

METRO POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD

November 14, 2007 – 5:00 p.m.

Metro Regional Center, Council Chambers

Committee Members Present: Richard Burke, Nathalie Darcy, Dave Fuller, Richard Kidd, Charlotte Lehan, Alice Norris, Sandra Ramaker, Paul Savas, Bob Sherwin, Chris Smith

Committee Members Absent: Ken Allen, Jeff Cogen, Tom Hughes, Margaret Kirkpatrick, Tom Potter, Martha Schrader, Erik Sten, Steve Stuart

Alternates Present: Shirley Craddick, Laura Hudson, Donna Jordan, Donald McCarthy

Also Present: Bill Bash, City of Cornelius; Al Burns, City of Portland; Carol Chesarek, Forest Park Neighborhood; Jillian Detweiler, TriMet; Jack Hoffman, Urban Land Institute; LeeAnne MacColl, League of Women Voters; Irene Marvich, League of Women Voters; Sidaro Sin, City of Lake Oswego; Derrick Tokos, Multnomah County

Metro Elected Officials Present: Liaisons – Carl Hosticka, Council District 3; Kathryn Harrington, Council District 4; Robert Liberty, Council District 6 others: Council President David Bragdon

Metro Staff Present: Dan Cooper, Andy Cotugno, Kim Ellis, Ken Ray

1. SELF-INTRODUCTIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Dave Fuller, called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. Chair Fuller asked those present to introduce themselves. Chris Smith said that this would be his last MPAC meeting as he is running for City of Portland Councilor.

Chair Fuller created a nominating committee, composed of past chairs, to nominate next year's chair, 1st Vice Chair, and 2nd Vice Chair. The nominating committee would meet on December 12th.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was none.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

The meeting summaries from July 11, July 25, and October 10 Joint MPAC/JPACT meetings as well as the most recent MTAC Appointments.

Motion:	Richard Burke, Washington County Special Districts, with a second from Mayor Alice Norris, City of Oregon City, moved to adopt the consent agendas without revisions and the MTAC appointments.
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Vote:	The motion passed unanimously.
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4. COUNCIL UPDATE

Councilor Kathryn Harrington made some brief announcements. She also announced the appointment of Councilor Carlotta Collette for Metro District 2. Councilor Harrington thanked those that participated in the process of appointing Councilor Collette.

5. JPACT UPDATE

Andy Cotugno, Planning Director, spoke about the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and that JPACT was working on it. He said that he anticipated they would be adopting the draft RTP in December pending the air quality conformity analysis. The plan and conformity analysis would be submitted to Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration staff for review in February. He mentioned that there was an upcoming policy question about what they should be looking for in an appropriations bill. JPACT would be going to Washington DC in March. He outlined some deadlines in association with State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for the committee members.

Mr. Cotugno gave an update on the proposed JPACT bylaws changes. He said the bylaws were back with the subcommittee for further consideration and they would not be acted upon at this time.

Councilor Harrington said that there was more detailed information on the JPACT bylaws provided in previous MPAC packets which could be found on the Metro MPAC web page.

6. MAKING THE GREATEST PLACE

Robin McArthur, Regional Planning Director, explained that the New Look had been renamed the “greatest place initiative.” She reviewed the proceedings from the October 26th Regional Roundtable event. She said that the Greatest Place project got good feedback at that time. She announced that there would be a Greatest Place newsletter produced by Metro twice a year. Ms. McArthur reviewed a beige and blue spreadsheet for members with special attention to the “touch-points for MPAC” tracks. That spreadsheet will be attached to the permanent record.

Councilor Shirley Craddick, City of Gresham, asked why the title had been changed.

Ms. McArthur said they wanted to shift the focus of the name from the process, which was “New Look” to the actual hoped for outcome, which was making the Greatest Place.

Councilor Harrington added that the spreadsheet was a good tool to help MPAC prepare for upcoming work that would be scheduled for MPAC review and participation. She said there was a lot of work ahead.

Councilor Robert Liberty added his strong agreement.

7. DRAFT 2035 RTP – FEDERAL COMPONENT

Chair Fuller asked if the joint meeting had been informative and helpful. Most members indicated that it had been both.

Richard Burke, Washington County Special Districts, spoke to the fact that it was helpful for him to have the range of perspectives from the combined committees.

Chair Fuller agreed and also praised the staff for their work on the Regional Roundtable and the positive outcomes of that event.

Mr. Cotugno reviewed the material provided in the meeting packet for the members. He said that comments were technically still coming in and that the public comment period was still open at this time.

He said that MPAC would need to weigh-in on the recommendations regarding the RTP and that it would require action from the committee on November 28.

Mr. Burke said he was impressed about a phenomenon at the joint meeting – the need to get everyone in a regional mindset. He said it was clear that each constituency had their own interests, especially when dollars were short. He said it struck him that there was nothing built into the process that seemed to overcome that conflict of interest. It seemed to him that the things they would agree on would be the easy items. He expressed concern over the process resulting in an efficient use of the committee's time and a product that was good for both the region and the individual jurisdictions.

Mr. Cotugno said that those working on the RTP paid a lot of attention to that issue. He said that different constituencies and jurisdictions were responsible for different parts of the system. There was an incredible amount of fragmentation over the issues, not to mention revenue sources, and it was Metro's job to knit those systems together in order to meet the public's need. He said that staff looked to MPAC and JPACT, Metro's two key official committees, to rise above the parochialism. The Metro Council did not own any part of the system. He said he also appreciated the perspective of the freight task force who questioned how the system was used, and not just who owned it. Mr. Cotugno said that staff, at JPACT's recommendation, bifurcated the process into the state and federal components because the federal requirements had a real deadline that requires the plan to be updated every four years. He mentioned that the current plan was set to lapse in early March, and if it did lapse then that would threaten the flow of federal dollars into the region. He stressed that they all had an interest in not allowing that to happen. He said that the federal plan required projects to be tied to a reasonable revenue stream. He said that the state requirements were broader: to have a transportation plan that would meet regional land use goals/plans, and to have a financial strategy that would meet project needs. It was a difference in the questions of "what can we afford" and "what should we try for." The federal plan had been developed already and is the subject of the comment period underway, but it could be amended after the fact, if needed, during the state component of the RTP update. Additional work in the state component would focus on ensuring the set of projects recommended as priorities are reflective of the policy objectives in the RTP. He noted it is unclear whether the current list of financially constrained projects are fully supportive of the policy objectives.

Councilor Liberty asked if they had a suggestion about how to treat the project list.

Mr. Cotugno said the project list represented projects that were eligible for federal funding. That didn't mean the full list would be funded, it just meant that funding was limited to those projects on the list.

Councilor Liberty asked if people should be thinking of amendments now?

Mr. Cotugno said it could be changed at any time as part of the public review process. There was, however, a lot of analysis that needed to be done during the state component of the RTP update to lead to a more informed conclusion about what the region is trying to accomplish with investments in the transportation system. He said it might be necessary to revisit the federal list once the end of the state process was reached. He said that there were four details to discuss: performance measures, congestion standards, alternative modes of transportation, and the definition of what constitutes the regional transportation system.

Mayor Charlotte Lehan, City of Wilsonville, expressed concern about using these motor vehicle performance standards. She stated that the more urban the region became, the less useful the standards. She spoke about how congestion could not be a performance measure. She also noted that vehicle miles traveled (VMT) rose 8% - and said that a reduction of VMTs should be a performance measure.

Mr. Cotugno pointed out that the plan did result in a reduction of VMTs, and that the plan did promote and include for a 10% reduction of VMTs.

Mayor Lehan pointed out that most strategies to reduce congestion tended to increase VMTs.

There was discussion about acceptable/normal levels of congestion. Mr. Cotugno said that “acceptable” levels of congestion were those that were “accepted” or acknowledged as tolerable at any given point in time, for example, rush hour. He pointed out that to completely reduce congestion, the price tag would be beyond any of the region’s financial resources.

There was discussion about the possibility of building your way out of congestion. Mr. Cotugno used Houston and Atlanta as examples of that scenario and how it does not seem to work. Mayor Lehan talked about different types of density and how you could never build yourself out of congestion and used Manhattan as an example. Ms. Darcy stressed that the plan needed to use a different term than ‘acceptable’ for congestion.

Councilor Liberty talked about terminology making the problem worse. He also talked about the nature of our community as a commuter community.

Mr. Cotugno welcomed public comment, and talked about different projects on the project list.

Motion:	Chris Smith, Citizen Representative for Multnomah County, with a second from Mayor Richard Kidd, City of Forest Grove, moved that MPAC reluctantly acknowledged the need to include the motor vehicle performance measures identified in the staff recommendation, but wished to underscore that these were not performance measures that were consistent with the acknowledged policy objectives.
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Vote:	The motion passed unanimously.
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Mr. Cotugno noted there were about ten different goals that the document covered. He continued to talk about prioritizing the goals and objectives. The language reflected in the document was ‘economic competitiveness.’ Mr. Cotugno suggested it be changed from ‘economic competitiveness’ to ‘overall well-being.’

Mr. Paul Savas, Clackamas County Special Districts, asked what would be an example of a project that created ‘economic well-being.’

Mr. Cotugno used freight projects and access to industrial areas as an example. He also used centers as an example (light rail, bus access, etc.) of economic development. It was not just about highways and trucks.

Chair Fuller asked about the freight that goes through the state without adding anything to the economy, except ‘wearing out the roads.’

Mayor Lehan noted that the interstates were the region’s lifeline out, so while the argument was who should pay, the Feds should pay more than they do. She said that we couldn’t ignore it because it was every bit our lifeline as it was Sacramento’s or anywhere else.

Chair Fuller noted that tolling might be a good idea.

Motion:	Mayor Alice Norris, City of Oregon City, with a second from Paul Savas, Clackamas County Special Districts, moved to adopt a change in the staff recommended language to read “region’s economic and land use strategies,” to be better understood.
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Vote:	The motion passed unanimously.
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Mr. Cotugno noted that the next topic for discussion was value pricing. He reviewed the wording in the document related to pricing.

Councilor Shirley Craddick, City of Gresham, asked what value pricing meant.

Mr. Cotugno explained that it was paying to use the fast-moving lane to escape congestion.

Mayor Kidd asked about language regarding pricing in the document.

Mr. Cotugno noted that the region has not done much work in pricing for eight or nine years.

Motion:	Bob Sherwin, Governing Body of School District, with a second from Mayor Richard Kidd, City of Forest Grove, moved to adopt the staff recommended language proposed in the staff recommendation to TPAC.
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Vote:	The motion passed with one nay vote by Charlotte Lehan.
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Mayor Lehan explained why she did not agree with the previous motion and proposed an amendment for that motion.

Motion:	Mayor Charlotte Lehan, City of Wilsonville, with a second from Sandra Ramaker, Multnomah County Special Districts, moved to amend the previous motion to change the wording to “consider a broader application of value pricing as a management tool.”
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Vote:	The motion passed unanimously.
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Councilor Carl Hosticka asked about whether or not JPACT had commented on the language.

Kim Ellis replied that they would have the opportunity in the near future. In addition, MTAC and TPAC will meet on November 19 at a special RTP workshop to further discuss these and other public comments. MTAC will make a recommendation to MPAC on November 21. TPAC will make a recommendation to JPACT on November 30.

Mr. Savas asked about the word ‘promote’ and whether it was too strong. He wondered if ‘promote’ could replace ‘consider.’ Mayor Lehan expressed that why bother putting an objective in the plan that only considered pricing. She felt the region needed to be more aggressive and forward thinking on this issue. The committee discussed that value pricing should be promoted in the region as a management tool, not just when new throughway capacity was being added to the system. Committee members recognized additional work is needed to provide more guidance on when and where value pricing should be applied, but that the RTP should not limit that consideration to new capacity.

Motion:	Paul Savas, Clackamas County Special Districts, with a second from Charlotte Lehan, Mayor of Wilsonville, moved to change the language to read “promote a broader application of value pricing as a management tool.”
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Vote:	The motion passed unanimously.
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Mr. Cotugno said that the last issue they needed to focus on dealt with the definition of what constitutes the regional system. He discussed the elements that were outlined in the packet material. There was discussion over the different components and transportation types outlined in the document. The committee agreed to wait to discuss this item after MTAC had an opportunity to review the new staff recommended language.

Councilor Harrington asked whether or not the language would come back to MPAC at the next meeting.

Mr. Cotugno said that the whole package would come back to MPAC at the November 28th MPAC meeting. He said that they were still in the public comment period and that there might still be some issues that get flagged for further discussion.

8. 2008 WORK PROGRAM & MPAC ROLE

Chair Fuller reviewed changes that had taken place at MPAC over the course of the year. He noted that early on they developed a legislative agenda. They had improved participation and the instances of quorum for the meetings. They added positions and people to the table. And, most importantly, he said meetings were more productive, and if an agenda did not appear to be meaningful then they cancelled the corresponding meeting. He said they worked on producing a long-range plan for the year so that they had a better timeframe for scheduling items and meetings. They also created a more formal process for forecasting the items they were dealing with. He noted that it had been a productive year.

Councilor Harrington agreed that it had been a good year, and that they made good use of their time. She then reviewed the Greatest Place timeline for the members. She said that at the December 12th meeting there would be additional information regarding agendas and timelines. She said that attendance and actions did carry importance within the Metro Council.

Mayor Lehan noted that meetings once were ineffective and it was difficult to maintain a quorum. She identified success and improvement.

There being no further business, Chair Fuller adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Andersen
Policy Associate Intern

ATTACHMENTS TO THE RECORD FOR NOVEMBER 14, 2007

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

AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
#8 MPAC Role	11/1/07	Spreadsheet to go with the 2008 Work Program & MPAC Role agenda item: Draft Preliminary 2008 MPAC New Look Work Plan	111407-MPAC-01
Informational	11/6/07	Memorandum from Kathleen Brennan-Hunter, Metro Natural Areas Program Director to Chair Fuller and MPAC re: Natural Areas Program Implementation Update	111407-MPAC-02
Informational	11/8/07	Land Conservation and Development Department Proposed New OAR 660, Division 27 Urban and Rural Reserves in the Portland Metropolitan Area November 8, 2007, Draft Rules for LCDC Public Hearing November 29, 2007	111407-MPAC-03
#6 Making the Greatest Place	Fall 2007	New Look: The Regional Transportation Plan, 2035 Regional Transportation Plan Highlights	111407-MPAC-04
#7 Draft 2035	11/14/07	Memorandum from Kim Ellis, Principal Transportation Planner, to MPAC and Interested Parties re: Public Review Draft 2035 RTP – Public Comments Received to Date (Updated)	111407-MPAC-05
#7 Draft 2035	11/13/07	Letter to Metro Planning from David Fuller, Mayor of Wood Village re: 2035 Regional Transportation Plan and Memorandum of Understanding from Mayors: Weatherby, Bemis, Thalhofer, and Fuller	111407-MPAC-06
#7 2035 Draft	2007	Attachment A: DLCD Suggestion Regarding Division 21 Provisions and Attachment B: Alternative Wording Options Suggest for Rule 0040(10)	111407-MPAC-07
Informational	2007	Brochure: Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program	111407-MPAC-08
#6 Greatest Place	Fall 2007	Flyer: Making the Greatest Place, Focus on infrastructure	111407-MPAC-09
#7 2035 Draft	10/15/07	New Look, The Regional Transportation Plan: Public Review Draft: 2035 Regional Transportation Plan Federal Component	111407-MPAC-10