

 Metro | Meeting Summary

Southwest Corridor Plan Steering Committee
Monday, July 22, 2013
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Tigard Public Library

Committee Members Present

Craig Dirksen, Co-chair
Bob Stacey, Co-chair
John Cook
Denny Doyle
Charlie Hales
Neil McFarlane
Bill Middleton
Lou Ogden
Gery Schirado
Jason Tell
Roy Rogers

Metro Council
Metro Council
City of Tigard
City of Beaverton
City of Portland
TriMet
City of Sherwood
City of Tualatin
City of Durham
ODOT
Washington County

Committee Members Excused

Suzanne Turley

City of King City

Alternate Members Present

Al Reu

City of King City

Metro Staff Present

Leila Aman , Matt Bihn, Anthony Buczek , Nick Christensen , Catherine Ciarlo , Tim Collins, Marne Duke, Joyce Felton, Elissa Gertler , Cliff Higgins, Juan Carlos Ocana-Chiu, Jamie Snook , Michael Walter, Steve Wheeler, Hope Whitney, Malu Wilkinson

1.0 Welcome and introductions

Co-chair Bob Stacey, Metro Councilor, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. He noted that the purpose of the meeting was to celebrate work accomplished during the past year and to make several key decisions to set the focus for the work ahead.

2.0 Consideration of the steering committee meeting summary from July 8, 2013

Co-chair Stacey asked for a motion to approve the meeting summary from July 8, 2013. Mayor Denny Doyle, City of Beaverton, made the motion; Mr. Neil McFarlane, TriMet, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3.0 Celebration – what we’ve accomplished

Co-chair Craig Dirksen, Metro Councilor, provided an overview of what had been achieved by SW Corridor plan project partners during Phase I. He reminded the committee of their decision to first review partner land use and development plans, and to use local plans to determine the kinds of projects that would help meet community goals. He believed that the effort each city put into their local land use plans was vital to the success of the SW Corridor Plan supporting a shared community vision.

Ms. Malu Wilkinson, Metro, reviewed minor changes made to the Shared Investment Strategy Recommendation. She referred the committee to the July 16, 2013 Memo regarding the “Committee recommendation, changes between draft and final versions,” (included in the agenda packet) stating that it provided an overview of changes to the recommendation.

4.0 Public comment

Co-chair Stacey opened the meeting for public comment, and encouraged attendees to submit written versions of remarks to the committee.

Mr. Scott McClain of the Markham Neighborhood Association encouraged the committee to address the traffic challenges faced by individuals who cross the Sellwood Bridge from Southeast Portland and then travel through Spring Garden to reach I-5.

Ms. Marianne Fitzgerald of Southwest Neighborhoods emphasized the importance of community involvement. She believed that the committee should be willing to consider large-scale projects as many community members in the southwest Portland neighborhoods saw the committee’s work as an opportunity to achieve long-term solutions. She asserted that challenging projects could be completed with community involvement.

Mr. Michael Harrison of Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) stated that transportation access was one of OHSU’s greatest challenges at its Marquam Hill campus, and that the SW Corridor Plan could have substantial impact on OHSU. He noted that making

Marquam Hill accessible entailed partnerships with students, employees, Metro, the City of Portland, and TriMet. He informed the committee that 56% of OHSU employees and students used transportation modes other than driving alone. He added that OHSU looked forward to continuing those partnerships and that interim Marquam Trail improvements were anticipated.

Co-chair Stacey asked Mr. Harrison if he thought increased activity at OHSU's South Waterfront location was predicted to ease the traffic challenges at Marquam Hill.

Mr. Harrison answered that OHSU planned to move more of its academic functions to its South Waterfront location, and that it hoped to move more of its ambulatory and patient work there as well. He noted that these actions would mean that Marquam Hill would be used for work that generated fewer trips. He said that traffic challenges would remain for anyone who lived in the neighborhood, drove to OHSU, or drove an ambulance to OHSU.

Mr. Roger Averbeck of the SW Neighborhoods Transportation Committee commented that it was essential to engage communities impacted by the SW Corridor Plan. He requested that all the projects on the list be given a thorough analysis. He argued that the evaluation of projects in terms of expense and viability should not take place at this point. He did not believe that high capacity transit (HCT) could be implemented in the southwest corridor without fixing infrastructure problems.

Ms. Kathy Newcomb of the Tualatin Transportation Task Force expressed disappointment that rapid transit was not a goal of the recommendation. She said that the committee should have determined the availability of inexpensive land that could be used for dedicated transit lanes. She said that Bull Mountain road running into Sherwood had a median available for transit, but that the cost of land along Barbur Boulevard running into the Tigard Transit Center remained a question that the committee should consider.

Mr. Andy Bergman, Tigard resident, stated that he lived near the WES line and that he believed it was not heavily used in the daytime route from Tigard to Tualatin. He added that buses on 99W did not seem to be heavily used. He inquired as to why money should be spent on potential HCT alignments on Hall Blvd or 72nd Street. He was against spending money on transportation projects that might disrupt communities and provide minimal benefits. Co-chair Stacey responded to Mr. Bergman's comments by stating that he had looked at a recent TriMet report detailing ridership by line. The report indicated that a fair number of people were using the WES line.

5.0 Consideration of the Final Recommendation

Mayor John Cook, City of Tigard, motioned to approve the Phase I Recommendation for the Southwest Corridor Plan and the Shared Investment Strategy, and to direct project staff to move forward into Phase II of the project. Mr. Jason Tell, ODOT, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Charlie Hales, City of Portland, commended the work accomplished by the committee and staff so far, and noted that the committee had moved away from a traditional planning process in which a sponsoring agency proposed a project and a community responded to it. He explained that the current process encouraged more community partnership. He added that transportation projects were long processes, and that federal funds are not guaranteed but he believed that the project would be competitive for federal funding as the SW Corridor Plan developed.

Mr. McFarlane thanked staff for their work on the Shared Investment Strategy, and stated TriMet was increasing service on various routes. He asserted that one of the strengths of the recommendation was that it included short-term actions. He noted that there was great demand for bus service in Tualatin and on 99W and for transit in the corridor. He believed that improvements related to pedestrian connections and sidewalks would help to improve transit accessibility in the corridor.

Mayor Doyle thanked staff and members of the public for their work and participation. He hoped that the SW Corridor Plan would be implemented efficiently and affordably. Co-chair Dirksen thanked staff and citizens who had assembled the land use and transportation plans and stated that the foundation of the plan was community-based. He hoped the SW Corridor Plan would achieve the shared community vision.

Co-chair Stacey added that the work accomplished so far facilitated true community building.

Mayor Ogden, City of Tualatin, emphasized that local service improvements and short-term results were important. He also highlighted the importance of that access to a Tualatin-based transit station. Co-chair Stacey replied that transit was only one component of the solution to the challenges presented by growth in the corridor.

6.0 Refinement calendar

Ms. Leila Aman, Metro, highlighted the connection between land use plans and the refinement phase of the SW Corridor Plan (presentation included in the agenda packet) She explained that the focus of the committee's work had a strong regional emphasis. She noted that HCT transit plans were based on present needs but allowed for flexibility in the future.

Ms. Aman described the tools and approaches the committee would use in the refinement phase to send messages to the private sector about desired changes. She explained that approaches would be tailored based on development-readiness in the communities of the corridor. She reviewed how sidewalks, street trees, and other green amenities could create the environment for desired development. She encouraged committee members to collaborate with public and private sector partners.

Ms. Wilkinson reviewed Southwest Corridor refinement plan (included in the agenda packet). She explained that integration of HCT, local transit service, development strategy, and public engagement would be vital to achieving land use goals. She added that staff proposed that the Steering Committee meet approximately every other month from September 2013 to June 2014.

7.0 Next meetings and adjourn

Co-chair Dirksen described the committee's next steps of sharing its recommendation with local jurisdictions and councils. The committee would ask each of the local councils to take action endorsing the committee's recommendation between now and the end of fall, with the Metro Council acting last.

Co-chair Stacey emphasized the importance of investing at the appropriate levels now to achieve future goals. He adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Meeting summary respectfully submitted by:

Michael Walter,
Administrative Assistant

Attachments to the Record:

Item	Type	Document Date	Description	Document Number
1	Agenda	7/22/13	July meeting agenda	072213swcpssc-01
2	Summary	7/8/13	7/8/13 meeting summary	072213swcpssc-02
3	Memo	7/16/13	Recommendation memo	072213swcpssc-03
4	Factsheet	7/22/13	Shared investment strategy factsheet	072213swcpssc-04
5	Document	7/22/13	Shared investment strategy recommendation	072213swcpssc-05
6	Document	7/22/13	Attachment A	072213swcpssc-06
7	Document	7/22/13	Attachment B	072213swcpssc-07
8	Document	7/15/13	Refinement Overview	072213swcpssc-08
9	Document	7/22/13	Appendix F of SW Corridor Public Involvement Report	072213swcpssc-09
10	PowerPoint	07/22/13	Moving Into Refinement	072213swcpssc-10