



JOINT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION (JPACT)
FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE
January 15, 2015
Metro Regional Center, Rooms 370 A & B

JPACT MEMBERS PRESENT

Craig Dirksen, Chair
Neil McFarlane
Steve Novick
Roy Rogers
Paul Savas

AFFILIATION

Metro Council
TriMet
City of Portland
Washington Co.
Clackamas Co.

STAFF and Councilors: Andy Cotugno, Shirley Craddick, Kim Ellis, Elissa Gertler, Kathryn Harrington, Dan Kaempff, Ted Leybold, Lake McTighe, Ted Leybold, Bob Stacey

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Craig Dirksen called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m.

Chair Dirksen stated that he received a request from Chris Rall at Transportation 4 America to sign on to a letter calling on the Oregon federal delegation to stabilize the Highway Trust Fund and provide more local control of federal dollars. The deadline to sign is Feb. 3 so JPACT would not have an opportunity to consider signing as a committee. Mr. Andy Cotugno noted that the policy he has drafted for federal transportation mirrors support for increasing the funds and that it is consistent with past year adopted positions. The subcommittee agreed to modify the letter and share copies with JPACT members.

STATE LEGISLATURE - NEXT STEPS: CONTINUE BUILDING THE NEED FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Chair Dirksen provided a summary of the subcommittee's work in 2014 to identify transportation funding priorities. JPACT endorsed the Oregon Transportation Forum (OTF) transportation funding and priorities package at the Jan. 8 JPACT meeting. The Metro Council and the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) will be considering the proposal in January as well.

Commissioner Roy Rogers recounted amendments to the transportation funding package that were proposed and discussed at the JPACT meeting on Jan. 8. Commissioner Rogers expressed concern that individual jurisdictions advocating for varying distributions of Enhance funds would make the region appear divisive. Members agreed that conversations with representatives from the Legislature should highlight the importance of allocating funds to allow for completion of significant projects.

Commissioner Paul Savas discussed the importance of a united, regional position on transportation funding goals to improve the likelihood of passing a state transportation package.

Members identified potential obstacles to passing a transportation funding package during the legislative session. Members agreed that there will be a need to follow the conversations at the state legislature and support and present positions accordingly.

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZATION: CORE MESSAGES FOR WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP

Chair Dirksen confirmed that the JPACT trip to Washington D.C. would be the week of April 28, which coincides with the Portland Business Alliance (PBA) and Oregon Business Association's (OBA) trip to D.C. He welcomed member discussion on priority transportation items to present to delegates on the trip, but noted that the conversation would continue with JPACT in February with adoption in March. Chair Dirksen welcomed input on the regional position on federal transportation policy as drafted by Mr. Cotugno.

Mr. Cotugno clarified that JPACT members attending D.C. as delegates would have the adopted regional position to use as talking points with our federal delegation.

Member discussion:

- Commissioner Rogers commented that the letter provided does not support any of the delegation's ideas or positions and suggested specifically calling out their proposals.
- Mr. Neil McFarlane discussed small and new starts programs, noting that new starts may have a different name. He inquired whether there's a way to identify why investments are falling short. Mr. McFarlane suggested adding language about growth of small and new starts projects and the need to increase the funding level.
- Members discussed historical distribution of funding from the Highway Trust Fund to highways and transit.
- Commissioner Savas commented on the level of congestion and cost associated in the region, and suggested adding emphasis on the need to address congestion.
- Mr. McFarlane stated that because Portland Business Alliance would be going to D.C. the same week, they will have points from their cost of congestion study to share. Mr. Cotugno stated that JPACT representatives hope to coordinate with PBA.
- Mr. Cotugno explained that specific projects listed on the handout may require intervention by members of our delegation with the Federal Highway Administration or the Federal Transit Administration.
- Members discussed framing priority bullets and inclusion of an illustrative project list of how transportation funding would be allocated. Mr. Cotugno expressed concern about the notion of presenting a list of projects to fund because the list would be too long to choose from. He reminded members that all projects in the Regional Transportation Plan are eligible for federal funds.

DEFINITION OF A REGIONAL SYSTEM FOR REGIONAL FUNDING

Mr. Cotugno directed members to a memo [Framework for discussion of Transportation System of Regional Funding Interest], which seeks to identify Regional Transportation Plan projects of sufficient regional importance that creates shared interest by leaders and stakeholders in seeking these projects funded.

Commissioner Rogers inquired if there is an agreed upon definition of “arterials and throughways.” Mr. Cotugno stated that definitions are included in the RTP and elaborated on the distinction for projects of regional significance.

Members discussed the importance of defining a regional transportation system to address and respond to comments from constituents.

Commissioner Rogers proposed that subcommittee members review the materials presented and devote time to discussing opportunities to regionally fund projects of the transportation system.

Chair Dirksen stated that before the region could agree on a regional funding strategy, members would need to agree on projects that the funds would support.

WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS

The committee agreed to proceed with defining a regional system and directed staff to bring a proposal to the next meeting.

ADJOURN

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

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Schmidt".

Jill Schmidt, Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JAN. 15, 2015

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
4.0	Memo	12/23/2014	Regional position on federal transportation policy	11515j-01
4.0	Handout	12/23/2014	Regional position on federal transportation policy	11515j-02
4.0	Handout	N/A	RTP "Regional System" of interest definitions	11515j-03
5.0	Memo	1/2015	Framework for discussion of transportation system of regional funding interest	11515j-04