



Southwest Corridor Plan Steering Committee
Monday, January 13, 2014
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Tualatin Police Department

Committee Members Present

Craig Dirksen, Co-chair
Bob Stacey, Co-chair
John Cook
Steve Novick
Bill Middleton
Lou Ogden
Jason Tell
Roy Rogers

Metro Council
Metro Council
City of Tigard
City of Portland
City of Sherwood
City of Tualatin
ODOT
Washington County

Committee Members Excused

Denny Doyle

City of Beaverton

Alternate Members Present

Dan Blocher
Linda Tate
Al Reu

TriMet
City of Durham
City of King City

Metro Staff

Steve Wheeler, Elissa Gertler, Malu Wilkinson, Anthony Buczek, Camille Tisler, Juan Carlos Ocana-Chiu, Hillary Wilton, Molly Simas, Francesca Patricolo, Joyce Felton

1.0 Welcome and introductions

Co-chair Bob Stacey, Metro Councilor, welcomed the committee and audience members to the meeting. He outlined the upcoming Southwest Corridor Plan calendar, and noted that the Steering Committee will not meet again until April. He explained that during the interim the project will continue to move forward, especially with public involvement efforts.

Co-chair Stacey informed the Steering Committee that this meeting will be spent discussing and adopting the revised Purpose and Need Statement and creating an implementation focused group made up of a variety of interests including: community based groups, elected officials, and health care representatives.

He asked the committee members to provide brief project updates from their jurisdictions. Commissioner Roy Rogers, Washington County, explained that Washington County is still committed to the success of this project. He assured the committee that the county will do whatever it can, regarding land use or project coordination, to keep the project on track.

Mayor John Cook, City of Tigard, explained that public outreach is a high priority for Tigard in the coming months. He noted that there will be a public meeting on February 13, 2014.

Mr. Dan Blocher, TriMet, informed the committee that TriMet is actively engaged with Metro in evaluating refinement options. He noted that TriMet is also working on the Southwest Service Enhancement Plan.

Councilor Al Reu, City of King City, noted that King City has entered the planning stage for the mall and transit.

Mayor Bill Middleton, City of Sherwood, informed the committee that Sherwood is still engaged in the process and wants to help in any way possible.

Co-chair Craig Dirksen, Metro Councilor, noted that he has engaged in public dialogue, which drew some media attention. He explained that his comments, as recorded by the Oregonian, were not intended to place pressure on the committee, but expressed his personal opinion to a direct question. Commissioner Rogers suggested that Co-chair Dirksen's opinion may still be changeable dependent on forthcoming information and study. Co-chair Dirksen agreed entirely.

Mayor Lou Ogden, City of Tualatin, welcomed the committee to Tualatin. He explained that Tualatin's vision update has been completed. He attended a community forum in Tualatin that included a great deal of dialogue regarding the Southwest Service Enhancement Plan, though that was not the focus of the forum. Mayor Ogden explained that steps are being taken to ensure that Tualatin's land use and community plans fit the Southwest Corridor Plan.

Commissioner Steve Novick, City of Portland, informed the committee that the City of Portland has convened an informal forum for public comment. Thus far, attendance has been about 40.

Mr. Jason Tell, ODOT, noted his excitement about the upcoming phase of the project, during which the steering committee will have to weigh the information and public input in order to make difficult decision.

Ms. Linda Tate, City of Durham, informed the committee that there were no updates from Durham, excepting their work on the Upper Boones Ferry Road project.

At this point, Co-chair Stacey asked that audience members introduce themselves.

2.0 Consideration of the Steering Committee meeting summary from October 14, 2013

Co-chair Stacey asked the committee to consider the meeting summary from the October 14, 2013 Southwest Corridor Steering Committee meeting. Mayor Cook made a motion to accept the meeting summary. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. All committee members voted to accept the summary without revision.

3.0 Review of spring calendar

Ms. Malu Wilkinson solicited questions regarding the calendar. She noted that the meeting in March was canceled due to conflicts with the JPACT trip to Washington, D.C. and spring break.

Mayor Cook and Commissioner Rogers informed the committee they will not be available for the April meeting.

4.0 Consideration of the approval of the Statement of Purpose and Need for the Refinement phase

Ms. Wilkinson reviewed what a Statement of Purpose and Need is, and noted the legal requirements for it under the national environmental policy act (NEPA). She explained that the committee adopted one in 2012, but it has been revised to reflect the Steering Committee recommendation from July 2013. She outlined the changes between the two documents and informed the committee that it was reviewed with the federal transit authority and the public. The public feedback on the document is summarized and available in the survey summary. Miss Wilkinson explained that this version of the statement is much more specific to the narrowed corridor and reflects the goals the project is trying to address. She noted, however, that this will not be the last time the committee or the public see and review the document.

Mr. Tell inquired about the changes in language. Ms. Wilkinson explained that the language was changed to make the document more targeted towards transit. Ms. Joyce Felton further noted that there was no change in the intent, rather the changes made the language more specific and simple.

Commissioner Novick expressed concerns about removing the mention of car travel, and the inferences that could be made from the language as a result.

Per multiple committee member suggestions, four amendments were made to the Statement of Purpose and Need.

1. In the third bullet under “Project Need,” the word transit was changed to travel, and it now reads “Travel is slow and is not reliable on congested roadways.”
2. In the sixth bullet under “Project Need,” the phrase “much of” was struck, and it now reads “The corridor is rich in natural resources that need to be protected or enhanced.”
3. In the second bullet under “Project Purpose,” the word improve was inserted, and it now reads “Increase multimodal transportation options and improve mobility in the corridor.”
4. In the eighth bullet under “Project Purpose,” the word overall was inserted, and it now reads “Provide options that reduce overall transportation costs.”

Co-chair Stacey suggested that the language of the fourth change be addressed again at a later date.

Co-chair Stacey called for a motion to approve the document as amended. Mr. Tell made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Novick. Hearing no opposition, the motion passed.

5.0 Consideration of the appointment of the founding members of ID Southwest

Co-chair Dirksen informed the committee that the original Steering Committee charter included mention of the creation of an implementation partners group. This group, now named Implementation Development (ID) Southwest, has been charged with bringing together a community-based perspective on the shared investment strategy in order to maintain forward momentum for the project.

He explained that ID Southwest will formally be a subcommittee of the Steering Committee, so members can be added as necessary, in order to keep the group dynamic and relevant to the issues that arise. The committee will meet no more than six times a year.

Mayor Middleton inquired about the possibility of adding a member of the Sherwood Chamber of Commerce to the ID Southwest committee. Co-chair Dirksen replied positively and informed Mayor Middleton that it could be explored.

Per Mayor Ogden’s inquiry, Ms. Gertler explained that the state representative from Tualatin had been approached about the committee, but had declined to participate. She noted, however, that the representative did ask to stay informed. Co-chair Dirksen added that many of the parties invited to the committee that were unable to participate, still expressed interest in the group and a desire to stay updated on their progress.

Co-chair Stacey noted that following the printing of materials on Friday, confirmation was received from Barry Glassner, President of Lewis and Clark College, that he will be participating on the committee.

Per a citizen suggestion, Ms. Gertler noted that the Portland State University planning program could be contacted and asked for a representative.

At this point, Mayor Ogden made a motion to approve the list as it is currently, with the understanding that it will not remain static. It was seconded by Commissioner Rogers. The motion passed unanimously.

6.0 Southwest Service Enhancement Plan update

Co-chair Dirksen introduced Mr. Tom Mills' presentation on the Southwest Service Enhancement Plan, noting that local transit has been a priority of the project from the beginning. Mr. Mills reviewed the major outcomes for the Southwest Service Enhancement Plan including: near term low-cost improvements, long term vision for service, and partnerships for improved operations and pedestrian improvements. He explained that the plan evaluates how the community wants to see local service enhanced and compares that to trip pattern data. Mr. Mills outlined the process and noted that TriMet is in the outreach and data collection/mapping phase. Based on data, he informed the committee that TriMet serves needs well at peak hours, but provides inadequate service at midday and on weekends. Mr. Mills also noted that data shows fewer people are going downtown; he overviewed ridership along different routes and outlined data showing where people live, work and where they travel in between.

Mr. Mills outlined the stakeholder outreach and community meetings TriMet has participated in since November. He explained that TriMet is also making a marked effort to reach out to underrepresented populations.

Mayor Cook noted how well the November community meeting in Tigard went. Mr. Mills echoed this statement.

Co-chair Dirksen inquired about Mr. Mill's statement that TriMet is still in the beginning phase of the process. He noted that already some service increases have been responsive to what has been identified through the Southwest Corridor Plan process. Mr. Mills agreed that some service has been restored already, and not only in the corridor, but further service enhancement will take place later in the process.

Per Mayor Ogden's inquiry, Mr. Mills explained that this phase will conclude in March, and TriMet is aiming to bring a service vision back to the committee and the community by summer. The service vision will likely include a map that shows lines by frequency. Mayor Ogden noted that he would like to see new routes on the map, and Mr. Mills said new routes may be a component of it.

Commissioner Novick asked if there was a financial estimate. Mr. Mills replied that the Westside service enhancement plan could serve as a comparison; its estimate was about 30 million.

7.0 Multimodal projects overview

Co-chair Dirksen introduced Mr. Anthony Buczek's presentation on multimodal and green projects in the Southwest Corridor. Mr. Buczek outlined the screening and narrowing process that identified key projects from the original exhaustive list. He informed the committee that there were two sets of projects identified: projects critical to high capacity

transit and projects critical to land use. This presentation only addressed projects related to high capacity transit.

Mr. Buczek then reviewed what multimodal and green projects are and divided them into different categories. He also explained the difference between alignment supportive projects and station area supportive projects, and noted that there is a different narrowing process for each. Alignment supportive projects will be filtered as different transit alignments are finalized, but station area supportive projects will be prioritized through station area planning work.

Mr. Buczek informed the committee that, before June, staff hopes to further narrow and prioritize the list of multimodal projects, create concept designs and cost estimates for certain projects, and evaluate the projects within the active transportation plan. He then outlined the four types of green projects: parks, natural resources, stormwater, and fish passage. Regarding the fish passage and stormwater projects, he noted that there are three tiers of opportunity for completing these projects: first during transit construction, second as a mitigation project, or third by leveraging other resources.

Mr. Buczek explained that access to parks will be evaluated as station areas are planned, and the benefits of parks to specific development sites within station areas will be highlighted. He outlined the timeline for the process and noted that staff is trying to prepare the project for the draft environmental impact study (DEIS).

Per Mr. Tell's inquiry, Mr. Buczek informed the committee that the total estimate for the list of high capacity transit multimodal and green projects is between 400 and 500 million. Mr. Tell further inquired about the main criteria for narrowing the project list. Mr. Buczek reiterated that alignment projects will be narrowed by the final transit alignment; he noted, however, that the station area project narrowing will be more complex. Mr. Tell asked if there was an estimate available currently, but Mr. Buczek explained that it is too early in the process. Councilor Dirksen also noted that some projects that will not directly affect transit may be opportunity funded.

8.0 Public Comment

Co-chair Stacey opened the floor for public comment, reminding the audience of the three minute limit on comments.

Ms. Marianne Fitzgerald, a resident of SW Portland and representing Southwest Neighborhoods Inc, thanked Commissioner Novick and the City of Portland for facilitating an informal work group where the public can discuss the Southwest Corridor.

Mr. Steve Shop, a resident of Tualatin, informed the committee that he believes a public vote on high capacity transit is necessary. He expressed concerns about what projects will not be pursued if voters reject high capacity transit. He expressed interest in the amount of money that has been spent on the planning process thus far and asked that the figure be posted.

Mr. Roger Averbeck, of the Southwest transportation committee, also thanked the City of Portland for facilitating the work group. He noted the importance of the multimodal projects in the overall success of the project.

Mr. Richard Emmett, a retiree, explained that as his eyesight fails he will use public transit more frequently. He informed the committee of how valuable he believes transit is, and noted that he is in favor of it.

Ms. Billie Reynolds, a resident of King City, complemented the committee on the project's focus on local service enhancement. She informed the committee that if they would like to approach republican legislators about ID Southwest, she could provide their information. Co-chair Stacey explained that they had been approached and none had accepted, but he would be happy to see her reach out to them.

9.0 Adjourn

Co-chair Stacey adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Meeting summary respectfully submitted by:

<SIGN HERE FOR FINAL VERSION>

Camille Tisler

Attachments to the Record:

Item	Type	Document Date	Description	Document Number
1	Agenda	01/13/14	January meeting agenda	011314swcpssc-01
2	Document	01/6/14	Refinement Calendar	011314swcpssc-02
2	Summary	10/14/13	10/14/13 meeting minutes	011314swcpssc-03
3	Document	01/13/14	Draft Purpose and Need	011314swcpssc-04
4	Document	01/13/14	Survey summary: Draft Purpose and Need	011314swcpssc-05
5	Document	01/10/14	ID Southwest members	011314swcpssc-06
6	Document	01/13/14	Exhibit C – Res. 13-4468A	011314swcpssc-07
7	Document	01/13/14	Green Projects: Discussion draft	011314swcpssc-08
8	Document	01/13/14	Multimodal Projects: Discussion draft	011314swcpssc-09
9	PPT	01/13/14	Southwest Service Enhancement	011314swcpssc-10
10	PPT	01/13/14	Multimodal & Green Projects	011314swcpssc-11