



# Meeting minutes

Meeting: Southwest Corridor Steering Committee  
Date/time: Monday, Nov. 14, 2016  
Place: Council Chamber & Annex, Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave, Portland

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## **Committee Members Present**

Craig Dirksen, Co-chair	Metro Council
Bob Stacey, Co-chair	Metro Council
John Cook	City of Tigard
Neil McFarlane	TriMet
Steve Novick	City of Portland
Lou Ogden	City of Tualatin
Gery Schirado	City of Durham
Rian Windsheimer	ODOT

## **Metro Staff Present**

Malu Wilkinson, Brian Harper, Chris Ford, Matt Bihn, Yuliya Kharitonova, Michaela Skiles, Eryn Kehe, Anthony Buczek

### **1.0 Welcome and introductions**

Co-chair Bob Stacey called the meeting to order at 9:09 am and welcomed the committee members and public to the meeting. The committee members introduced themselves and noted their jurisdictional affiliation.

Co-chair Stacey noted that the committee would not be making any decisions today and gave a brief overview of the agenda items.

### **2.0 Consideration of the Steering Committee meeting summary from June 13, 2016.**

Co-chair Stacey asked the committee for approval of the meeting summary from June 13, 2016. With all in favor, the meeting summary was approved unanimously.

### **3.0 Project Update**

Mr. Chris Ford, Metro, gave an overview of the project updates since the June 13, 2016 Southwest Corridor Steering Committee meeting. Project updates included:

- Recap of the actions at the June meeting, including the light rail alignment options and station connection projects endorsed
- Activities thru August – TPAC and JPACT update, Metro Council resolution in support of direction, prep work for federal environmental review process
- Scoping Period (September 2 – October 3) – prep work, materials and outcomes
- Work since the end of scoping, including creation of a Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

Mr. Ford also previewed future project work, including:

- Upcoming Milestones:
  - Early December - Release Agency Coordination Plan, Shared Investment Strategy update
  - December 12, 2016 - Steering Committee action on recommendations, CAC appointments

- Draft EIS Timeline:
  - January-April 2017 – Negotiate methodologies, initial impact assessments
  - May-October 2017 – Iterative reviews with agencies
  - November 2017 – Complete draft for FTA final review
  - December 2017 – Completion and publication of Draft EIS
  - January-February 2018 – 45-day public comment period
  - March-April 2018 – Steering Committee selection of LPA
- Other 2017 Activities

#### **4.0 Public Involvement Update**

Co-chair Craig Dirksen introduced Metro's public involvement specialist, Eryn Kehe, to give an update on public engagement activities. Ms. Kehe gave a brief overview of early scoping activities and then continued her presentation on the outreach activities during the official scoping period which included:

- September 20 – Agency scoping meeting at TriMet
- September 22 – Public scoping meeting at Wilson High School
- Southwest Corridor & TriMet email list announcement
- September 2016 online survey (1606 respondents)
- Farmers Markets (Tigard, Hillsdale, OHSU)
- Neighborhood Meetings (South Portland, Homestead, Friends of Terwilliger, West Portland Park, SWNI and CPO 4M)
- Social media/Website information
- Paid Advertising & Metro News (7 multilingual ads)
- Local newspaper & newsletter announcements

Ms. Kehe summarized the outcomes from the public engagement efforts which included:

- Support for the draft Purpose & Need – 77%
- Support for the alignment options – 73%
- Support for station locations – 65%
- Support for park-and-ride locations – 70%
- Support for road, bike and pedestrian projects -74%
- Support for issues to study – 79%
- Support racial/social equity considerations – 80%

In conclusion, Ms. Eryn Kehe noted that call for applications for the Community Advisory Committee is out and its deadline is Monday, November 21, 2016.

#### **5.0 Staff Recommendations on Definition of Alternatives**

Mr. Matt Bihn, Metro, gave an overview of the Proposed Range of Alternatives for Environmental Review and presented staff recommendations which included:

- Marquam Hill connection:
  - Multiple elevator and bridge – modified option
  - Elevator and bridge with covered walkway – modified option
  - Pedestrian tunnel with elevator
- PCC Sylvania connection:
  - Bike and ped improvements to connect campus to LRT stations
  - Enhanced bus service (bus shuttle, park shuttle)
- LRT alignment options:
  - Remove Clinton branched alignment
  - Only consider 70th Ave, not 69th Ave, for Clinton through-routed alignment

- Remove alignment that transitions from adjacent to I-5 north of Crossroads to center-running Barbur south of Crossroads
- Stations and park & rides options:
  - Remove Hunziker station and park-and-ride
  - Increase Bridgeport station park-and-ride capacity to be studied
- Roadway, bike, and pedestrian projects:
  - Add 29 projects to those already identified in Proposed Range of Alternatives for study in Environmental Review based on further analysis and input during scoping
- Purpose and Need:
  - Add language to explain need for purpose: “Ensure benefits and impacts promote community equity.”

Mr. Bihn concluded with a brief overview of next steps, which included Steering Committee action on recommendations on December 12, 2016 and publication of Detailed Definition of Alternatives in late December 2016.

The committee members inquired about Bridgeport park-and-ride parking capacity, if a trenched path above Terwilliger Parkway would be continued to study as one of the Marquam Hill connection options, and possible Tigard park-and-ride locations.

Committee members also requested additional, more detailed information on alignment options adjacent to I-5.

- Mr. Neil McFarland, TriMet, asked staff to come back with a further review of both the in-Barbur and adjacent to I-5 alternatives between SW 13th Ave and Barbur Transit Center. Mr. McFarland cited increased costs and property impacts for the adjacent to I-5 alignment due to a wider setback from I-5 assumed in recent designs, as well as less desirable station locations than with a Barbur alignment. Mr. McFarland stated he hopes to reduce expensive alternatives to evaluate sooner rather than later and that only the most reasonable alternatives be evaluated in the Draft EIS.
- Co-Chair Dirksen noted it can be dangerous to enter a Draft EIS with only one alternative in a location in case of fatal flaws.
- Mr. Rian Windsheimer, ODOT, stated that he shares Councilor Dirksen’s concern and also understands the need to narrow options for environmental review when possible, but cited concerns that the project has not adequately reached out to potentially affected businesses along Barbur.
- Co-Chair Stacey expressed concern about the large amount of environmental review work to be completed by 2018 but also wants to ensure that a good idea is not dropped. Councilor Stacey encouraged staff to double down on outreach.
- Commissioner Novick stated his agreement on Mr. McFarland’s points.

## **6.0 Public Comment**

Ms. Kathleen McMullen, PCC, applauded the efforts of staff and partners for campus transit improvements and emphasized the importance of having affordable, accessible, and reliable transit connection for students and staff to be able to connect to the college campus.

Mr. Roger Averbeck, Oregon Walks, expressed support for staff recommendations and suggested that the map on page 12 in the November 2016 Staff Recommendation report should include potential station locations. Mr. Averbeck commended project staff for considerations on such issues as environment, communities of color, low income populations and senior citizens. He inquired if he could view road/bike/ped projects considered to understand what is being left out of the staff

recommendations and proposed to add an Oregon Walks representative to the community advisory committee.

Ms. Sylvia Kelley, PCC, emphasized that many PCC students face numerous challenges including lack of reliable and affordable transportation to and from college campus. She expressed support and excitement for the FTA TOD grant received by Metro and how it may be used in terms of the community equity.

Mr. John Gibbon, Markham Neighborhood Association, commended project staff and partners for bicycle and pedestrian projects in Southwest Portland. Mr. Gibbon complemented Mr. Neil McFarlane for the position regarding Barbur Boulevard and pointed out that he feels it would be the preferred alternative.

Ms. Denise Frisbee, PCC, commented on the launching of the PCC master plan and getting involved with the local communities. She pointed out that some of the community's concerns included housing affordability and availability, need for improvement of campus access points, need for improvement of bicycle and pedestrian access, and high transportation costs. In conclusion, Ms. Frisbee thanked the committee for considerations and stated that she is looking forward to working together.

Mr. Brad Perkins, Cascadia High-Speed Rail LLC (CHSR), recommended the Cascadia High Speed Rail corridor project to the members of the committee. He noted that a high-speed rail connection between Eugene, OR and Vancouver, BC should be considered when planning park-and-rides along the Southwest Corridor. Mr. Perkins updated the committee on the current state of the project and inquired if there was an opportunity to present it.

Mr. Richard Matza, Congregation Ahavath Achim, expressed concern about a proposed light rail station location on Barbur Boulevard and connection to Marquam Hill next to their synagogue. He strongly objected to this station location due to impacts all around the building and expressed concern it would bring vandalism, property damage, construction disruptions, and homeless people. Mr. Matza noted that a major concern is the uncertainty of how long before the light rail project is fully planned and completed and urged the committee to have a discussion about those issues to find an amicable resolution.

## 7.0 Adjourn

There being no further business, Co-chair Craig Dirksen adjourned the meeting at 10:43 am.

### Attachments to the Record:

Item	Type	Document Date	Description	Document Number
1	Agenda	11/14/16	Meeting agenda	111416SWCSC-01
2	Summary	06/13/16	06/13/16 meeting summary	111416SWCSC-02
3	Report	November 2016	Scoping Summary Report	111416SWCSC-03
4	Document	11/09/16	November 2016 Staff Recommendation: Revisions to the Proposed Range of Alternatives and Purpose and Need	111416SWCSC-04
5	Document	November 2016	Public Input (June-October 2016)	111416SWCSC-05
6	Letter	11/14/16	Letter to Southwest Corridor Steering Committee from Congregation Ahavath Achim	111416SWCSC-06