



**Southwest Corridor Plan Steering Committee**

**Monday, June 13, 2016**

**9:00a.m. to 11:00a.m.**

**Beaverton City Council Chambers**

**The Beaverton Building**

**12725 SW Millikan Way**

**Committee Members Present**

Craig Dirksen, Co-chair

John Cook

Roy Rogers (9:17am)

Steve Novick

Krisanna Clark

Al Reu

Alan Snook

Neil McFarlane

Lou Ogden

Gerry Schirado

Denny Doyle

Metro Council

City of Tigard

Washington County

City of Portland

City of Sherwood

City of King City

ODOT

TriMet

City of Tualatin

City of Durham

City of Beaverton

**Metro Staff**

Malu Wilkinson, Chris Ford, Matt Bihn, Jessica Martin, Michaela Skiles, Craig Beebe, Noelle Dobson, Tyler Frisbee

## **1.0 Welcome and introductions**

Co-chair Craig Dirksen called the meeting to order at 9:00am and welcomed the committee members and public to the meeting. Committee members proceeded to introduce themselves.

Chair Dirksen asked committee members and guests to pause for a moment of silence for victims of the Orlando shooting tragedy.

Chair Dirksen provided a recap of the previous meeting actions and thanked members for diligently working in order to narrow down to a clear set of options. He added that the meeting today would focus on the last action needed to complete the refinement phase and would include an update to the purpose and need statement.

## **2.0 Consideration of the Steering Committee meeting summary from May 9, 2016.**

Co-chair Dirksen asked the committee for approval of minutes from the previous meeting.

**MOTION:** Mayor John Cook moved, seconded by Mayor Denny Doyle to approve the meeting summary from May 9, 2016. With all in favor, the meeting summary was **accepted** unanimously.

## **3.0 Public Comment**

**Richard Shavey**, Tigard resident, provided testimony in favor of having the light rail pass directly to Tigard downtown (written testimony submitted and included as part of the meeting record).

**Sunnie Page**, owner, The Ballroom Dance Company, provided testimony in favor of the Ash Avenue option (written testimony submitted and included as part of the meeting record).

**Arnold Panach**, Hillsdale resident, provided testimony to the committee. He asked committee members to make sure there are stops in city as well as suburbs. He asked committee members to consider where stations are and the economic impact of those.

**R.A Fontes**, Lake Oswego resident, spoke in support of bus rapid transit (BRT). He distributed a handout (included as part of the meeting record) illustrating BRT ridership in several countries.

**Roger Averbeck**, SW Portland resident and SW Neighborhood Inc. volunteer, spoke of his appreciation for the opportunity to appear before the committee. He directed the committee's attention to page 8 of the Draft Proposed Range of Alternatives for Environmental Review document in the meeting packet and proceeded to state his preference for Barbur needing bike lanes and sidewalks. He commended project staff for meeting with neighborhoods recently and refining project lists. He stated his surprise that projects providing walk/bike access were not automatically included.

**Evelyn Murphy**, Tigard resident, spoke about one of the challenges before the committee, which is to ensure all voices are heard. She added that the committee's challenge and opportunity is to hear from those in our community that are "invisible" (such as those who are dependent on others to get around) but part of the community.

**John Gibbon**, Markham Neighborhood Association, spoke about 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue improvements.

**Sue Christensen** – Citizens’ Coalition for Social Justice and Tigard resident spoke about the relation of infrastructure and economic stability. She stated that the decision for light rail would go along way into moving us in the modern world and creating a better Tigard for future generations.

**Steve Diangelo** – Tigard resident and self employed business owner for over 35 yrs old, spoke about light rail being the most sustainable choice for the future. He urged the committee to see the importance of connectivity (bike and pedestrian).

**Dave Jorling** – retired attorney and Lake Oswego resident stated his disappointed that Lake Oswego didn’t provide representation on this committee. He stated his support light rail.

#### **4.0 Recap of refinement phase, decisions before the committee.**

Chris Ford, Metro appeared before the committee to provide a recap of the refinement phase. He provided a PowerPoint presentation (included as part of the meeting record) which outlined the recap of decisions and public engagement over the past 18 months, reviewed decisions for the committee to consider (including overview of the proposed range of alternatives and additional staff comments on Purpose and Need).

#### **5.0 Consideration of whether to adopt updates to the project’s Purpose and Need**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recommended updating the Purpose & Need prior to public scoping of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in order to more clearly define the project to reflect decisions made during the Refinement Phase. Mr. Neil McFarlane stated his firm support in general, but proposed an amendment to add the words “high quality transit” into the second line in the paragraph:

##### **Project Purpose**

The purpose of the Southwest Corridor light rail project is to directly connect Tualatin, downtown Tigard, Southwest Portland, and the region’s central city with light rail, high quality transit and appropriate community investments in a congested corridor to improve mobility and create the conditions that will allow communities in the corridor to achieve their land use vision...

Chair Dirksen and Mayor Clark agreed. Mayor Ogden asked for clarification regarding what the committee’s options would be as the project moves through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Ms. Malu Wilkinson stated that the Purpose and Need is used to judge different alternatives. As alternatives are looked at, they would need to meet purpose and need criteria in order to move forward. She added that as the project moves forward, it will be important to assess how to meet all the components.

The committee discussed the need to ensure projects have flexibility as they advance and that the decision today wouldn’t preclude them from making changes in the future.

**ACTION:** Chair Dirksen, seconded by Mayor Cook moved to add the words “high quality transit” to the Purpose and Need statement. The motion was unanimously **approved.**

#### **6.0 Consideration of technical modifications to alignments in Tigard**

The steering committee discussed whether to adopt further study of (a) a two way alignment on SW 70<sup>th</sup> Ave. in the Tigard Triangle and (b) a branch service alignment that services both downtown Tigard and Bridgeport Village with a split in the Tigard Triangle, and whether to remove (c) the current couplet alignment on SW 68<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> avenues in the Tigard Triangle and (d) the current branch service alignment with a split at

Hunziker and Wall west of OR-217.

Commissioner Rogers stated his preference not to continue the Clinton alternative. Mayor Cook agreed. Mr. McFarlane advocated waiting until fall when the project would have some engineering work done. Depending on which branch the service of Bridgeport follows there could be different opportunities.

**ACTION:** Chair Dirksen moved, seconded by Councilor Reu to remove the couplet and branch options. The motion was unanimously **approved.**

## **7.0 Consideration of whether to endorse the Proposed Range of Alternatives for Environmental Review**

The committee discussed an endorsement of the Proposed Range of Alternatives (PRA), which would be presented during the DEIS scoping for public and agency comment. The PRA includes light rail alignment options, as chosen by the Steering Committee during the Refinement Phase, potential station locations and selected roadway, bike and pedestrian projects which are inherent to LRT design or provide critical access to PCC Sylvania and Marquam Hill.

**ACTION:** Mr. McFarlane moved, seconded by Councilor Reu to endorse the proposed range of alternatives for environmental review. The motion was unanimously **approved.**

Mayor Doyle asked for confirmation that this action would not obligate potential changes. Mr. Ford confirmed that this was correct. Metro project staff will prepare and package the information and distribute for the engagement process.

## **8.0 Overview of next phase**

Mr. Ford provided a PowerPoint presentation (included as part of the meeting record) describing the upcoming work on the Southwest Corridor Plan including next steps on the Shared Investment Strategy projects, purpose and approach of public scoping for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, decisions to be made after scoping and ongoing planning work concurrent with DEIS.

Mr. Ford stated that the next meeting would likely occur in September sometime – although no formal date has yet been set.

Chair Dirksen asked members and attendees to please check the Metro website for updates.

## **9.0 Adjourn**

There being no further business, Co-chair Craig Dirksen adjourned the meeting at 10:56 am.

Attachments to the Record:

Item	Type	Document Date	Description	Document Number
1	Agenda	06/13/16	Meeting agenda	061316SWCSC-01
2	Summary	05/09/16	05/09/16 meeting summary	061316SWCSC-02
3	Document	October 2014 – May 2016	Public Engagement Strategy	061316SWCSC-03
4	Memo	5/13/16	PTL recommendation regarding Tigard technical modifications	061316SWCSC-04
5	Report	6/6/16	Draft Proposed Range of Alternatives for Environmental Review	061316SWCSC-05
6	Memo	6/6/16	Additional input on updates to SW Corridor HCT Purpose & Need	061316SWCSC-06
7	Document	6/6/16	ATTACHMENT #1: Purpose and Need for the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Project	061316SWCSC-07
8	Document	5/14/12	ATTACHMENT #2: Southwest Corridor Plan and Implementation Strategy: Vision and Goals	061316SWCSC-08