



May 2, 2006

Regional Transportation Forum Summary

A summary of the April 20, 2006 forum discussion about the future of transportation in the Portland metropolitan region and the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan update.



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STAKEHOLDER FORUM SUMMARY

As part of the Metro Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update planning process, a stakeholder forum was held on April 20, 2006 to solicit feedback and generate discussion. This report serves as a summary of that meeting, including:

- An overview of the meeting **background and objectives**
- A description of the **meeting format**
- A summary of **key issues** that arose during the meeting

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

A variety of stakeholders from the Portland metropolitan area attended the April 20th Metro RTP forum. Participants included elected officials, city and county staff, and representatives from the business, environmental, and transportation community.

The objectives of the stakeholder forum were:

- Educate participants on the parameters of the RTP Update, including integration with the New Look process
- Gather input from stakeholders on recommended approaches and key issues to inform development of a work program and public participation plan
- Develop agreement on overall approach and objectives for the RTP Update
- Develop agreement on how key stakeholders and the general public will be engaged in the process.

MEETING FORMAT

The forum began with presentations by Metro Council President, David Bragdon, and Rex Burkholder, Deputy Council President and JPACT chair. Terry Moore of ECONorthwest Consulting then presented the specifics of the RTP planning process and discussed its integration with the New Look, a long range planning effort that is currently under way. Brian Scott of MIG, Inc. then briefed the participants on the proposed work program and participatory process envisioned for the RTP Update.

After the presentations, stakeholders broke into small groups to discuss the RTP update. The small group discussions began with brainstorming exercises intended to generate ideas and input on the work program and public involvement program. After the brainstorming sessions and discussion, each group reported back the results of their discussion and identified key issues affecting the work plan and public involvement components of the RTP update.

KEY ISSUES SUMMARY

During the report back session, key issues were identified in both the workplan discussion and the public participation discussion.

WORKPLAN DISCUSSION KEY ISSUES

- ***Outcomes-Based Planning***
 - Participants wanted a process that focused on achieving tangible, realistic outcomes that bring a high level of “bang for the buck.”
- ***Fiscal Constraints***
 - Stakeholders relayed their clear understanding that transportation funding in the region would be under serious fiscal constraints due to a wide variety of factors including reductions in Federal contributions to local transportation funding, and a resistance to raising tax revenue at the State and local level.
- ***Sustainability***
 - Environmental sustainability should be a key consideration for the development of the RTP workplan.
- ***Equity***
 - Stakeholders wanted Metro to consider economic and social equity as an important part of the RTP update.
- ***Coordination and Integration***
 - Stakeholders stressed the need for effective coordination and integration of efforts between agencies and jurisdictions (including Washington State and the upper Willamette Valley) as essential for the success of the RTP update. In addition, coordination and integration with the local and regional business community, environmental organizations, and other interest groups will be key for the success of the RTP update.
- ***Connection between land-use and transportation***
 - Participants stated that addressing the link between transportation choices and land use decisions should be an important aspect of the RTP update.
- ***Economic development/freight movement***
 - Transportation planning has a large impact on freight movement and overall economic development at both the local and regional level. This should be a key consideration for the update process.

PUBLIC OUTREACH DISCUSSION KEY ISSUES

- ***Coordinate with agencies and jurisdictions***
 - Several participants stated that Metro’s past outreach efforts tended to bypass local jurisdictions, elected officials, and agencies. It was very strongly recommended that a concerted effort be made to effectively coordinate with local agencies and jurisdictions on the RTP update process.

- ***Education and Engagement***
 - Participants stated that the outreach effort was both an engagement effort and an education effort. Working to reach residents should involve both educational and outreach components so that the RTP update can benefit from informed input.
- ***Forge Partnerships***
 - Partnerships with a broad array of business, environmental, and transit advocacy groups would help the outreach effort be more effective.
- ***Multi-faceted outreach to the underrepresented***
 - A priority of the outreach effort should be to reach underrepresented groups such as non-English speakers and low-income communities.

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

During the key issues discussion and report back session, three issues emerged as most critical. First, participants were interested in an RTP that emphasizes realistic and tangible outcomes. Second, participants recognized that the RTP needed to take into account serious fiscal constraints facing the region. Finally, participants were very clear that effective coordination with jurisdictions and agencies would be necessary for the creation of an effective RTP. Integrating these critical issues into the workplan and public involvement effort will be key to ensuring the success of the RTP.

Next Steps:

- Work to integrate the RTP more effectively with the New Look effort
- Develop a workplan and public outreach effort based on the input received at the April 20 stakeholder forum
- Develop the RTP desired outcomes and evaluation criteria
- Develop RTP scenarios (specifics still to be determined)
- Integrate agency, jurisdictional, and public input to identify key regional transportation priorities
- Identify strategies for implementing regional priorities

Appendix A: Small Group Report Back Session Feedback

Workplan Feedback

- Take a hard look at costs & benefits
- Balance maintenance with capital investment
- Ensure balance between urban and rural (equity)
- Integrate environmental/sustainability goals into the planning (e.g. green streets)
- Tailor scenarios to reflect the possible energy shortage
- Make that land use and transportation connection
- Remember to consider freight mobility
- Revenues: (1) start with realistic revenue projection (2) It is ok to deviate from plans, but have a specific process of how to do that
- Make better connections (road and transit)
- Need to engage in community building
- Provide consistent information
- Be creative and equitable in funding solutions
- Provide values to products
- Orientation to scale and benefits of funding
- Outcomes: greater jurisdiction coordination (not only local other states too)
- Safety, can greatly influence our transportation system
- Mobility and access are interconnected
- Make sure it is a holistic process (funding and efficiency)
- Are we achieving our vision for the future?
- Look at current infrastructure options before we start new commitments
- Broader look at bi-state – make sure the planning process does not decouple the states
- Common standards and values
- Give people choices (e.g. tolls roads vs. gas tax) so they can respond more effectively
- Need to use scenario planning that shows possibilities of the future
- Need to ask these questions: Where are we now? What do we know, how do we know we are winning if we don't have a scorecard? Does the existing RTP meet objectives?
- Start with a no build option and then go on from there
- Clarify relationship between state and regional plans

- Overall balance of modes in RTP and matching funding with modal choices – be discrete and specific
- The existing framework does not adequately address business and freight
- Consider what are the tradeoffs to get the outcomes we want
- Need an improved way on how we make decisions
- Be realistic about our approach

Stakeholder Outreach Feedback

- Be sure to include special groups that were not captured in the past (e.g. developers, business communities, and individual jurisdictions)
- Communication across groups (interest and geographical) affects prioritizing. Once there is a balance we can agree and get better detail on strategic implementation
- Include local government – make them a strong partner
- Be careful there is no bias in polling
- Outreach to underrepresented people and youth
- Include web/tech based outreach tools and provide simulations
- Do not try to sell the public on our plan, ask them what they want and approach them in a very respectful way
- Question assumptions – the public is curious and intuitive
- Consider all costs of transportation and develop measurable outcomes
- Show relevance to lives of stakeholders
- Get past the hot button issues
- Focus on unlikely partnerships and public private partnership
- Work with Oregon and Washington transportation agencies
- Keep those who might disagree informed (gives them less ammunition)
- Outreach to elected officials (not just inside but also outside to include the northern Willamette valley)
- Iterative process involving education and engagement
- Tell people what strategy has been, how effective it has been, what's worked and not, and what are the future possibilities
- Outreach to local governments and civic groups and business community
- Engagement across disciplines
- Two-way conversation – input and engage people (big picture concepts)
- Be flexible and tailor events to fit the stakeholder groups/communities
- Make sure that everyone gets the same information and same context

- Offer choices – don't give stakeholders a blank slate
- Engage different groups (AAA, BTA etc.) by giving them a standard outline and let them run with it and inform their members

Appendix B: Small Group Participants

Light Green Group

- Nancy Kraushaar (Oregon City and TPAC member)
- Charles Becker (City of Gresham and MPAC member)
- Andy Cotugno (Metro)
- Jeanne Harrison (City of Portland)
- John Hartsock (City of Damascus and MPAC member)
- Ed Abrahamson (Multnomah County and TPAC member)
- Bob Cortright (DLCD)
- Roland Chlapowski (City of Portland)

Light Blue Group

- Kelly Sills (Policy Assistant Clark County Board of Commissioners)
- Corky Collier (Columbia Corridor Association)
- Kathy Busse (Washington County Transportation/Land Use Department)
- Richard Kidd (City of Forest Grove and MPAC member)
- Kate Warren (Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement)
- Chris Deffebach (Metro)
- Bridget Wieghart (Metro)

Dark Green Group

- Robert Liberty (Metro Council)
- Paul Thalhofer (City of Troutdale and JPACT member)
- Rob Drake (City of Beaverton, JPACT and MPAC member)
- Lenny Anderson (Swan Island TMA and RTO Subcommittee member)
- Gary Barth (Clackamas County Economic Development Commission)
- Meg Fernakees (Department of Land Conservation and Development and MTAC member)
- Arch Miller (Port of Vancouver)

Red Group

- David Bragdon (Metro Council President)
- Susie Lahsene (Port of Portland and JPACT alternate)
- Olivia Clark (TriMet)
- Matt Garrett (ODOT)
- Alice Norris (City of Oregon City and MPAC member)
- Scott Bricker (Bicycle Transportation alliance and TPAC citizen member)
- Jeff Stone (Oregon Association of Nurseries)

Yellow Group

- Brian Newman (Metro Council)
- Norm Andreen (Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement)
- Bill Kennemer (Clackamas County Commissioner and JPACT member)

- Jon Schlueter (Westside Economic Alliance)
- Anne Madden (Washington County Senior Program Educator)
- Jill Fuglister (Coalition for Livable Future)
- Dick Pedersen (Department of Environmental Quality and JPACT member)
- Don Wagner (WSDOT and JPACT member)

Orange Group

- Rod Park (Metro Council)
- Charlotte Lehan (City of Wilsonville and MPAC member)
- Chris Smith (MPAC citizen member)
- Lynn Peterson (City of Lake Oswego and JPACT member)
- Danielle Cowan (City of Wilsonville)
- Andy Back (Washington County and TPAC member)
- Marty Snell (Clark County and MTAC member)
- Lainie Smith (ODOT and MTAC member/TPAC alternate)
- Ginger Metcalf (Identity Clark County)
- Tom Miller (City of Portland)

Pink Group

- Marion Haynes (Portland Business Alliance)
- Sonia Manhas (Multnomah County Public Health)
- Margaret Middleton (City of Beaverton and TPAC alternate)
- Phil Selinger (TriMet and TPAC member)
- Tom Kloster (Metro)
- Bryan Snodgrass (City of Vancouver and MTAC alternate)
- Joan Plank (ODOT Chief of Staff)
- Satvinder Sandhu (FHWA)

Dark Blue Group

- Rex Burkholder (Metro Council and JPACT Chair)
- Steve Clark (Community Newspapers and Portland Business Alliance)
- David Cox (Federal Highway Administration)
- Dean Lookingbill (Clark County Regional Transportation Commission and JPACT member)
- Fred Hansen (TriMet)
- Kathryn Harrington (RTO Subcommittee Citizen Member)
- Vicki Dugger (Oregon Downtown Development Association)

Appendix C: Forum Participants

Metro

David Bragdon (Metro Council President)
Rex Burkholder (Metro Council District 5)
Rod Park (Metro Council District 1)
Brian Newman (Metro Council District 2)
Robert Liberty (Metro Council District 6)
Michael Jordan (Chief Operating Officer)
Andy Cotguno (Planning Director)
Chris Deffebach (Long-Range Planning Manager)
Tom Kloster (Regional Transportation Planning Manager)
Bridget Wieghart (Corridor Planning Manager)

Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement (MCCI)

Norm Andren (Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement)
Kate Warren (Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement)

JPACT Members (not including Metro Councilors)

Commissioner Sam Adams (City of Portland, JPACT and MPAC alternate)
Mayor Rob Drake (City of Beaverton, JPACT and MPAC)
Fred Hansen (TriMet, JPACT and MPAC alternate)
Commissioner Bill Kennemer (Clackamas County and JPACT)
Susie Lahsene (Port of Portland and JPACT alternate)
Dean Lookingbill (Transportation Director of RTC and JPACT alternate)
Dick Pedersen (Department of Environmental Quality and JPACT)
Councilor Lynn Peterson (City of Lake Oswego and Cities of Clackamas County – JPACT)
Mayor Paul Thalhoffer, (City of Troutdale and Cities of Multnomah County – JPACT)
Don Wagner (Washington Department of Transportation and JPACT)

MPAC Members (not including Metro Councilors)

Mayor Richard Kidd (MPAC chair and City of Forest Grove)
Mayor Charles Becker (MPAC and City of Gresham)
Councilor John Hartsock (MPAC and City of Damascus)
Mayor Charlotte Lehan (MPAC and City of Wilsonville)
Mayor Alice Norris (MPAC and City of Oregon City)
Chris Smith (MPAC citizen member)

TPAC and TPAC Subcommittee Members

Ed Abrahamson (Multnomah County and TPAC alternate)
Lenny Anderson (Swan Island TMA and RTO Subcommittee member)
Frank Angelo (Westside Economic Alliance and TPAC citizen member)
Andy Back (Washington County and TPAC member)
Scott Bricker (Bicycle Transportation Alliance and TPAC Citizen member)
Kathryn Harrington (RTO Subcommittee citizen member)
Nancy Kraushaar (City of Oregon City and TPAC member)
Margaret Middleton (City of Beaverton and TPAC alternate)
Phil Selinger (TriMet and TPAC member)

Elaine Smith (ODOT Region 1 and TPAC member)
Paul Smith (City of Portland and TPAC member)

MTAC Members

Meg Fernekees (Department of Land Conservation and Development and MTAC member)
Marty Snell (Clark County Long-range Planning Manager and MTAC member)
Bryan Snodgrass (City of Vancouver and MTAC alternate)

Other Local, State and Regional Governmental Representatives

Kathy Busse (Washington County)
Bob Carley (City of Wood Village)
Roland Chlapowski (City of Portland)
Olivia Clark (TriMet)
Bob Cortright (Department of Land Conservation and Development)
Danielle Cowan (City of Wilsonville)
David Cox (FHWA Regional Administrator)
Vicky Dugger (Oregon Economic and Community Development Department)
Matt Garrett (ODOT Director)
Cam Gilmour (Clackamas County)
Jeanne Harrison (PDOT)
Anne Madden (Washington County Senior Program Educator)
Sonia Manhas (Multnomah County Community Health)
Arch Miller (Chair, Port of Vancouver)
Tom Miller (City of Portland)
Joan Plank (ODOT Chief of Staff)
Kelly Sills (Policy Assistant for Clark County Board of Commissioners)
Satvinder Sandhu (Federal Highway Administration and TPAC alternate)

Business Groups

Gary Barth (Vice President of Sterling Savings Bank and Clackamas County Economic Development Commission member)
Steve Clark (Portland Tribune and Portland Business Alliance)
Corky Collier (Columbia Corridor Association)
Marion Haynes (Portland Business Alliance)
Jonathan Schlueter (Executive Director of Westside Economic Alliance)
Jeff Stone (Oregon Association of Nurseries)

Community Groups

Jill Fuglister (Coalition for a Livable Future)
Ginger Metcalf (Executive Director Identity Clark County)

INVITED, BUT NOT ABLE TO ATTEND

Metro

Carl Hosticka (Metro Council District 3)

Susan McLain (Metro Council District 4)

JPACT Members

Jason Tell (Oregon Department of Transportation Region 1)

Mayor Royce Pollard (City of Vancouver)

Commissioner Roy Rogers (Washington County)

Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey (Multnomah County)

Commissioner Steve Stuart (Clark County)

Bill Wyatt (Port of Portland)

MPAC Members

Jack Hoffman (Lake Oswego attorney)

Laura Hudson (City of Vancouver and MPAC alternate)

Mayor Tom Hughes (City of Hillsboro and MPAC)

Margaret Kirkpatrick (NW Natural and MPAC member)

Commissioner Steve Stuart (Clark County)

TPAC and TPAC Subcommittee Members

Lynda David (RTC and TPAC member)

Lee Johnson (TPAC Citizen member)

Dave Nordberg (DEQ and TPAC member)

Ron Papsdorf (City of Gresham and TPAC member)

John Rist (Clackamas County and TPAC member)

Karen Schilling (Multnomah County and TPAC member)

Other Local, State and Regional Governmental Representatives

Gail Achterman (Oregon Transportation Commission)

Dennis Derby (Land Conservation and Development Commission)

Pat Egan (Governor's Office)

Lynne Griffith (C-TRAN Executive Director)

Dave Hunt (State Representative District 40)

Bob McIntire (Clark County)

Chris Warner (Governor's Office)

Janice Wilson (Oregon Transportation Commission)

