



METRO POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**March 26, 2014**

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ruth Adkins  
Jody Carson, *Chair*  
Dennis Doyle  
Maxine Fitzpatrick  
Kathryn Harrington  
Jerry Hinton  
Dick Jones  
Carrie MacLaren  
Anne McEnery-Ogle  
Marilyn McWilliams  
Doug Neeley  
Wilda Parks  
Craig Prosser  
Martha Schrader  
Bob Stacey  
Peter Truax, *1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair*  
Jerry Willey

**AFFILIATION**

PPS, Governing Body of School Districts  
City of West Linn, Clackamas Co. Other Cities  
City of Beaverton, Washington Co. 2nd Largest City  
Citizen, Multnomah Co. Citizen  
Metro Council  
City of Gresham  
Clackamas County Special Districts  
Oregon Dept. of Land Conservation & Development  
City of Vancouver  
Clackamas Co., Special Districts  
City of Oregon City, Clackamas Co. 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest City  
Citizen, Clackamas Co. Citizen  
TriMet  
Clackamas County  
Metro Council  
City of Forest Grove, Washington Co. Other Cities  
City of Hillsboro, Washington Co. Largest City

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Tim Clark, *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair*  
Sam Chase  
Craig Dirksen  
Andy Duyck  
Charlie Hales  
Tom Imeson  
Keith Mays  
Charlynn Newton  
Loretta Smith  
Steve Stuart

**AFFILIATION**

Multnomah Co. Other Cities  
Metro Council  
Metro Council  
Washington County Commission  
City of Portland  
Port of Portland  
Citizen, Washington Co. Citizen  
City of North Plains, City in Washington Co. Outside the UGB  
Multnomah County  
Clark County

**ALTERNATES PRESENT**

Lise Glancy  
Jeff Gudman

**AFFILIATION**

Port of Portland  
Clackamas County

**Staff:**

Andy Cotugno, Alison Kean, Kim Ellis, Lake McTighe, Troy Rayburn, John Williams, Ina Zucker, Nikolai Ursin, Steve Wheeler and Jessica Rojas.

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

MPAC Chair Jody Carson called the meeting to order and declared a quorum at 5:02 p.m.

**2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS & COMMUNICATIONS**

All meeting attendees introduced themselves.

**3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

No citizen communication on non-agenda items were discussed.

**4. COUNCIL UPDATE**

Councilor Kathryn Harrington informed the committee that Metro is seeking public input on how we live, work and get around the region. The public comment period lasts through May 5<sup>th</sup>. Comments are welcomed in regards to the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan, Active Transportation Plan, 2015-18 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program and the Climate Smart Communities Scenarios Project. A short online survey available at [www.makeagreatplace.org](http://www.makeagreatplace.org) Metro Council will hold a public hearing on the RTP on May 15 at 2 p.m.

Councilor Harrington reminded members that the upcoming Joint MPAC/JPACT meetings on the Climate Smart Communities Project will be held on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at the World Forestry Center. In consideration of the joint meetings, the April 9<sup>th</sup> and May 28<sup>th</sup> MPAC meetings have been cancelled.

Councilor Harrington referred members to the 2013 Metro Compliance Report which outlines how well each of the 25 cities and three counties comply with Metro's Functional Plan. Copies of the report were distributed in the meeting packet and each city and county will receive a copy of the report in the mail. Councilor Harrington informed members that the report will also be submitted to the Land Conservation and Development Commission.

Councilor Harrington invited members to complete the Diversity Action Plan survey, in an effort to help Metro better serve the region's communities and encourage diverse participation in decision-making bodies. All information is anonymous and participation is voluntary. Members will receive an e-mail invitation following the meeting to complete the five-minute online survey.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- **Consideration of the Feb. 26, 2014 Minutes**
- **Appointment of new MTAC Members**

**MOTION:** Mayor Truax moved and seconded by Dick Jones to adopt the Feb. 26, 2014 minutes and the MTAC Member Nominations.

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

## **6. OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Chair Carson provided opening remarks on the public review of the draft Regional Transportation Plan and the public comment period. John Mermin, Senior Transportation Planner with Metro, provided an update on the proposed changes to the public review draft of the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP is the long term strategy that guides investments in the region's transportation system to reduce congestion, build new sidewalks and bicycle facilities, improve transit service/access to transit and maintain freight access. Mr. Mermin reviewed the timeline of the process, beginning with adoption of the work program by JPACT and Metro Council in September. Project solicitation was conducted in fall of 2013. Project coding and modeling, including the finalization of the RTP document, was completed in February. The Regional Committees preview draft of the RTP was conducted through February and March. The public comment period began March 21<sup>st</sup>. Final adoption is set for July 2014.

Takeaways of the plan included:

- It continues the key elements from the last4 RTP such as an emphasis on:
  - Outcomes / performance measurement
  - Making the most of the existing system
  - Completeness and Connectivity
- The 2014 update is primarily a house keeping update, with policy changes limited to biking,

The walking and safety sections – incorporating additional detail and strengthening policies to reflect the Regional Active Transportation Plan and Regional Safety Plan. Mr. Mermin provided updates to the RTP by chapter

Member questions and comments included:

- Mayor Doug Neely inquired if input was considered from local jurisdictions.

Mr. Mermin responded that the project list updates came directly from local jurisdictions based on their recently adopted local plans

Councilor Harrington referred to the chapter 4 performance evaluation timeline, and asked Mr. Mermin if the public will have access to a summary of the results.

Mr. Mermin responded that results are currently on the website.

- Jeff Gudman asked clarifying questions about the current level of funding and how to achieve the goals in the plan.

Mr. Mermin responded that funding is limited, and modeling shows that not all of the goals can be met in the time frame allotted in the plan.

- Ruth Adkins inquired about opportunity to amend the RTP if needed in the future.

Mr. Mermin confirmed that there is opportunity to amend the RTP in the future as needed.

Councilor Bob Stacey mentioned that he had suggested to his colleagues on the Metro Council that they consider an explicit amendment to the RTP that would provide language listing the objectives that the CRC is intended to serve and providing some criteria that would help future individual projects be developed to achieve most of the objectives of the CRC. Thus far, he has not yet found others to join with him to support this idea.

## **7. PREVIEW OF PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT REGIONAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN WORK**

Chair Carson provided opening comments on the Active Transportation Plan (ATP), reminding members that the presentation is the first discussion on the ATP since its support of a resolution acknowledging the draft plan September 2013. Based on MPAC's recommendations and with support from the Metro Council, there are ongoing opportunities to review and refine the draft ATP. A regional work group comprised of local jurisdictions, agency staff, advocates and other stakeholders has provided extensive input on the draft ATP.

Lake McTighe, Senior Transportation Planner with Metro, presented a preview of the Regional ATP work group refinements. Ms. McTighe provided historical context of the regional Active Transportation Plan as an implementation activity in the 2010 RTP. She discussed the review and refinement process that was conducted October 2013-January 2014 with 40 participants who provided feedback on the draft review of the ATP. The changes are reflected in a track changes version of the plan. Overall the regional work group expressed support for the changes made, as the plan better reflects the needs and desires of their region.

Ms. McTighe provided context about the intent of the ATP and examples of the type of changes included in the revised plan. She provided examples of what has changed in the RTP based on recommendations from the ATP, including the pedestrian and bicycle networks, concepts and bike and pedestrian policies that were strengthened and refined. The suggestions are data based. Network maps were displayed to give members a sense of what the networks include. Other considerations in developing the maps in the ATP included density of populations and the future volumes of bike traffic, as well as access to regional destinations.

Next steps for finalizing the ATP include receiving feedback on the refinement process and opportunity for public review following March 5-May 21. Ms. McTighe will return to MPAC to seek preliminary approval on May 14th and then to seek full approval on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Council is scheduled to take action on the ATP resolution on July 17th.

Member questions and comments included:

- Jeff Gudman expressed concern that Metro and the MPAC committee could damage its credibility with the public by approving the ATP at the present level of funding, due to declining funding in the future. He expressed concern for the volume of projects in the plan that may not have a chance of implementation in a timely manner.

Ms. McTighe responded that the plan has indentified that there is limited funding as well as the reflection that there are future opportunities to seek additional funding, and that the ATP is a strategy and vision plan for 2040.

- Gudman responded that the list of projects should be cut by 2/3 due to the chance of achievement, and expressed concern for losing credibility.

Councilor Bob Stacey responded that the RTP consists of policies, system maps and project lists that are subject to a process with the federal government that will be focused on funding. Due to that process, some projects will advance and while others may not. By identifying a stretch, future considerations can be highlighted that identify the need as well as funding strategies.

- Mr. Gudman expressed concern for the politics of adopting a plan that isn't timely to the goals as an issue.
- Dick Jones inquired about specific wording in regards to biking and walking. Mr. Jones sought clarification as to what is considered a short trip and that climate should be considered as to whether we can do this all year. He also expressed concern for the walk-ability goals being aligned with biking.

Councilor Harrington acknowledged the comments and the political climate and offered suggestions to the staff to present timelines and goals that are realistic and honest.

- Members asked clarifying questions about trails and other pedestrian considerations.
- Peter Truax referred to the edits that incorporate bike and pedestrian policies into targeted areas. He expressed concern for losing the point by making the policies wordier.
- Members expressed satisfaction with Metro staff on the work done to compile the results and edits considering the challenges.

## **8. CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES: LOCAL, REGIONAL AND STATE APPROACHES TO USE INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE TRAVEL MORE SAFE, EFFICIENT AND RELIABLE**

Chair Carson provided opening remarks for the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Project in preparation for upcoming joint MPAC-JPACT meetings that will be held on April 11th and May 30<sup>th</sup>. MPAC will discuss all seven policy areas to develop recommendations to the Council on what to include in the draft preferred approach.

A panel of speakers from various local government agencies presented on their efforts to incorporate Climate Smart approaches in their jurisdictions. Stacy Shetler of Washington County presented on the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) efforts to enhance their transportation system management and operations to reduce traffic congestion and provide traveler information. Mr. Shetler discussed causes of traffic congestion and provided suggestions on traffic control,

pedestrian and rural areas' safety considerations. Other aspects included enhanced traffic signal timing operations, transit signal priority, and traffic surveillance. Expected benefits from ITS include improved travel time, a reduction in delay, fuel consumption, vehicle emissions and crashes.

Darin Weaver, Incident Management Coordinator for ODOT, presented on Traffic Incident Management and ITS programs. Mr. Weaver provided insight on sources of congestion and the incidences that happen in the state system. He discussed roadway clearance durations and the impact it has on traffic flow. Mr. Weaver offered specific strategies that ODOT is utilizing, such as Instant Tow, to dispatch tow truck assistance based on certain criteria and coordinating with other services.

The results indicate a reduction in highway congestion caused by accidents that block the way of traffic. Other programs highlighted included the SHRP2 TIM responder program and the services it provides for roadways in collaboration with training responders to utilize safe and quick clearance practices. Sources of funding included an FHWA Operations Grant supported by Metro that led to the implementation of a Portland areas management team that coordinates the disciplines that work on reducing traffic clearances.

Eric Hesse, from TriMet's Planning and Policy staff, shared some of TriMet's efforts to improve operations, make transit frequent, convenient and affordable, and provide information tools to assist customers and planning partners. Mr. Hesse provided an update from a recent TriMet board meeting, in regards to the electronic fare system that will be implemented. He discussed the challenges in utilizing the existing technology and the mobile ticketing application through smart-phones.

Other topics included the future of E Fare, opportunities to utilize technology to capture ridership, and efforts to address fare equity through capping rates. Mr. Hesse also discussed TriMet's operation environment, the challenges and solutions to sharing the roadways, keeping them user friendly by designing passenger amenities, and coordinating signal and operational changes.

Jenny Cadigan, Executive Director of the Westside Transportation Alliance, presented on the Open Bike Initiative, a collaborative effort between Nike, Intel and other corporations. Ms. Cadigan provided background as to how the program started and the evolution of previous bike share programs. Benefits of Bike Share included greater employee satisfaction, recruitment/retention of employees, reduction in traffic and parking while meeting corporate responsibility objections.

Ms. Cadigan provided the results of the pilot program and discussed the phasing of Bike Share in regards to technology with considerations that include smart phone compatibility. She provided insight on Nike's bike share program and offered resources online to assist others in developing bike share programs.

Questions and comments included:

- Members inquired about TriMet's transit signal priority (TSP) efforts

Eric Hesse responded that the research at Portland State University is looking at the methodology of improving delay utilizing the TSP.

- Members provided feedback on safety initiatives.

Eric responded that there are recertification efforts in the safety assessment and welcomed feedback.

- Members inquired about New York's experience with bike share.

Ms. Cadigan responded that she knew that bike share isn't doing as well in New York as expected due to touring targets, but local bike share differs as it is focused on the corporate campus level.

**Member communications:**

Craig Prosser of TriMet provided members with an update on TriMet's proposed budget process and indicated that fare was not increased, frequent services lines are approved to be restored, as well as an expansion into weekend frequent service. Mr. Prosser discussed the bus replacement program and rail maintenance funding. He mentioned a recently adopted plan to manage funding of the retirement program. He also provided an update in regards to public transportation policy, OPAL's request for an increase in transfer system time, and indicated that the Federal Transit Authority has called for a transit equity study.

Bob Stacey acknowledged Steve Wheeler's last day at MPAC as he will be working with the City of Hood River.

Doug Neeley reminded members about former MPAC member William Wild's memorial service.

Chair Carson adjourned the meeting at 6:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Rojas



Recording Secretary

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR MARCH 26, 2014**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT No.</b>
8	PPT	3/26/14	Washington County Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Plan	32614m-01
8	PPT	N/A	ODOT Traffic Incident Management	32614m-02
8	PPT	3/26/14	TriMet: Technology Tools for Making Transit More Convenient, Accessible and Frequent	32614m-03
8	PPT	N/A	Westside Transportation Alliance Open Bike Initiative	32614m-04
6	PPT	3/26/14	Overview of public review draft 2014 Regional Transportation Plan	32614m-05
7	PPT	3/26/14	Public Review Draft of the Regional Active Transportation Plan	32614m-06
4	Handout	Spring 2014	Metro Public Comment Period Factsheet	32614m-07
8	Handout	3/26/14	TriMet Electronic fare System	32614m-08