



METRO

Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation

MINUTES

January 8, 2009

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rex Burkholder, Chair
Robert Liberty, Vice Chair
Shane Bemis
Nina DeConcini
Craig Dirksen
Fred Hansen
Kathryn Harrington
Donna Jordan
Lynn Peterson
Jason Tell

AFFILIATION

Metro Council
Metro Council
City of Gresham, representing Cities of Multnomah Co.
Oregon DEQ
City of Tigard, representing Cities of Washington Co.
TriMet
Metro Council
City of Lake Oswego, representing Cities of Clackamas Co.
Clackamas County
Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT-Region 1)

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Sam Adams
Royce Pollard
Roy Rogers
Steve Stuart
Don Wagner
Ted Wheeler
Bill Wyatt

AFFILIATION

City of Portland
City of Vancouver
Washington County
Clark County
Washington DOT
Multnomah County
Port of Portland

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Tom Brian
Susie Lahsene
Dean Lookingbill

AFFILIATION

Washington County
Port of Portland
SW RTC

STAFF

Andy Cotugno, Kathryn Sofich, Lake McTighe, Andy Shaw, David Bragdon, Carlotta Collette, Kelsey Newell, Kayla Mullis

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Rex Burkholder declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Burkholder introduced the following new members and/or alternates to the committee: Mayor Shane Bemis representing the Cities of Multnomah County, Mayor Craig Dirksen representing the Cities of Washington County, Councilor Donna Jordan representing the Cities of Clackamas County, Mayor Alice Norris alternate for the Cities of Clackamas County, and Commissioner Amanda Fritz who will be alternate for the City of Portland. In addition, he welcomed Catherine Ciarlo lead staff for Mayor Sam Adams for the City of Portland.

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS TO TPAC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair Burkholder announced that a Joint Metro Council and JPACT public hearing for the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) has been scheduled for February 12th, directly following the regular Council meeting, to receive testimony on the Regional Flexible Fund allocation. Staff will distribute details shortly.

In addition, Chair Burkholder stated that the final preparation meeting for the JPACT Washington, DC trip (March 10 – 12th) has been scheduled for March 2nd at 5 p.m. in Metro room 370A.

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Resolution No. 08-4013, For the Purpose of Endorsing the Transportation for America Platform

Chair Rex Burkholder briefed the committee on Resolution No. 08-4013 which would endorse the Transportation for America platform position on reauthorization of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). Transportation for America is a national coalition of groups intended to guide the drafting of the federal authorization bill.

The committee discussed the program's absence of short distance freight as raised Ms. Susie Lahsene from the Port of Portland and the program's urban verses statewide focus as raised by Mr. Jason Tell of ODOT.

MOTION: Councilor Robert Liberty moved, Mr. Fred Hansen seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 08-4013.

ACTION TAKEN: With all in favor and two abstained (Lahsene and Tell), the motion passed.

6. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Resolution No. 09-4016, For the Purpose of Approving the Federal Priorities.

Mr. Andy Cotugno of Metro briefed the committee on Resolution No. 09-4016 which would endorse a regional position on reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU. The resolution and exhibits detail the Portland metropolitan region's federal priorities while better highlighting the linkages between projects and policy than previous years.

Points Mr. Cotugno brought for discussion were:

- The earmark approach to funding projects.
- The purpose of putting some projects on both the appropriation request and the authorization request lists and the need to keep the lists different, not duplicative.
- Importance of the Metropolitan Mobility program.
- Reforming the New Starts/Small Starts program.
- Determining if and when priorities should be set.
- The two approaches to Trails programs due to the potential for the federal Rails-to-Trails program:
 - Determining an amount to request per Congressional District if the Rails-to-Trails program does not pass (i.e. \$10 million each.)
- The addition of a section on "Research" in Exhibit A of the Resolution.
- The organization of the authorization priorities chart consistent with the policy sections.
- Assurance that every project has a back up plan if a smaller funding amount is earmarked.

Committee discussion included:

- The importance of flexibility in the New Starts/Small Starts program.
- Waiting to prioritize projects until funding direction is known.
- \$10 million dollars as a reasonable amount to request per Congressional District if the Rails-to-Trails program does not pass.
- Adding a section on the future electrification of an automobile charging system to the policy paper.
- Working closely with the Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium (OTREC) on research projects relating to the region's integrated land use and transportation strategy without dictating projects to them or treating them as a part of Metro.

6.2 Regional Priorities for the Economic Stimulus Bill

Chair Burkholder briefed the committee on the possibility of a federal economic stimulus package in the near future and on the subsequent steps that must be taken in order to utilize the funds allocated by it.

The committee then discussed:

- Waiting to amend the MTIP until the amount of the stimulus is known.
- The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council's recent MTIP amendment as an example of being prepared, specific and direct in case a stimulus bill is passed.
- Using pre-existing categories to allocate funds.
- The challenge of getting money quickly through the system.
- Compiling a consolidated list of projects from each jurisdiction.
- Including a description and if possible specifics of each project in the list.
- Probability of priority to 'fix it first' projects.

7. ADJOURN

As there was no further business, Chair Rex Burkholder adjourned the meeting at 8:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kayla Mullis
Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR JANUARY 8, 2009

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

ITEM	TOPIC	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
6.1	Chart	N/A	<i>Authorization Priorities</i> Exhibit B to Resolution No. 09-4016: Original Format	010809j-01
6.1	Chart	N/A	<i>Authorization Priorities</i> Exhibit B to Resolution No. 09-4016: Revised Format	010809j -02
6.1	Chart	N/A	<i>FY10' Appropriations Priorities</i> Exhibit C to Resolution No. 09-4016: Revised Format	010809j -03
6.1	Report	12/4/08	<i>New Starts/Small Starts Suggested Improvements</i>	010809j -04
6.2	Report	N/A	<i>Economic Stimulus Legislation and Transportation Funding-</i> Oregon Department of Transportation	010809j-05
6.2	Memo	12/29/08	To: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors From: Dean Lookingbill, Transportation Director Re: 2009-2012 MTIP Amendment: Federal Economic Stimulus Projects, Resolution 01-09-02	010809j-06
6.2	Report	N/A	<i>The Obama-Biden Plan</i>	010809j-07
6.2	Report	01/08/09	<i>Regional Priorities for Economic Stimulus Bill</i>	010809j-08