



600 NE Grand Ave.
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JOINT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION (JPACT)

Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2021

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

MEMBERS PRESENT

Shirley Craddick (Chair)
Juan Carlos González
Christine Lewis
Nafisa Fai
Paul Savas
Travis Stovall
Steve Callaway
Kathy Hyzy
Rian Windsheimer
Sam Desue
Nina DeConcini
Carley Francis
Anne McEnerny-Ogle
Temple Lentz

AFFILIATION

Metro Council
Metro Council
Metro Council
Washington County
Clackamas County
Cities of Multnomah County
Cities of Washington County
Cities of Clackamas County
Oregon Department of Transportation
TriMet
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Washington State Department of Transportation
City of Vancouver
Clark County

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Jessica Vega Pederson
Jo Ann Hardesty
Curtis Robinhold

AFFILIATION

Multnomah County
City of Portland
Port of Portland

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Chris Ford
Jamie Kranz
JC Vannatta
Jef Dalin
Scott Langer
Ty Stober

AFFILIATION

Oregon Department of Transportation
Cities of Multnomah County
TriMet
Cities of Washinton County
Washington State Department of Transportation
City of Vancouver

OTHERS PRESENT: Allison Boyd, Bob Kellet, Brenda Bartlett, Brian Mondberg, Christina D, Dave Roth, Don Odermott, Erin Doyle, Glen Bolen, Grace Cho, Hendrik, Jaimie Lorenzini, Jamie Stasny, Jeff Gudman, Jeff Owen, Jennifer John, Julia Hajduk, Katherine Kelly, Kim McMillan, Mark Ottenad, Matt Ransom, Matthew, Mark Gamba, Mike Bezner, Monica Tellez-Fowler, Omar Jaff, Sarah Iannarone, Stephen Roberts, Tom

Markgraf, Zachary Lindahl

STAFF: Alex Oreschak, Andre Bealer, Caleb Winter, Dan Kaempff, Elizabeth Mros-O'Hara, John Mermin, Kim Ellis, Lake McTighe, Lisa Hunrichs, Matt Bihn, Noel Mickelberry, Ted Leybold, Tom Kloster, Tyler Frisbee, Margi Bradway, Carrie MacLaren, Connor Ayers, and Jaye Cromwell

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

JPACT Chair Shirley Craddick called the virtual zoom meeting to order at 7:30 am.

Chair Craddick provided instructions on how to properly participate in the virtual meeting and called the role.

2. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

3. UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Craddick reminded members that starting next month, JPACT meetings would last two hours, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Chair Craddick asked Metro Staff Margi Bradway to read the names of those that have died in traffic accidents in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties.

Ms. Bradway shared the names and ages of victims during the month of April:

Max Denning Chapman, 36, Dustin Armogeda, 33, Kyle Neil Hansen, Emilia Barajas, 65, Mark Ray Trice, 43, Jeremy Hudson, 46, Michael L. Bute, 34, Michael Gazley-Romney, 31, and six unknown persons.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Mayor Steve Callaway moved to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle seconded the motion.

ACTION: With all in favor, motion passed.

5. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Regional Congestion Pricing Study – Final Report & Discussion

Chair Craddick reminded members that at the last meeting they had requested more time to discuss the Regional Congestion Pricing Study. The item today is just a discussion with no amendments or actions being taken. Chair Craddick introduced Metro Staff Margi Bradway and Elizabeth Mros-O'Hara to begin the discussion.

Key elements of the presentation included:

Ms. Bradway reminded members that at last month's JPACT meeting the resolution was to do further policy development in the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan. She acknowledged that members wanted to make sure there was enough time to do the policy development for the 2023 RTP and that there was a desire for more discussion, which there is time for at next month's meeting as well.

Ms. Mros-O'Hara shared the timeline for policy development in the 2023 RTP and when TPAC and JPACT would be able to provide input. She then opened up the meeting for discussion.

Member discussion included:

Commissioner Paul Savas expressed appreciation for the memo and raised the issue of conducting further study to more fully understand the impacts of congestion pricing. He noted that studies on the impacts of tolling on stretches of I5 and I205 are felt across the region. He expressed concern that the RCPS does not have enough detail to certain areas like Clackamas County. He pointed out that the study found that there are significant impacts of congestion pricing that affect the entire region and would like to have a greater understanding of the complexities created by it, especially in areas that were not looked at in as much detail. He advocated for having more policy and analysis around the revenue that would be created by certain strategies like VMT.

Chair Craddick thanked Commissioner Savas and he added that he would like to have more input to the guiding principles of the project.

Mayor McEnery-Ogle suggested that staff walk through the recommended considerations put forward by the study. She also proposed that the Oregon Department of Transportation could do more detailed local analysis of congestion pricing.

Mayor Callaway noted that the study looks at small parts of the region with the

assumption that other areas are fine. He suggested taking a broader look at the entire region. He brought up the history of highways being built over communities that are discriminated against, and expressed concern about diversion from congestion pricing pushing more cars to drive through those same neighborhoods. He suggested looking more closely at the relationship between tolling and diversion through an equity lens. He noted that another equity concern is the distance that some people will have to drive and would like to see a way to protect lower income people. He proposed having more public input.

Ms. Bradway thanked Mayor McEnerny-Ogle and Mayor Callaway for the comments. She noted that some of the recommended considerations were specifically for jurisdictions that have tolling authority.

Ms. Mros-O'Hara reviewed the recommended considerations of the study.

Commissioner Savas commented that it makes sense to look at congestion pricing from a regional perspective. He emphasized that a greater level of study is still needed and expressed hope for continuing to build on the study. He asked why the report was labeled as "final" and if this closed the door on further study.

Ms. Bradway answered that the resolution with the report says that studies on the subject are not done. The current report is one space in time that acts as a foundation to do further policy development work.

Commissioner Savas asked why ODOT should do the study over Metro and JPACT. He noted that while ODOT may have a lot of resources, they are not responsible for much of the reason and so it seems that the study should be with Metro and JPACT.

Ms. Bradway answered that as a federal entity and Metropolitan Planning Organization part of Metro's role is to do policy planning and research. Metro's partners are seen as having the role of implementation. She noted that ODOT and Metro coordinate closely with each other.

Mr. Rian Windsheimer agreed that the level of analysis of the study could be more detailed, but that it still provides good indicators for the region's policy. He emphasized the need for coordination between Metro and ODOT. He encouraged engagement and outreach on various projects. He noted that there may be some concern among MPAC members of setting policy before doing engagement.

In the chat Commissioner Savas asked if there was an opportunity for the Region 1

Area Commission on Transportation to provide policy guidance.

In the chat Mr. Windsheimer answered that the R1 ACT would provide input as part of the policy and project development for tolling.

Councilor Christine Lewis noted that JPACT has the ability to set the RTP agenda as the 2023 RTP is prepared for. She stated that she would prefer to use the work “requirement” so that in the future if a project does not meet the considerations being put forth, JPACT could have them try again.

Mayor McErnery-Ogle commented that she would like to see consistency across the region. The policies developed through the RTP update could address how analysis happens as long as it’s consistent across the region.

Councilor Kathy Hyzy noted that the group had received clear direction that climate needs to be a priority. Congestion pricing is a powerful tool at JPACT’s disposal to address climate. She pointed out that that local small cities often don’t have the resources to pursue the best option when it comes to congestion. She would like to see additional help and consideration to cities that would likely gravitate towards the parking option. She concluded by commenting that the creation of a transportation fund at the state level to make sure that projects are done right from the start would solve a lot of problems.

Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez commented that the study gives policy makers the tools to build a system and pointed to aspects of the study that gives him hope for building an equitable system. He agreed with Councilor Hyzy that it also provides tools to address climate.

Chair Craddick thanked members for their comments and reminded them that at the next meeting they would be taking up a resolution to accept the report.

In the chat Commissioner Savas asked for the next steps and policy guidance to be identified before the next JPACT meeting.

5.2 Safe Routes to School – update

Chair Craddick introduced the Safe Routes to School program, which was initially funded through Regional Flexible Funds in 2019. She introduced Metro Staff Noel Mickelberry.

Key elements of the presentation included:

Ms. Mickelberry shared the history of the program which began in 2019. The goal of the program is to invest non-infrastructure (programmatic) funds to ensure that children have travel options for getting to school. It is a regional program in the 2018 RTP. She reviewed key funding areas of where money for the program is going. In 2019 over twice as much funding was requested than was available. Much of the funding goes directly to local partners. Another big chunk goes into technical assistance like translation services, traffic playground support, and regional innovation requests. She highlighted aspects of the program from 2019, 2020, and 2021. A priority of the program is regional coordination. She shared maps demonstrating how the program analyzes walk zones around schools. Ms. Mickelberry concluded by sharing the next steps for the program.

Member discussion included:

Councilor Hyzy asked if updates to walk zones around schools would happen for every school in the region. She noted that if projects can only be done within the walk zone, the new way of analyzing them would potentially limit the amount of projects.

Ms. Mickelberry confirmed that the analysis would be done for each school, but the walk zone would not be used to determine what projects can be funded. It is a tool to better understand how far a child is from their school.

Mayor Callaway suggested including potential future diversion from congestion pricing as part of the safety criteria.

Commissioner Savas noted that the geography varies a lot across the region around schools. He suggested gaining a better understanding of what other areas are encountering with the program. He commented that the challenges of getting to school are unique for every place.

Chair Craddick asked how the program can fully engage school districts that are involved. She also noted that parents driving their kids to school every morning has a significant impact on the region's transportation system.

Ms. Mickelberry agreed that engaging with school districts is important and added that the pandemic has made it more difficult. There are plans in the near future to do more engagement with school districts around safe routes to school policy. She informed members that the new way of analyzing the one mile buffer around schools is a good tool for understanding the different geographies across the region.

5.3 Active Transportation Return on Investment Study

Chair Craddick introduced Metro Staff John Mermin to present on the Active Transportation Return on Investment Study.

Key elements of the presentation included:

Mr. Mermin gave a background on the study, which was approved through RFFA funds and recommended by JPACT in 2018. The purpose of the study was to help inform the region on the extent and economic benefits of different active transportation projects. He gave an overview of the study, which was led by Portland State University in partnership with Metro. He reviewed the key takeaways which included build back better, investments of all shapes and sizes, the multiplier effect, and setting projects up for success. He reviewed the details of the study like how many projects were studied and methods used, then shared the research findings. He concluded by sharing next steps for the study and when the final report would be completed in early 2022.

Member discussion included:

Councilor Hyzy thanked Mr. Mermin and asked what sort of metric could be used with the study to measure economic benefits.

Mr. Mermin answered that there is interest in including those kinds of metrics from people involved with the project and RFFA process.

6. UPDATES FROM JPACT MEMBERS

Chair Craddick reminded members that at the next meeting they would be asking members to accept the finding of the RCPS.

Ms. Bradway addressed Commissioner Savas' earlier request to summarize the discussion and next steps. The next steps for the report is to accept the report. After that policy development work would begin. Policy options would be brought to JPACT over the next two years. ODOT will also be coming back to the group as frequently as necessary to talk about tolling.

Commissioner Savas asked if any of today's discussion could be incorporated.

Ms. Bradway answered that she would bring concerns about the level of detail with the modeling to ODOT and Metro teams. She added that coordination between Metro and ODOT on micro analysis is ran on Metro's model which gets smarter every time it is run on congestion pricing. This will help the team to better model the entire system.

7. AJOURN

Chair Craddick adjourned the meeting at 9:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connor Ayers

Connor Ayers
Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2021

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
3.0	Presentation	08/19/21	July Traffic Fatalities	081921j-01
5.1	Presentation	08/19/21	Regional Congestion Pricing Study Presentation	081921j-02
5.2	Presentation	08/19/21	Safe Routes to School Presentation	081921j-03
5.3	Presentation	08/19/21	Active Transportation Return on Investment Study Presentation	081821j-04

