



METRO POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)

Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2015

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Clark, *1st Vice Chair*
Mark Gamba, *2nd Vice Chair*
Jeff Gudman
Dick Jones
Susie Lahsene
Keith Mays
Anne McEnerny-Ogle
Marilyn McWilliams
Craig Prosser
Loretta Smith
Bob Stacey
Peter Truax, *Chair*
Jerry Willey

AFFILIATION

City of Wood Village, Multnomah Co. Other Cities
City of Milwaukie, Clackamas Co. Other Cities
City of Lake Oswego, Clackamas Co. Largest City
Oak Lodge Water District, Clackamas Co. Special Districts
Port of Portland
Washington County Citizen
City of Vancouver
Tualatin Valley Water District, Washington Co. Special Districts
TriMet Board of Directors
Multnomah County
Metro Council
City of Forest Grove, Washington Co. Other Cities
City of Hillsboro, Washington Co. Largest City

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Sam Chase
Carlotta Collette
Betty Dominguez
Jerry Hinton
Renate Mengelberg

AFFILIATION

Metro Council
Metro Council
Clackamas County Citizen
City of Gresham, Multnomah Co. 2nd Largest City
City of Oregon City, Clackamas Co. 2nd Largest City

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Jennifer Donnelly
Kathryn Harrington
Jackie Manz
Brenda Perry
Marc San Soucie
Jeff Swanson

AFFILIATION

Department of Land Conservation and Development
Metro Council
City of Lake Oswego, Clackamas Co. Largest City
City of West Linn, Clackamas Co. Other Cities
City of Beaverton, Washington Co. 2nd Largest City
Clark County

OTHERS PRESENT: Adam Barber, David Blair, Eric Chambers, Carol Chesarek, Chris Deffebach, Kimberly DeSantis, Zoe Monahan, Ron Swaren

STAFF: Shane Abma, Tom Chaimov, Kim Ellis, Nellie Papsdorf, Ramona Perrault, Ken Ray, Paul Slyman, Ina Zucker

1. CALL TO ORDER, SELF INTRODUCTIONS, CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

MPAC Chair Peter Truax called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. and declared a quorum. All attendees introduced themselves.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Ron Swaren, City of Portland: Mr. Swaren spoke to MPAC about a proposed Western Arterial Highway. He explained how the additional connection could improve access and mobility in the region and shared potential design components.

3. COUNCIL UPDATE

Councilor Bob Stacey notified MPAC members of the following items:

- The closing of a Newberg paper mill has challenged the region’s ability to recycle wood waste. 85 percent of the region’s wood waste was being sent to a mill in Newberg that will close indefinitely on November 15. There is no known replacement facility available that could handle the amount of wood in the various conditions that the region produces, but Metro is working with local governments, waste facilities, and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to find long-term solutions to the problem.
 - Mr. Keith Mays encouraged Metro staff to seek out the variety of lumber mills and other wood processing plants in the region and explained that the majority of them have boilers that are able to burn wood waste.
 - Councilor Stacey noted that the quality of materials that were accepted at Newberg were sometimes lower quality than those accepted by other facilities.
- The Metro Council is continuing to consider public testimony on the Urban Growth Report (UGR) that is expected to be adopted with amendments by the end of 2015. A new amended version of the UGR includes a number of important elements including: direction to plan for the midpoint on the range and the assumption that it is likely that the City of Damascus will vote for disincorporation, potentially accelerating development. There are two more hearings scheduled: October 29 at 5:30pm and November 5 at 2pm. The Metro Council is scheduled to vote on the urban growth management (UGM) decision at its meeting on November 12.
 - Mayor Willey expressed concerns about housing affordability. He expressed support for choosing the midpoint in the range, but noted that there was still no solution to the region’s growing affordable housing crisis and emphasized the need to address the effects of the demands on the region’s housing.
- “Howloeen” at the Oregon Zoo: Families and communities are invited to spend October 31 at the Oregon Zoo’s Halloween event. The day will include educational activities and treats for visitors and animals alike. The event runs from 9am to 3pm.

4. MPAC MEMBER COMMUNICATION

There were none.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.1 Consideration of September 9, 2015 Minutes

5.2 MTAC Member Appointments

MOTION: Councilor Jeff Gudman moved and Mayor Mark Gamba seconded, to adopt the consent agenda as amended.

ACTION: With all in favor, the motion passed.

Notes: Mr. Craig Prosser asked that his comments on the top of page three of the minutes be corrected to read that “the Governor recently appointed two additional members to the TriMet Board of Directors filling vacant positions,” not TriMet.

6. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Solid Waste Roadmap Update

Chair Truax explained that at its April 8 meeting, MPAC heard about changes that the Metro Council is considering in the way the region will manage its garbage in the future. He noted that future decisions of the Metro Council on topics related to solid waste may have implications for local governments, but no recommendation or action from MPAC was requested at this time. He then introduced Mr. Paul Slyman, Director of Property and Environmental Services, and Mr. Tom Chaimov, Principal Solid Waste Planner, to give an overview of recent update considerations.

Key elements of the presentation included:

- Mr. Slyman shared a video from Metro’s website that investigates how much people know about where their garbage and recycling goes. He explained that the video demonstrates that people are not completely informed about what happens to their garbage and recycling, and noted that for this reason, Metro has made a concentrated effort over the past two years to educate people about the region’s solid waste system.
- Mr. Slyman stated that the region generates more than 2 million tons of materials (including recycling, yard debris, construction waste, and food waste) each year. He explained that the materials are not just sent to Metro’s transfer stations, but to an array of public and private stations as well.
- Mr. Slyman noted that the region recycles 64% of discarded materials each year and emphasized that keeping recyclable materials out of the waste stream has always been Metro’s priority. He went over some of the ways Metro does this including encouraging recycling at home and at work, reusing devices such as computers as a part of its product stewardship programs, operating a recycling information hotline, donating and safely disposing of household hazardous waste, and recycling unwanted paint through the MetroPaint program.
- Mr. Slyman explained that despite the region’s impressive record with recycling and reusing its discarded materials, it still throws away over a million tons of garbage each year, the majority of which ends up in a landfill located in Gilliam County. He stated that Metro was interested in exploring how to make the most of the materials the region does not want and that the Solid Waste Roadmap program engages industry experts, government planners, and the public in exploring how to do better. He noted that this included learning more about the modern alternatives to relying solely on landfills.
- Mr. Slyman then introduced Principal Solid Waste Planner Tom Chaimov to give an overview of one alternative to consider moving forward. He noted that the scenario was not necessarily what the Metro Council or Metro staff was recommending, but instead one of many possible alternatives to consider.
- Mr. Chaimov began with an overview of how landfills are used in the region and noted that they are regulated by the state and managed by experts to mitigate environmental impacts.

He explained that the current system works well but Metro was still interested in exploring what could be improved. He then shared four ways the system could be improved:

- Mr. Chaimov explained that the first option was to better recover food scraps from the waste stream. He stated that one fifth of what ends up in the landfill is food waste and that the majority of it comes from restaurants, grocery stores, hospitals, and other large commercial food services. He discussed the significance of food waste, noting that it could be used to produce compost and/or energy.
- For the second tool, Mr. Chaimov acknowledged that after food waste was removed, the remaining waste would be drier, making it more amenable to sorting. He spoke to the possibility of incorporating advanced material recovery tools into the solid waste system in order to better sort through waste and separate valuable materials. He noted that advanced material recovery facilities can be expensive to set up and operate, so it would be important to be sensitive to the market and only recover materials that are in demand.
- Mr. Chaimov stated that for the third option, after food scraps and additional recyclables were removed, the leftover waste could be used to create energy and reduce the volume of waste going into the landfill. He highlighted the City of Salem, explaining that they burn waste from homes and businesses to make electricity, reducing landfill volume by 85-90%.
- For the final option, Mr. Chaimov highlighted landfills. He stated that it's estimated the region has at least a hundred years of landfill capacity and expressed interest in making sure the capacity was used judiciously. He noted that in this vein, staff was currently developing a policy to guide the region's future use of landfills.
- Mr. Chaimov shared the rewards of such innovations including: getting more out of the items the region discards, reducing the impacts of waste on the environment, and putting waste to better use creating compost, energy, and recycled-content products.
- Mr. Slyman explained that since the last MPAC discussion in April, the Metro Council had directed staff to seek out accelerated efforts to get more food scraps out of garbage and explore its environmental, economic, and energy potential. He noted that the Council also directed staff to investigate a policy framework for how the region could recover more recyclable materials out of the wet waste stream. He stated that staff would meet with the Metro Council on November 17 to further discuss waste-to-energy options, and on November 24 to discuss initial staff analysis to develop the policy to guide the region's future use of landfills.
- Mr. Slyman shared the following next steps of the update: reach out to the business community to find the best ways to keep food scraps out of the waste stream, understand the costs as well as environmental and health impacts of a waste-to-energy system, understand the impacts of landfill choices on local communities and ratepayers, and ensure the existing transfer system will be able to adapt.
- Mr. Slyman invited committee members to attend an upcoming Let's Talk Trash event scheduled for Wednesday, November 4 at 7pm that would be dedicated to discussing the history and impact of landfills, as well as what the future holds for the region's solid waste system. He noted that the event would be held at the Oregon Historical Society and would be free and open to the public.
- Mr. Slyman then asked the committee how it would like to be involved in the solid waste update process and if members had any immediate feedback about presentation.

Member discussion included:

Ms. Marilyn McWilliams mentioned the recycling facility near the City of Brooks and asked if it would be possible to build a similar facility within the Metro area.

Mr. Mays asked about regional and/or statewide efforts to reduce the production of difficult-to-recycle products such as packaging. Mr. Slyman explained that Metro provides producer responsibility programs and other educational programs to encourage manufacturers to keep waste from being generated in the first place but reducing packaging had proved particularly challenging.

Mayor Mark Gamba inquired about the amount of trucks sent to the landfill each day and what percentage of that waste represented food waste. Mr. Slyman responded that about sixty were sent each day, accounting solely for the public transfer stations. He explained that the majority of food waste eligible for recapture came from commercial sources. Mayor Gamba asked about the Covanta Energy-from-Waste facility in Brooks, Oregon and its air quality outputs. Mr. Slyman responded that the facility meets Department for Environmental Quality (DEQ) emissions standards and complaints had diminished in recent years.

Mr. Dick Jones asked if Metro had looked into donating discarded Christmas trees to the region's watersheds. Mr. Slyman responded that they were certainly used in Metro's parks and natural areas and added that the agency would be open to pursuing partnerships with local watershed councils and other interested parties.

Mr. Swanson inquired about the amount of moisture in the waste stream and if it was significant. Mr. Slyman responded that DEQ does a waste composition study every two years and explained that five years ago, Metro paid an additional amount for them to evaluate dry samples and discovered the largest contributor to moisture was food.

Mayor Willey encouraged staff to reach out to the waste hauler industry throughout the update process. He also expressed support for recycling and conservation education programs for the business community and constituents.

Mr. Mays asked about the frequency of meetings with haulers. A waste management representative present at the meeting explained that Metro holds a Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting each month that includes waste management professionals. He noted that the SWAC subcommittee and other waste disposal committees also provide additional engagement opportunities.

Chair Truax explained that the City of Forest Grove was evaluating the possibility of including food waste in yard debris, instead of sending it to transfer station, and had discovered the additional cost would be less than two dollars a month for residents. He noted a fraction of the cost would focus on funding recycling and waste management educational programs. He added that the city had also successfully used recycled Christmas trees in its watershed, causing salmon to return to the area.

Councilor Gudman emphasized the importance of being cognizant of the cost considerations that play into policy discussions. He explained that members can identify benefits of providing education but it's helpful to be able to return to city councils and residents with costs in hand.

Councilor Clark noted that there was a question on a recent Opt-In survey asking if participants would be willing to pay an additional five dollars a month for an improved solid waste system, and

asked if that meant such a system would include additional costs. Mr. Slyman explained that while additional costs had yet to be evaluated, any change to the current system would cost more due to the low operating costs of the landfill.

7. ACTION ITEMS

7.1 2018 Regional Transportation Plan Update Work Plan and Public Engagement Plan

Chair Truax explained that the committee would be making its final recommendation to the Metro Council on the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update draft work plan and public engagement plan. He explained that Ms. Kim Ellis, Project Manager, would provide a brief overview of the developments that have occurred since she last came to MPAC on October 14 to provide context for the discussion. He noted that at the October 14 meeting, members made recommendations for changes to the work plan that were taken to the Metro Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) for their consideration. Chair Truax added that copies of the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan had been made available per his request, and emphasized that understanding the current desired outcomes, policies, and actions in the 2014 RTP would be essential to understanding the updates recommended as part of the 2018 update.

Ms. Kim Ellis explained that MPAC's role in the RTP update was to make a recommendation on the final package, constituting a land use action to ensure compliance with Statewide Planning Goal 12. She noted that MTAC voted unanimously to recommend that MPAC recommend Council approval of Resolution No. 15-4662 with additional refinements inspired by MPAC's discussion. She explained that at the October 14 meeting, MPAC members had identified two areas for further discussion by MTAC:

1. Expand the RTP finance work plan to identify potential new funding sources beyond what would be assumed in the RTP revenue forecast, such as tolling and other sources that have been implemented in other metropolitan areas, to support funding a more aspirational system of investments.
2. Identify an approach to ensure the policy committees stay informed about the status of the planning work occurring through the technical work groups and technical advisory committees and can provide advice on framing the policy issues that are brought forward to the Regional Leadership Forums and policy committees for discussion and direction.

She then gave a brief overview of the refinements as recommended by MTAC. She explained that MTAC recommended expanding the description of the work plan to more explicitly call out the identification of potential new funding mechanisms and to increase the number of work group meetings to reflect this technical work. She also noted that in addition to the coordination described in the existing draft work plan and public engagement plan, MTAC recommended that Metro staff convene a leadership forum planning group that includes the chairs of both policy advisory committees, or their designees, and designated Metro Council liaisons in advance of each Regional Leadership Forum to seek advice on the design of the forum, discussion materials, and their respective leadership roles during the forum.

Member discussion included:

Councilor Gudman stated that he had recently overviewed the 2014 RTP and its goals. He highlighted the plan's focus on decreasing total vehicle miles travelled in the region and explained that given the combination of the projected population increase and the reduction goal for miles

traveled, every car in the region would need to reduce its annual miles travelled by 225 miles. He emphasized that to accomplish such goals, it would be necessary to reach out to the public about the need for these reductions.

Councilor Stacey reminded the committee that the 2018 RTP update is the most comprehensive update the region has gone through since 2010. He explained that he was excited to continue the collaboration he experienced the previous year during the Climate Smart Strategy development process when MPAC, JPACT, and the Metro Council worked through significant policy decisions together. He noted that the 2018 RTP update proposed in the draft work plan and public engagement plan provides direction for grappling with the large questions related to funding, infrastructure, equity, congestion, and other important issues.

Councilor San Soucie inquired about RTP components addressed as part of the update and noted that the work program mentions the technical work groups but was unclear about how they will address each of the components. He also recommended including language that would focus on the pleasantness, attractiveness, and general quality of the transportation system as a central theme to help ensure that any negative impacts of the transportation system on the community are minimized and it remains community-oriented. He also suggested including questions in outreach surveys about the quality and character of the transportation system.

Mayor Willey acknowledged staff for listening to the committee's recommendations from the last RTP discussion and expressed his appreciation for incorporating them in the updated materials.

Ms. Susie Lahsene thanked Ms. Ellis and staff for all their work. She noted that the Port of Portland was currently doing outreach with the freight community as a result of the freight loss at Terminal 6 and explained that the conversations had been incredibly fruitful. She stressed that it had been a great process for the Port and encouraged Metro to reach out to users of the transportation system to ensure the update responds to their interests and needs.

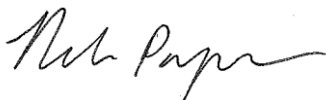
MOTION: Councilor San Soucie moved and Mr. Dick Jones seconded, to recommend that the Metro Council approve the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan Update work plan and public engagement plan with the changes recommended by MTAC.

ACTION: With all in favor, the motion passed.

8. ADJOURN

MPAC Chair Truax adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nellie Papsdorf
Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 28, 2015

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
6.1	Handout	N/A	Solid Waste Roadmap	102815m-01
6.1	Handout	11/04/15	Let's Talk Trash Invitation	102815m-02
7.1	Memo	10/21/15	MTAC Recommendation on Resolution No. 15-4662 and October 14 MPAC Topics	102815m-03
7.1	Report	07/17/14	2014 Regional Transportation Plan	102815m-04