



JOINT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
December 9, 2010
Metro Regional Center, Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT

Carlotta Collette, Chair
Rex Burkholder
Jack Burkman
Nina DeConcini
Craig Dirksen
Neil McFarlane
Kathryn Harrington
Donna Jordan
Lynn Peterson
Jason Tell
Don Wagner
Bill Wyatt

AFFILIATION

Metro Council
Metro Council
City of Vancouver
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
City of Tigard, representing Cities of Washington Co.
Tri-Met
Metro Council
City of Lake Oswego, representing Cities of Clackamas Co.
Clackamas County
Oregon Department of Transportation, Region 1
Washington State Department of Transportation
Port of Portland

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Sam Adams
Shane Bemis
Deborah Kafoury
Roy Rogers
Steve Stuart

AFFILIATION

City of Portland
City of Gresham, representing Cities of Multnomah Co.
Multnomah County
Washington County
Clark County

STAFF: Andy Cotugno, Colin Deverell, Tom Kloster, Councilor Robert Liberty, Ted Leybold, Lake McTighe, Kelsey Newell, Robin McArthur, Randy Tucker.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

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

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Collette introduced several students visiting from Beverly Cleary Middle School who were filming the meeting for a class project.

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Jason Tell updated the committee on the Draft ODOT State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) project list and indicated that the list will soon be circulated for public comment.

Chair Collette described the recent OMPOC summit as a success, noting its attendance and growing sense that action is needed on climate change. Chair Collette also discussed the recent activities of the Regional Flexible Fund (RFF) Task Force and the related efforts of the Environmental Justice (EJ) group. The RFF Task Force was moving in the direction of examining active transportation by corridor, rather than individual projects (referred to as the “light rail model”) as the EJ group had been providing input on metrics for evaluating projects.

Members updated the committee on state-level transportation task forces. Mayor Craig Dirksen informed the committee of actions taken by the governor’s Road User Fee Task Force, stating that the group had voted to recommend a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) fee to the legislature for plug-in hybrids and electrical vehicles. Mr. Tell also briefed the committee on the ongoing work of the Congestion Pricing Task Force, which had settled on four preliminary concepts to be narrowed by a consultant team. Committee members requested updates on the VMT work in the near future.

Mr. Neil McFarlane described the recent meeting of the TriMet Board of Directors, which approved the initial bonding necessary for construction contracts for the Portland to Milwaukie Light Rail (PMLR) project, scheduled to begin next summer.

Chair Collette described two awards recently given to the region by the EPA and the International Awards for Livable Communities, which recognized Metro and its regional partners for their efforts in “Making the Greatest Place” and supporting livable communities, respectively.

The committee made a special recognition of Mr. Mark Turpel of Metro, who is retiring. Members described his long history of service to the region, noting his work on the Portland Air Toxics Solutions Committee, among others. The committee stated their appreciation of his work and wished him well in his future endeavors.

5. CONSIDERATION OF THE JPACT MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 4, 2010

MOTION: Councilor Donna Jordan moved, Mr. McFarlane seconded, to approve the November 4 JPACT Minutes.

ACTION TAKEN: With all in favor, the motion passed.

6. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Columbia River Crossing Project Update

Mr. Richard Brandman of the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) project team updated the committee on the effort. Mr. Brandman discussed the CRC Project Sponsors Council’s recent unanimous agreement on many design elements and briefed the committee on the Independent Review Panel’s recommendations. Both ODOT and WSDOT have accepted all of the panel’s recommendations and will be working to implement them. The review panel also outlined a “roadmap to success” for the project with several categories that will direct the project as it moves forward. Mr. Brandman indicated that the process utilized to reach a consensus with the Integrated Project staff, which represents participating agencies and

jurisdictions, on various design elements was still in place and would be used to facilitate the work on the panel's recommendations.

Mr. Brandman discussed the conditions placed on the project by the agencies and jurisdictions involved in the project. Noting the large number of conditions, he described efforts to compile the conditions into categories base on jurisdiction to track their progress. A status report will be provided to the committee once the list is in final form.

Mr. Brandman also addressed the concerns raised by a letter from Mr. Joe Cortright on behalf of Plaid Pantry, Inc. The CRC group was preparing a written response to the legislature, based on the comments included in the correspondence.

Mr. Andy Cotugno of Metro inquired what steps the committee would like to take to advocate for the project, referring to the next JPACT agenda items relating to the state and federal legislative priorities. He also noted that the final JPACT action for the project will be on the land use final order.

Committee members discussed the CRC project, specifically the previously conducted tolling analysis. They indicated an interest in being briefed by the project team regarding the project's implications for Interstate 205. Members also noted their appreciation of the project's positive direction following the Independent Review Panel's findings and expressed their interest in examining the progress on project conditions.

6.2 Legislative Transportation Update

Mr. Randy Tucker of Metro described the current list of regional transportation priorities to be brought to the legislature and sought comment from the committee.

Members discussed the region's transportation priorities. Members suggested examining the efforts on VMT pricing described by Mayor Dirksen and supporting the work of the access management stakeholder group. The committee discussed the federal allocation of high-speed rail (HSR) funding to the state for EIS work and their interest in supporting it in the state legislature in the future. Members requested copies of letters related to HSR between Ms. Gale Achterman, chair of the Oregon Transportation Commission, and Governor Ted Kulongoski. Additionally, referencing the legislature's move to annual sessions, members advocated for developing a broader, long-term legislative strategy that was policy focused.

Committee members also commented on the need to move forward with securing funds for the CRC project. Mr. Don Wagner discussed the process for funding larger projects in Washington state and the likely challenges the project will face if no new revenue package is approved. Mr. Cotugno briefed the committee on the current federal legislative climate and sought comment on the list of federal legislative priorities. Previously, the committee had suggested a defensive strategy aimed at maintaining current levels of federal transportation funds directed at the region. Mr. Cotugno described the progress made in previous transportation authorization bills, but acknowledged the uncertainty surrounding future legislation and earmarks for transportation projects. Staff will be working to obtain federal support for key regional transportation projects, including the CRC, the Sellwood Bridge replacement project as well as high-capacity transit and active transportation projects.

The committee approved of the list and supported the defensive posture.

7. **ADJOURN**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Deverell', written in a cursive style.

Colin Deverell
Recording Secretary