



JOINT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

December 8, 2011

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sam Adams
Shane Bemis
Rex Burkholder
Carlotta Collette, Chair
Shirley Craddick
Nina DeConcini
Craig Dirksen
Deborah Kafoury
Neil McFarlane
Jason Tell
Don Wagner

AFFILIATION

City of Portland
City of Gresham, representing Cities of Multnomah Co.
Metro Council
Metro Council
Metro Council
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
City of Tigard, representing Cities of Washington Co.
Multnomah County
TriMet
Oregon Department of Transportation, Region 1
Washington State Department of Transportation

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Jack Burkman
Donna Jordan
Ann Lininger
Roy Rogers
Steve Stuart
Bill Wyatt

AFFILIATION

City of Vancouver
City of Lake Oswego, representing Cities of Clackamas Co.
Clackamas County
Washington County
Clark County
Port of Portland

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Jim Bernard
Tim Knapp
Susie Lahsene
Dean Lookingbill

AFFILIATION.

Clackamas County
City of Wilsonville, representing Cities of Clackamas Co.,
Port of Portland
SW Washington RTC

STAFF: Aaron Brown, Andy Cotugno, Elissa Gertler, Nuin-Tara Key, Ted Leybold, Lake McTighe, John Mermin, Dylan Rivera, Amy Rose, Kathryn Sofich, Randy Tucker, Ray Valone, Sheena VanLeuven

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Carlotta Collette declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Collette introduced Mr. John Valley of Senator Jeff Merkley's office.

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair Collette announced that on December 7, the Columbia River Crossing project received the Federal Government's Record of Decision, allowing Oregon and Washington to begin right-of-way acquisition and construction. Copies of the press release are included in the meeting packet.

Chair Collette also stated that the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC) has three new Community Representatives. Ms. Carla Danley, Mr. David Eatwell and Ms. Carol Gosset will begin their terms at the January 6, 2012 TPAC meeting.

5. CONSIDERATION OF THE JPACT MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 10, 2011

MOTION: Mr. Neil McFarlane moved, Councilor Donna Jordan seconded, to approve the November 10, 2011 minutes.

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

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Amendments

Chair Collette introduced Mr. Rian Windsheimer of ODOT, who discussed Resolution No. 11-4314, which would amend the MTIP documents to include the OR217 Active Traffic Management Project. This amendment would allow ODOT to study how traffic management practices, such as shoulder widening and construction of variable message signs, could mitigate congestion on the facility.

MOTION: Ms. Susie Lahene moved, Mayor Craig Dirksen seconded, to approve the OR217 Active Traffic Management Project amendment to the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program.

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

Ms. Katherine Kelly of the City of Gresham presented to JPACT Resolution No. 11-4315, which would amend the MTIP document to include the Gresham-Fairview Trail to Wallula Bicycle and Pedestrian facility, which was recently awarded funding from the federal Transportation, Community and System Preservation (TCSP) program. The federal government selected this project from a national pool of competitive projects. Mr. McFarlane noted he was pleased to see this project selected after the area was recently studied in TriMet's Pedestrian Network Analysis report. Ms. Kelly distributed a map of the project, which is included in the meeting packet.

MOTION: Mayor Dirksen moved, Mr. McFarlane seconded, to approve the Fairview Trail to Wallula amendment to the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program.

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

6.2 2014-15 Regional Flexible Fund Allocation: Resolution No. 11-4313

Ms. Amy Rose and Mr. Ted Leybold of Metro gave a presentation to JPACT summarizing their work to allocate Regional Flexible Funds to project proposals from across the region. The two year process was guided by a 2010 summit, in which the Metro Council and JPACT articulated a vision for transportation investments to address outcomes related to specific priorities. Mr. Leybold explained that Metro staff developed a collaborative process for local governments to establish projects, and project nominations were received by the agency in the summer of 2011. The proposed allocation has undergone a public comment period and has received comments from TPAC as well. The RFFA as proposed will provide funding for fourteen local projects. Mr. Leybold and Ms. Rose stated that regional partners expressed enthusiasm for the simplified approach used by Metro staff on this cycle of RFFA funds, and that project applicants appreciated the opportunity to receive comments from Metro staff to improve project proposals.

Chair Collette asked two citizens to share their concerns with the Portland Bike Share Project included in the Regional Flexible Fund:

- Mr. Alan Hipolito of Verde spoke to the Committee noting his organization's concerns with the Portland Bike Share project. He read a letter on behalf of Verde, cosigned by groups such as NAYA, the Urban League, Hacienda CDC, Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, and the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, which stated their disapproval of the City of Portland's Bike Share project as currently proposed because of its attempt to include equity concerns later in the public process as opposed to engaging different communities from the start. He also referenced statements to TPAC by Mr. Ty Schwoeffermann of the Urban League of Portland, expressing similar concerns.
- Ms. Carla Danley also expressed her concern with the City of Portland's Bike Share Project, noting she saw what she considered a "habitual pattern of flawed process and lack of meaningful public engagement" with the city. She noted her concerns with the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) in other community projects, and stated that many communities do not feel they have meaningful public input.

Committee discussion included:

- Acknowledgement of the equity concerns raised by community members regarding the City of Portland's Bike Share project. Commissioner Deborah Kafoury stated that she didn't feel comfortable voting for the RFFA because of these communities' frustration with the project's lack of citizen involvement, and suggested the Bike Share project vote should be postponed until these concerns have been addressed.
- Mayor Adams noted that the Portland Bike Share project would serve the downtown area, which is home to many low-income and diverse communities, and would provide affordable transportation options to students travelling to Portland State University.

Mayor Adams also stressed that the City of Portland had large RFFA grants headed to East Portland, and that the City of Portland was serious about addressing equity concerns with their investment of Regional Flexible Funds. The Portland Bike Share project also does not currently have a Request for Proposal (RFP) published yet, and Mayor Adams expressed hope that some of these concerns could be addressed later in the RFP process.

- The impact of potentially delaying the vote on the RFFA projects. Mr. Leybold noted that postponing the vote on the program could jeopardize Metro's coordination with the State of Oregon to implement the MTIP and STIP program.
- Overall praise for both the process and the final projects chosen. Mr. McFarlane commented that many of these projects will be greatly beneficial to public transit users, and many JPACT members commended Metro staff for their technical help in the nomination of these projects.

MOTION: Commissioner Jim Bernard moved, Mr. McFarlane seconded, to allocate Regional Flexible Funding for the years 2014 and 2015 to the fourteen local projects and seven region-wide projects listed in Resolution No. 11-4313.

AMENDMENT #1: Commissioner Kafoury motioned to postpone the vote on the City of Portland's Bike Share project until next month after PBOT staff has addressed the equity concerns from these various community organizations. There was no second.

ACTION TAKEN: With no second, there was no discussion. The amendment fails.

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

7. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Portland Air Toxics Solutions (PATS) Presentation

Chair Collette introduced Ms. Nina DeConcini of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) who gave a presentation on Metro's efforts to consider Portland's findings on local air quality with 2010 Census Data, with the intent to include Environmental Justice considerations when addressing reductions in air toxicity. Ms. DeConcini noted that some air pollutants are not currently regulated by federal standards, and that the DEQ and the State of Oregon have developed health-based benchmark standards in the absence of federally-mandated targets. Her slideshow is included in the meeting packet.

Committee discussion included:

- The inherent difficulty of creating regulations for increased air quality. Councilor Rex Burkholder noted the ubiquity of these chemicals and the extent to which existing government agencies are at times unable to effectively litigate against their presence in the atmosphere. He praised the efforts of Deschutes County, which recently prevented the sale of uncertified wood stoves in their jurisdiction in an effort to reduce associated airborne toxins.

- JPACT members also noted, however, that many policies that promote air quality can also promote other regional benefits, and programs such as Metro's Climate Smart Communities are well-poised to help government agencies look at land use policies and air quality goals holistically.
- A need for more industrial representation on the review panel. Ms. Lahene noted that the Port of Portland wished to address their concerns with the assumptions used in the DEQ's air dispersion model, and that the Port continues to look forward to working on solutions for improved air quality. Ms. Lahene also suggested that a third-party review the white paper produced by the DEQ.

The public comment period for the PATS report is available through the First Quarter of 2012, and will be presented to the Environmental Quality Commission next spring. Ms. DeConcini thanked the members of the advisory committee that helped produce the report.

7.2 Climate Smart Communities Scenarios – Draft Phase 1 Findings Report

Ms. Kim Ellis and Mr. Mike Hogelund of Metro provided JPACT with a copy of the Draft Phase 1 Findings report of the Climate Smart Communities Scenarios project, noting that JPACT will be asked to formally accept the findings in the report in the upcoming January 2012 meeting. The project remains in the first phase, which emphasizes understanding the different choices and how far current plans and policies will go to help the region meet carbon reduction targets set by the State Legislation in 2009. Ms. Ellis explained that this report is intended to provide a foundation of the information gathered from this project, and explains the assumptions used to deliver the initial findings. Mr. Hogelund explained that the State of Oregon is undergoing similar studies to understand statewide scenarios for climate smart mitigation, including consideration for freight movement and inter-city rail. Ms. Ellis' report and slideshow are included in the meeting packet.

Committee discussion included:

- General praise for progress of the Climate Smart Communities Scenarios project. Mr. Tell, Mayor Adams, Mr. McFarlane, Councilor Burkholder and other JPACT members expressed their approval of the work so far in understanding the choices the region faces to reduce carbon emissions.
- The need for the region to continue ambitious efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Many JPACT members noted that many of the proposed solutions will require will and commitment from government staff and elected officials to see that these ideas are implemented.
- The importance of continued engagement with jurisdictions, bodies and individuals on the goals of this project. JPACT members discussed that it was important for elected officials, staff, and citizens continue to be included in the project as Phase 2 begins and decisions about specific policies are considered and discussed.
- The significance of land use and transportation to the Climate Smart Communities scenario project. JPACT members noted the importance of Community Design as a tool to reduce carbon reduction, but also stated their desire to see other industries and agencies adopt a fact-based, rigorously statistical method to reduce carbon emissions in their respective sectors.

7.3 Federal Legislative Agenda

Chair Collette introduced Mr. Andy Cotugno of Metro to speak about the JPACT finance subcommittee meeting being held the following week. Mr. Cotugno addressed the upcoming Federal Transit Authorization Bill, and the importance of this group to establish positions on policies and discretionary applications. He encouraged JPACT members to continue their discussion about regional project prioritization and to be prepared to address specific projects to specific grant opportunities, such as the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program. He noted that the region needs to be aware of current opportunities to apply for federal grants; a handout detailing these programs was distributed to the committee, and is included in the meeting packet. Chair Collette concurred, and noted that the Community Investment Initiative is also looking for innovative ways to fund transportation investments around the region.

8. ADJOURN

Chair Collette adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Aaron Brown
Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR DECEMBER 8, 2011

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

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
3	Document	12/07/11	US Department of Transportation Gives Green Light for I-5 Columbia River Crossing	120811j-01
6.1	Resolution	12/2011	Resolution No 11-4314 UPDATED	120811j- 02
6.1	Map	12/08/11	Map: Division Street Corridor, Resolution No. 11-4315	120811j-03
6.2	Slideshow	12/08/11	2014-15 Regional Flexible Funds: Final Recommendation	120811j-04
7.1	Letter	11/04/11	Metro Council Letter of Appreciation of PATSAC	120811j-05

7.2	Report	12/2011	Climate Smart Communities Scenarios: Understanding Our Choices	120811j-06
7.2	Slideshow	12/2011	Climate Smart Communities Timeline	120811j-07
7.3	Handout	12/2011	FHWA FY 2010 Discretionary Grant Programs	120811j-08