of Congressman Blumenauer
BTA
Washington County
City of Portland
City of Wilsinville
City of Cornelius
PSU

Fred Eberle	ODOT
Marianne Fitzgerald	DEQ
Karen Frost	Westside Transportation Alliance
Cam Gilmour	Clackamas County
Frank Green	CRC
Robert Liberty	Metro Council
Tom Markgraf	CRC
Sharon Nasset	ETA
Ron Papsdorf	City of Gresham
Lynn Peterson	Lynn Peterson Consulting
Phil Selinger	TriMet
Lanie Smith	ODOT
Paul Smith	City of Portland
Dee Wescott	City of Damascus

STAFF

Andy Cotugno, Kim Ellis, Jessica Martin, Pam Peck, Kathryn Sofich, Randy Tucker, Jerry Uba, Caleb Winter

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rex Burkholder declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:37 a.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Burkholder introduced Mr. Rian Windsheimer, alternate to Mr. Jason Tell. He also welcomed Mayor Charles Becker alternate to Mayor Paul Thalhoffer.

II. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Due to time constraints Chair Burkholder inquired about postponing Citizen Communications until the next regular JPACT meeting. Hearing no objections, the committee proceeded to the consent agenda.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Consideration of minutes for the July 13, 2006 JPACT meeting

Mr. Fred Hansen requested his comments regarding TriMet' concern for streetcar be expanded to reflect the following:

Mr. Fred Hansen stated TriMet's strong support for streetcar. He called the committees attention to three significant-~~issues~~ conditions from TriMet's prospective: 2) the ability to make streetcar work on the alignment; including maintaining schedules in heavy truck and auto traffic, and pedestrian connections across MLK to Grand with particular emphasis on the needs of the elderly and disabled ~~on the full alignment~~; 2) identification of operating revenues; and 3) identification of local match necessary to meet the capital costs of the projects.

ACTION: Mayor Rob Drake moved, seconded by Commissioner Bill Kennemer, to approve the July 13, 2006 meeting minutes with Mr. Hansen's additions. The motion passed.

V. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Burkholder encouraged committee members to attend the capstone event of Get Centered! 2006, which is a guided tour of Vancouver B.C on September 14-16. Tour attendees will meet with and learn from developers, planners, and government leaders in Vancouver. The tour will visit key sites to learn how the Vancouver region has managed to accommodate a similar size population in half the land area while gaining worldwide attention for its livable communities.

As part of the RTP Update, Chair Burkholder noted that there would be several updates to JPACT. The Metropolitan Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) invited JPACT to join them at their October 25th meeting to discuss transportation and land use. The joint meeting will be held at the Oregon Convention Center and dinner will be served.

Councilor Rod Park announced that last week was the kick-off for the Regional Freight and Goods Movement Committee. As committee members have concerns with freight issues, they should check in with Metro staff members Ms. Bridget Wieghart or Ms. Deena Platman.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

Resolution No. 06-3717, For The Purpose of Endorsing Regional Support of the "Plug-In" Partners National Campaign

Chair Burkholder introduced Resolution No 06-3717, which would which would endorse regional support of the "Plug-In" partners national campaign.

"Plug-In Partners" is a national grass-roots initiative to demonstrate to automakers that a market for flexible-fuel Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEVs) exists. The goal of the initiative is to encourage local and state governments to work with utilities and environmental, consumer and business organizations to demonstrate the viability of a market for PHEVs through development of rebates, "soft" fleet orders, petitions, and endorsements. In becoming a partner, Metro would pass a resolution of support, sign a letter of commitment, and make a "soft" fleet order. Making a "soft" fleet order says that Metro will "seriously consider" purchasing a certain amount of vehicles if they are produced by automakers. In addition, Metro would make a commitment to support local, state and federal policies that would promote flexible fuel plug-in hybrid vehicles and work with the local government, education, business, and environmental community to advocate for the purchase of flexible-fuel plug-in hybrid vehicles.

ACTION: Councilor Park moved, seconded by Mayor Drake to approve Resolution 06-3717. The motion passed.

VII. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Seniors and People with Disabilities Transportation and Land Use Study

Mr. Phil Selinger and Councilor Lynn Peterson appeared before the committee to present TriMet's Seniors and People with Disabilities Transportation and Land Use Study. Their presentation (included as part of the meeting record) covered the following information:

- Challenges
- Questions
- National/Regional Research
- Case Studies: Findings, Needs, Issues
- Corridor and Center Analysis: Gateway, Inner Division, Outer Division, McLoughlin Boulevard

- Corridor and Center Analysis: Findings
- Action Items

The committee discussed misuses of the LIFT system.

Mr. Hansen stated that TriMet's strategy has not been about pushing people off LIFT, but rather making the mass transit more accessible.

Chair Burkholder thanked Mr. Selinger and Ms. Peterson and recommended they present this study to MPAC.

RTO Program Overview

Ms. Pam Peck appeared before the committee and provided a brief update on the Regional Travel Options Program (RTO) and Drive Less Save More campaign. The campaign, managed by Metro with cooperation from TriMet, and with oversight from a statewide ODOT Travel Options Marketing Steering Committee was launched in February 2006. To date, the campaign has generated earned media valued at more than \$286,000 and has leveraged an additional \$175,000 in in-kind and cash contributions from sponsors and partners. Ms. Peck reviewed the program partners, goals and components. She added that in FY 05-06 the RTO regional evaluation role shifted from TriMet to Metro. Metro contracted with Portland State University's urban studies center to conduct an independent evaluation of all RTO funded programs for FY 04-05 and to make recommendations for measuring and evaluating RTO programs outputs and outcomes in the future

RTO Program Evaluation

Ms. Peck introduced Dr. Jennifer Dill who presented the Regional Travel Options 2004-05 Program Evaluation Report. Dr. Dill noted that the RTO program has gone through significant changes in the past three years and will continue to do so over the next few years. She added while the program has made significant progress due to a shift in objectives; there is still work to do in order to meet regional travel objectives for non-single occupant vehicles. Dr. Dill reviewed and the committee discussed the report's key findings and recommendations.

VIII. CONVERSATION WITH CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER

Chair Burkholder welcomed Congressman Earl Blumenauer. Congressman Blumenauer stated his appreciation for the opportunity to have an ongoing discussion about transportation with the committee. He noted the significance of the JPACT dialog and the role the committee has in shaping policy, some of which has found its way into national policy. As a Portlander and Oregonian, he stated his particular appreciation for the work the committee has accomplished. He noted his particular interest in speaking about where we are going from this point forward for the next reauthorization.

He stated his appreciation for the hard work the committee is doing collectively in dealing with the resource allocation. 20-years ago it was a lot easier around the JPACT table to be creative, innovative, and cooperative due to the large amount of funding that was available for transportation projects. He added that JPACT is not the only group to now apply a more rigorous analysis in determining the priority of projects.

Congressman Blumenauer said that he is hopeful that we can get a running start in the next round of reauthorization to reinforce what the committee is trying to do and reward it. He noted that he is looking at how we deal with the new realities at the funding level. One of the things that will be different, is the trust

fund will run out. He is working with other groups, organizations, businesses, MPOs, environmental and various communities around the country to raise the profile. He noted that support from everyone is needed to put pressure on Congress to ensure more money is made available.

After meeting with ODOT yesterday, the Congressman feels that a \$400 billion target is needed at the federal level. With that said, he acknowledged that there will need to be tough decisions made as to where that money will come from. He commented that the work done from this committee on the demand side: issue of tolls and registration based on mileage is important and will be part of the funding solution in the next decade.

In addition to talking about how we provide pressure at the Federal level so that the Federal Government is the type of partner that is needed, he added there also needs to be serious discussions with the various groups this committee is part of, including National League of Cities, State League of Cities, Mayors, County Commissioners and leaders from professional organizations. He emphasized the importance of making sure the federal legislation reflects the hard discussions this committee is having. As a nation, he added that we cannot afford to fund projects indiscriminately that may make the problems worse or shuffle congestion to another city or county. He noted that he is interested in incentives in Federal legislation that will reinforce what the committee is trying to do.

Congressman Blumenauer spoke about the Mt. Hood legislation. He added that the transportation network that brings people to and from Mt. Hood and safely transports people from place-to-place on the mountain is stressed. The proposal would direct the Forest Service to work with the State of Oregon to develop an integrated, multi-modal transportation plan for the Mt. Hood region to enhance existing transportation plans, prioritize projects, and identify revenue sources. A key focus would be identifying transportation alternatives, including potential gondola connections, and creating a transportation center to move more people, but in fewer cars, to and from key recreation destinations.

Chair Burkholder briefly updated the Congressman on the current efforts of the Regional Transportation Plan Update. He noted that the Transportation Plan would be updated by taking an outcomes-based approach in terms of development, urban form and economic activity in a fiscally constrained situation not experienced before. He added that work needs to be done to think about how these efforts can be translated into supporting federal policies that are multi-modal and outcomes based versus issues based on traffic numbers. He questioned how to gain support for management techniques like pricing. He stated that Transportation Secretary Minetta commented that congestion pricing would be important as a future funding source to manage congestion, yet it is currently illegal to price interstate freeways.

Chair Burkholder commented that by the beginning of 2007, both the Regional Transportation Plan and New Look would have broad policy discussions settled. He added that the possibility of dropping the level of service on the roadway system is being looked at, even though there will be a great deal of push back from the Federal Highway Administration. He added that they are looking into other performance measures that are more sophisticated and more responsive to the reality of modern urban areas that deal with accessibility and mobility.

Congressman Blumenauer recognized that the federal standards of analysis are outdated, in some cases counterproductive and waste money on Federal processes that aren't needed anymore. He noted that Mr. Fred Hansen from TriMet probably has many suggestions for ways to accept responsibility for system performance and move forward.

Mr. Hansen noted that one of the most significant things to occur that allowed us to make smarter decisions was the requirement for conformity with air quality. Regarding the reauthorization, he asked why there couldn't be conformity for comprehensive land use as a requirement.

Commissioner Adams stated his appreciation for Congressman Blumenauer's comments on the laborious federal process. He added that he would like to see a more systematic approach to rewarding good local and state governments decisions. Regarding the process, he noted that there isn't consideration to how local decisions are made and how allocations award these decisions.

Mayor Bernard stated that many options to fund transportation are being looked into including tolling. He added that they are out looking at any way possible to find ways to build roads and parkways in Damascus all of which will require innovative public/private partnerships. He noted his interest in looking at how the public/private partnership issue will be handled in Oregon.

Mayor Rob Drake inquired as to whether there have been discussions in Congress regarding the condition of our national infrastructure for the long-term. Congressman Blumenauer responded that there is a growing, informal understanding that something needs to happen.

In closing, Congressman Blumenauer added that he would like to have another informal conversation and/or brainstorm session with the committee soon.

IX. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Burkholder adjourned the meeting at 9:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Martin
Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR AUGUST 10, 2006

The following have been included as part of the official public record:

	ITEM	TOPIC	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
**	III	Information Sheet	N/A	To: JPACT From: Lisa Miles, Patty Montgomery Re: Get Centered! Vancouver B.C Trip	081006-JPACT-01
*	IV	Minutes	7/17/06	JPACT Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2006	081006-JPACT-02
*	V	Resolution	5/4/06	Resolution No 06-3717, For the Purpose of Endorsing Regional Support of the "Plug-In" Partners National Campaign	081006-JPACT-03
*	V	Information Sheet	N/A	FAQ about Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles	081006-JPACT-04
**	VI	PowerPoint Presentation	8/2/06	To: JPACT From: Lynn Peterson Re: Seniors and People with Disabilities Transportation and Land Use Study	081006-JPACT-05
*	VI	Information Sheet	N/A	Regional Travel Options Application Summary	081006-JPACT-06
**	VI	PowerPoint Presentation	8/10/06	To: JPACT From: Pam Peck Re: Regional Travel Options Program	081006-JPACT-07
**	VI	PowerPoint Presentation	8/10/06	To: JPACT From: Dr. Jennifer Dill Re: 2004-2005 RTO Program Evaluation	081006-JPACT-08

* Included in packet

**Distributed at meeting