

MEETING REPORT

DATE OF MEETING: June 8, 1989

GROUP/SUBJECT: Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT)

PERSONS ATTENDING: Members: Chairman Ragsdale, Metro Council; Clifford Clark, Cities of Washington County; Scott Collier, City of Vancouver; Bob Post (alt.), Tri-Met; Wade Byers, Cities of Clackamas County; Don Adams (alt.), ODOT; Gary Demich, WSDOT; Bonnie Hays, Washington County; Jim Gardner, Metro Council; Carter MacNichol (alt.), Port of Portland; Pauline Anderson, Multnomah County; Earl Blumenauer, City of Portland; and George Van Bergen, Metro Council

Guests: Grace Crunican and Steve Dotterer, City of Portland; Lee Hames and G.B. Arrington, Tri-Met; Susie Lahsene, Multnomah County; Leslie White and Kim Chin, C-TRAN; Ted Spence and Erik East, ODOT; Wink Brooks, City of Hillsboro; Molly O'Reilly, Forest Park Neighborhood Association; Richard Devlin, Metro Council; and Tom VanderZanden, Clackamas County

Staff: Andy Cotugno, Karen Thackston, and Lois Kaplan, Secretary

MEDIA: Robert Goldfield, Daily Journal of Commerce

SUMMARY:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Ragsdale.

MEETING REPORT

The May 11 JPACT meeting report was approved as written.

BI-STATE TRANSPORTATION STUDY WORK SCOPE

Andy Cotugno reported that the ad hoc committee is trying to develop a work scope within the confines of the Bi-state Position Paper. He felt it would be ready for consideration at the July 13 JPACT meeting. He indicated that there is agreement on responsibility between jurisdictions and where consultant support would be useful.

Gary Demich added that the subcommittee is trying to determine

the anticipated costs and division of costs.

STATUS OF JPACT MEMBERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

Mike Ragsdale reported that the Membership Subcommittee is first trying to address the purpose of JPACT. He noted that no formal actions have been taken but a broad range of issues have been discussed. After the issues of role and responsibility have been defined, the organizational structure will be addressed. JPACT members will be notified of those meeting dates should they wish to attend.

Andy Cotugno announced JPACT vacancies for the representative and alternate of the cities of Multnomah County, noting that we will soon begin the recruitment process.

TRANSPORTATION 2000

Andy Cotugno provided an update on pending transportation legislation.

Commissioner Hays spoke of the recent poll conducted by AAA which indicated 88 percent opposition by its members to the tire and battery tax and 75 percent opposition to the local registration fee increase.

Commissioner Blumenauer noted that AAA has been active in its opposition to the Transportation 2000 package. At the last Transportation 2000 meeting, some of the AAA executive leadership expressed conflicting viewpoints regarding our pending legislation and their opposition to the split on trucks. Commissioner Blumenauer felt an effort should be made to encourage AAA's participation for a better supportive relationship in meeting our transportation goals. Andy Cotugno noted that AAA has invited the Transportation 2000 group to present an article in one of their upcoming mailers.

Andy Cotugno then reviewed a proposed list of Transportation 2000 implementation activities. Even though the legislative session is coming to a close, it was clear to the committee that considerable work remains to implement the funding package. It was agreed that legislators should be thanked for their cooperation and that efforts should be made to reinforce and reassure those legislators of the need for their continued support. It was also suggested that a packet be prepared defining the objectives of the Transportation 2000 Group in the hope that political candidates and legislators might avail themselves of the material and embrace our objectives.

Commissioner Anderson asked whether any consideration has been given to the potential impact of the citizen suit on the Westside corridor. In response, Andy Cotugno indicated an unsettled question remains of how transportation projects must meet land use requirements and how to integrate complex land use requirements with EIS requirements. He stated there will be an impact on meeting land use requirements in general and spoke of a possible merger of the two processes. Commissioner Anderson questioned whether there should be land use people on JPACT.

Another question raised was that of manpower to deal with these issues. It was noted that there has been high participation on this issue by staff-level people, private businessmen, and Board representatives throughout the region and that their continued involvement is critical.

Chairman Ragsdale pointed out that the Transportation 2000 effort got moving well after the Legislature started and that a transportation agenda is needed for the next legislative session. In the interim, he suggested taking the opportunity to enlist support and workers that have previously not come forward.

PROPOSED UMTA RULES FOR MAJOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS

A handout was distributed detailing proposed new UMTA rules for major capital investment projects, and a discussion ensued on the implications of such rules. Andy Cotugno expressed concerns regarding the proposed rules and felt that JPACT members should respond both to UMTA and the Congressional delegation during the comment period which is open until June 26. Andy Cotugno indicated that a guideline packet would be mailed in the next week to all jurisdictions and the Transportation 2000 people. It was suggested that this issue also be placed on the Transportation 2000 agenda for its June 15 meeting. Procedures presently followed include an evaluation of alternatives, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, preliminary engineering, concluding with a decision of whether or not to build, and a federal funding commitment.

In discussion on the proposed rule changes, concern was expressed as to whether the Westside light rail project, approved for P.E. in 1983, must comply with the new regulations. It was pointed out that the new rules have new threshold and match requirements and involve a major change in when local money must be provided for match. G.B. Arrington indicated Tri-Met has been working with Congressman AuCoin in trying to resolve the issue with the Westside rail project. Committee members took issue with federal

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interpretation of project eligibility with regard to "cost-effectiveness." They also felt that "buying your way up the ladder" was an inappropriate way to consider projects in place of those that have more merit.

Councilor Van Bergen expressed disappointment over the lack of statutory authority to implement some of the public-private task investments and hoped that efforts will continue along that line.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

REPORT WRITTEN BY: Lois Kaplan

COPIES TO: Rena Cusma
Dick Engstrom
JPACT Members