



TRANSPORTATION POLICY ALTERNATIVES COMMITTEE
May 29, 2015
Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Williams
Karen Buehrig
Lynda David
Chris Deffebach
Don Odermott
Nancy Kraushaar
Karen Schilling
Eric Hesse
Katherine Kelly
Nick Fortey
Adrian Esteban
Carol Gossett
Steve White
Jared Franz

AFFILIATION

Metro
Clackamas County
Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council
Washington County
City of Hillsboro, representing Cities of Washington Co.
City of Wilsonville, representing Cities of Clackamas Co.
Multnomah County
TriMet
City of Gresham, representing Cities of Multnomah Co.
Federal Highway Administration
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Michael Williams
Dave Nordberg
Cora Potter
Lanny Gower

AFFILIATION

Washington State Department of Transportation
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Community Representative
Community Representative

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Alan Snook
Phil Healy
Peter Hurley

AFFILIATION

Oregon Department of Transportation
Port of Portland
City of Portland

STAFF: Ted Leybold, Lake McTighe, John Mermin, Lisa Hunrichs, Tom Kloster, Peggy Morell, Kim Ellis, Jamie Snook

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Chair John Williams declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair Williams updated members on the following items:

- Ms. Kim Ellis provided a brief update about the Land Conservation and Development Commission's (LCDC) approval of the Climate Smart Strategy. LCDC approved the strategy as adopted by the Metro Council last December, and the strategy will be further implemented through the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan update. Ms. Ellis provided a copy and a link to the final Climate Smart Strategy report, which consolidates all the elements that were adopted by the Metro Council. She reported that LCDC also directed the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to create a rulemaking advisory committee to make recommendations to the commission on proposed 2040 greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets to better align with horizon years of long range transportation plans statewide. The commission directed that the advisory committee should address whether targets should be set for two newly designated metropolitan areas (Albany area and Middle Rogue). The rulemaking advisory committee would also be asked to conduct review of the process of metropolitan area transportation planning to explore how efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation can be better coordinated with related state and federal requirements. Ms. Ellis suggested that the rulemaking process be a possible future topic at TPAC. TPAC members expressed interest in having further discussion about the target rule as the process develops.
- ODOT Bike / Pedestrian Plan Update (deferred to discuss at TPAC meeting on July 31, 2015).

TPAC members shared the following updates:

- Karen Schilling announced that she will be retiring as of July 1, 2015. Joanna Valencia will be taking her place on TPAC beginning in July 2015.

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Ron Swaren of 1543 SE Umatilla Street, Portland, observed that he has long been an advocate for the western arterial highway, which he believes would solve our interstate traffic problems in a cost-effective way. It has been conceived as an industrial highway that would link four highways to improve industrial transport and freight management. He asked TPAC members to consider that preformed and/or elevated sidewalks could be a solution to the bike lanes and walking path limitations in various areas around the city, specifically on Barbur Boulevard and in the SW Corridor.

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE TPAC MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 27, 2015

MOTION: Ms. Nancy Kraushaar moved and Mr. Eric Hesse seconded the motion to adopt the TPAC minutes from April 24, 2015, with the following amendments.

Ms. Amanda Ownings attended as an alternate representing the cities of Clackamas County, and Mr. Peter Hurley had abstained from approving the minutes since he had not been present at that meeting.

ACTION: With all in favor, the motion passed.

5. 2018 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE KICK-OFF

Ms. Kim Ellis (Metro) provided an overview, timeline, and process for updating the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Ms. Ellis reminded members that the RTP provides the policy framework for many of the activities that Metro is responsible for as the federally-designated metropolitan planning organization, including the Unified Planning Work Program, air quality conformity, monitoring and managing congestion, Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program. TPAC

members were invited to provide input on priority focus areas to be addressed through the 2018 RTP update and how the region can best work together to address those focus areas.

Member comments included:

- Chris Deffebach asked if Metro Council approval of the UGR in 2015 would determine the new land use allocation. Due to timing, the initial recommendation from staff is to use the adopted 2040 growth forecast. Staff agreed to look at this issue further as part of developing the work plan for the RTP update.
- Karen Schilling observed that “underserved populations” and other specific groups could be engaged directly. By leveraging established relationships with organizations, it might be possible to learn more from those populations that could provide critical and valuable feedback. Ms. Ellis agreed and asked TPAC members to consider how Metro could partner with TPAC members in engagement work, leverage relationships or established meetings, and stay connected throughout the project timeline
- Mr. Eric Hesse noted that leveraging of relationships and ensuring key engagements strategies will be critical to the success of the project, and will be a strong approach. Encouraging the team to take the time needed to ensure that strategies developed as part of the Climate Smart Strategy process are included.
- Mr. Steve White encouraged the team to work with community-based organizations to increase the value of input, to build capacity within organizations to participate in the process, and ensure that their expertise is leveraged.
- Ms. Katherine Kelly noted that it will be important to identify funding strategies such as those discussed in the Climate Smart Strategy process. She encouraged the development of tangible and objectively defined steps to ensure funding availability that will lead to implementation.
- Mr. Don Odermott noted that engagement with businesses and grassroots organizations, allows support to be built for transit in general and the RTP, specifically. He noted challenges and travel issues on west side (OR 217/OR 219) and expressed hope that the plan will reflect those content issues that are affecting jurisdictions throughout the region.
- Ms. Nancy Kruashaar suggested an increased focus on collaboration with businesses and noted that this could be a good opportunity to focus the RTP on public health, safety, and equity issues. As part of that, she noted that this RTP update might provide opportunity to make alternative modes of transit more accessible so as to improve mobility and relieve congestion for freight and other traffic throughout the region. She also noted the importance of identifying and developing new funding sources and strategies.
- Mr. Jared Franz asked how equity goals could be met if long range growth modeling and planning are colorblind and class blind. Ms. Ellis stated that the growth forecast does include income information but does not include race or ethnicity detail at this time. Metro is currently working to build that capacity and Ms. Ellis will report back to the committee.
- Steve White noted that hospitals and the health/business community could be a good resource to involve during planning efforts. Ms. Ellis noted that schools, universities, and other organizations are bringing key perspectives to other planning processes, so outreach is planned to ensure involvement from those communities.

6. REGIONAL TRANSIT SYSTEM PLAN AND COORDINATION WITH TRIMET SERVICE ENHANCEMENT PLANS AND SMART MASTER PLAN

Ms. Jamie Snook (Metro), Mr. Eric Hesse (TriMet), and Mr. Stephan Lashbrook (SMART) provided an introduction and process overview of the Regional Transit Strategy (formerly known as the Regional Transit System Plan) and discussed how project partners are working to coordinate efforts that are

reflective of the region's needs. Mr. Hesse provided an overview of TriMet's Service Enhancement Plan and discussed efforts to ensure that plans fit with the shared vision for the community. He detailed some of the areas of focus and encouraged feedback from TPAC members as the plans are being shaped. Mr. Lashbook of SMART discussed connections to the smaller transit providers throughout the region. He reminded members of the various master plan updates underway including those in Wilsonville and the statewide effort. He asked members to consider what it will take to implement the Climate Smart Strategy, to encourage people to change habits and begin using alternative modes of transit; and what funding strategies can be put in place to accomplish those objectives. Ms. Snook provided historical context for the overall RTP planning process, how the Regional Transit Strategy (RTS) fits within that project, and the importance of building partnerships throughout the region to ensure that the RTS reflects a shared vision and investment strategy for the region.

Member comments included:

- Mr. White noted that equity impacts for transit depend on accompanying housing strategy. He suggested the inclusion of a housing component that allows people to live near where transit investments are being made. He noted the opportunity for the project to meet both transportation and land use goals and suggested that transit-oriented development could be included.
- Ms. Karen Beuhrig noted the importance of financing and to discuss how projects can be funded, since many of the smaller transit providers have different opportunities for funding. She suggested that senior centers might be a valuable resource to include in the conversation and noted that it is important to discuss how to grow districts to ensure coverage.
- Ms. Kraushaar asked which factors were guiding the service enhancement process; for example: existing conditions, transit oriented development, or market trends. Mr. Hesse clarified that the SEPs are focused on service improvements and supporting access investments that need to be made. Other issues that are continuously analyzed include crime prevention through environmental design, visibility, safety, and reliability. These issues are being scrutinized more fully through the service enhancement review and coordination with the RTS process.
- Nancy – state is doing a review of statewide transit. Connect with the state's study. Noted the importance of ensuring that citizens understand how the connections work.
- Mr. Odermott called the committee's attention to the north / south travel demand issues in the Tualatin Valley and cautioned that innovative, out-of-the-box thinking would be necessary to try to encourage citizens to use transit and reduce single-car commute demand, especially from those commuting from Colombia County to jobs in the sunset corridor. He noted that viable choices must be available to support a sea change for transit conditions in that area.
- Mr. Peter Hurley suggested two components that might provide opportunity for success with the Regional Transit Strategy: if going to achieve climate smart outcomes equity, affordability. 2. Review the synergy component of the short list of actions in Climate Smart Communities. Transit is successful when other components are in place and when access to transit is safe and easy, when demand management programs are in place, and when the adequate land use (job or housing) densities are in place. Success components and clear target for what we are attempting to achieve. City of Portland is working with TriMet with support from DLC/ODOT is working with TGMO funding for a project called Growing Transit Communities to analyze the components needed to make transit successful in corridors. Mr. Hurley noted that this information would be available and valuable to development of regional transit strategy.

7. WASHINGTON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Ms. Chris Deffebach (Washington County) provided an overview of the study objectives, engagement and coordination process and schedule for Washington County’s transportation study.

8. PROJECT OF THE MONTH - SELLWOOD BRIDGE

Ted Leybold (Metro) provided an overview the purpose and intent of “Project of the Month” presentations. This initiative is intended to provide an ongoing opportunity to demonstrate how planning, policy, and programming lead to real projects, and to discuss outcomes of planning work that have sometimes taken years to come to fruition. As projects are shared at both TPAC and JPACT, discussion about the planning and implementation of those projects may provide lessons that will help shape future policy development.

Mr. Leybold introduced Ian Cannon, Project Manager for the Sellwood Bridge Replacement project who has been working on the project since 2003. Mr. Leybold noted that the regional involvement centered around three different efforts, South Willamette River Crossing Study which led to an application from Multnomah County for regional flexible funds in 2006, and Tiger III prioritization. The study was completed in 1999 which demonstrates how far ahead projects must be planned and discussed.

Mr. Cannon provided TPAC members with an overview of the funding sources, project partners, challenges, and successes of the project to date.

Members were pleased to have the opportunity to hear about this project, and encouraged additional future presentations.

9. ADJOURN Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Lisa Williams, Training and Development

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 29, 2015

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	Agenda	5/29/2015	Meeting agenda	052915T-01
1.0	Work Program	5/29/2015	Work program	052915T-02
4.0	Meeting Minutes	4/24/15	Meeting minutes	052915T-03
5.0	Memo	5/20/2015	2018 Regional Transportation Plan Update	052915T-04
5.0	Handout	5/14/2015	Getting There 2018 Regional Transportation Plan Update Background	052915T-05
6.0	Memo	5/19/2015	Regional Transit System Plan	052915T-06
6.0	Handout	May 2015	2016 Regional Transit System Plan Process Overview – Summer 2015 to Fall 2018	052915T-07
6.0	Handout	n/a	The Future of Transit – TriMet’s Service Enhancement Plans	052915T-08
6.0	Handout	May 2015	Updating Wilsonville’s Transit Master Plan	052915T-09
6.0	Handout	Sept. 2013	Westside Service Enhancement Plan	052915T-10
7.0	Handout	5/11/2015	Washington County Transportation Futures Study	052915T-11