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JOINT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION (JPACT)

Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2022

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

MEMBERS PRESENT

Shirley Craddick (Chair)  
Juan Carlos González  
Christine Lewis  
Temple Lentz  
Carley Francis  
Travis Stovall  
Anne McEnery-Ogle  
Rian Windsheimer  
Steve Callaway  
Nina DeConcini  
Paul Savas  
Jo Ann Hardesty  
Kathy Hyzy  
Curtis Robinhold  
Nafisa Fai  
Jessica Vega Pederson

AFFILIATION

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Sam Desue

AFFILIATION

TriMet

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Duncan Hwang  
JC Vannatta  
Chris Ford  
Chris Warner

AFFILIATION

Metro  
TriMet  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
City of Portland

OTHERS PRESENT: Isabella Garcia, André Lightsey-Walker, Dave Roth, Laurie Lebowsky, Katy McDowell, Mary Baumgardner, Kristine Evertz, Gerik Kransky, Inessa Vitko, Nick Fortey, Mark Ottenad, Chris Smith, Chris Deffebach, Eric Hesse, Tom Markgraf, Mike Bezner, Joseph Cortright, Patrick Brennan, Steven Siegel, Matthew Gremm, Brenda Bartlett, Monica Tellez-Fowler, Cody Field, Jamie Snook, Casey Trummer, Ivo Trummer, Jamie Stasny, Tim Collins, Jack Burkman, Don Odermott, Shilpa Mallem, Mark Dorn, Noel Mickelberry, John Charles, Jennifer John, Briana Calhoun, Will Farley, Derek Bradley, Dwight Brashear, Aaron Deas, Monica Tellez-Fowler, Tara O'Brien, Greg Johnson, John Willis, Allison Boyd, Jean Senechal Biggs, Stephen

Roberts, Katherine Kelly, Mara Krinke, Ryan LeProwse, Jonathan Maus, Glen Bolen, Jaimie Lorenzini, Zach Lindahl.

STAFF: Ramona Perrault, Lisa Hunrichs, Michelle Bellia, Matt Bihn, Roger Alfred, Victor Sin, Ted Leybold, Eliot Rose, Craig Beebe Andy Shaw, Carrie MacLaren, John Mermin Grace Cho, Summer Blackhorse, Jenna Jones, Kim Ellis, Caleb Winter, Jaye Cromwell, Anneliese Koehler, Ken Lobeck, Margi Bradway, Chris Johnson, Connor Ayers.

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

JPACT Chair Shirley Craddick (she/her) called the virtual Zoom meeting to order at 7:30 am.

Chair Craddick called the role and declared a quorum.

**2. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Chris Smith (he/him) with the Just Crossing Alliance gave testimony. Chris expressed concern with the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Interstate Bridge Replacement Project (IBR) that JPACT will be looking at today. He expressed concern with the tall bridge approach that is being looked at because of the grades that will be created as well as the financial burdens that this bridge could create as the monolithic approach to building this bridge makes it very difficult to phase. Chris urged JPACT to pause the IBR process until the following is provided: a new bottom up cost estimate, a credible finance plan, and a phaseable alternative through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is included alongside the high bridge.

Joseph Cortright with the Just Crossing Alliance gave testimony on the costs and financial risks of the IBR. Joseph stated that every major ODOT highway project built in the last 20 years has experienced cost overruns on the order of 100%.

**3. UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR**

Chair Craddick thanked those who attended the JPACT trip and all staff that made the trip possible. She also reminded JPACT members about the joint Metro Council and JPACT workshop that is being held on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Metro Staff Margi Bradway (she/her), shared the names and ages of traffic victims during the month of May:

Bianca Ceperich, 16, Gwendolyn E. Brake, 83, Shane Johnson, 43, Tufa Shuka, 41, David Carl Paulsen, 36 and four unidentified persons.

#### 4. CONSENT AGENDA

**MOTION:** Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle (she/her) moved to approve the consent agenda seconded by Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty (she/her).

**ACTION:** With all in favor, consent agenda passed.

#### 5. ACTION ITEMS

##### **5.1 Resolution 22-5273, For the Purpose of Endorsing the Modified Locally Preferred Alternative for the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program.**

Chair Craddick introduced Metro staff Matt Bihn (he/him), Greg Johnson, IBR, and John Willis, IBR, to present to JPACT.

*Key elements of the presentation included:*

Greg highlighted that we are at a critical stage of the IBR and they are seeking alignment on what will be carried forward.

Matt summarized the agenda for today's discussion, highlighted the program timeline, the IBR modified locally preferred alternative (LPA) process, the Metro Council modified LPA resolutions sequence, the partner endorsement schedule, and briefly summarized the IBR modified LPA.

Matt paused for questions, seeing none, he summarized Resolution No. 22-5273 and read through Exhibit A to the resolution.

*Member discussion included:*

Commissioner Paul Savas (he/him) asked if the bridge can be easily widened in order to add capacity as needed in the future.

Greg Johnson responded by explaining that modeling takes them to 2045 and highlighted that regions cannot build themselves out of congestion, rather, smart, adaptable infrastructure must be built.

Commissioner Savas asked what accommodation in design is there for future needs.

Greg explained that auxiliary lanes are key for making lanes more efficient, which frees up capacity as this region grows. He added that safety shoulders is another element that will make the stretch of road more efficient and effective.

Councilor Kathy Hyzy (she/her) asked for more detail on the community benefits agreement and what happens if climate or equity goals are missed.

Greg responded by explaining that community benefits agreements are relatively new for Department of Transportation (DOT) projects and described that these are agreements that can be put in NEPA documents which makes them a standard and enforceable part of what the DOTs are responsible for. Greg described that they are looking to begin the conversation on community benefits and have reached out to local elected officials to have them help lead a community benefits discussion. Greg responded to Councilor Hyzy's second question by explaining that the IBR team has a principle equity officer and a principle climate officer that will maintain key positions throughout the process.

Councilor Hyzy followed up by asking about responsibility for climate and equity goals after the bridge has been built.

Greg responded to Councilor Hyzy's follow-up question by stressing the importance of flexibility and communication for making adjustments as the project moves forward.

Mayor Steve Callaway (he/him), asked if testing is being done to check on the climate impacts of both two and one auxiliary lanes in each direction.

Greg explained that their commitment is to vigorously look at one auxiliary lane in each direction but they recognize that there is a large contingency pushing for additional auxiliary lanes. Greg explained that if a system cannot be designed with one auxiliary lane that meets the goals of the partners then they will look at other options, which may include additional auxiliary lanes.

John Willis explained that the project is being designed so it can accommodate 2045 volumes. He explained that models show that going from zero auxiliary lanes to one shows dramatic improvement in traffic flow, but going from one auxiliary lane to two shows a less dramatic improvement.

Greg highlighted that as the bridge is built wider there are greater impacts to local communities.

Mayor Callaway questioned if the 2045 forecast should be extended as the bridge's construction will be completed inside the 20 year forecast window.

Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez asked about the aesthetics of the bridge and what the bridge design might look like.

Greg explained that they are working with two firms that are looking at urban design and aesthetics of the bridge. He explained that in the next phase more design details and bridge

types will be investigated.

John highlighted constraints both above and below the bridge that will prevent certain designs and that aesthetically pleasing designs do not have to be more expensive.

Nina DeConcini reminded members that the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has significant air and water quality intersects for the BRP and offered herself as a resource if members have any questions about this.

Commissioner Savas expressed appreciation for all the work that has gone into this project but highlighted that his capacity question has not been adequately addressed. Commissioner Savas stressed the importance of meeting market demands through infrastructure.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hardesty moved to approve Resolution No. 22-5273. Seconded by Mayor McEnery-Ogle.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Savas opposed, with all else in favor the motion to approve Resolution No. 22-5273 passed.

## 6. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 6.1 Emerging Transportation Trends: Draft results and recommendations

Chair Craddick introduced Eliot Rose (he/him), Metro to present to JPACT.

*Key elements of the presentation included:*

Eliot discussed the study's purpose, timeline and focus and discussed the final draft work products. Eliot provided an overview on scenario analysis, presented assumptions about current and future teleworking rates, transit service, vehicle miles traveled per capita and change in transit ridership then discussed findings from the scenario analysis. Eliot then provided an overview on their corridor analysis, described the data and presented the findings of the corridor analysis. Eliot concluded by summarizing draft recommendations.

*Member discussion included:*

Commissioner Savas asked how the trends would be effected if all employment vacancies were filled.

Eliot responded by explaining that this was not explored in this study.

JC Vannatta expressed concern for the bleak picture that this study paints for transit ridership but noted that ridership has been growing since early February. JC also explained that the

Forward Together analysis is coming out soon.

Mayor Travis Stovall expressed support for transit and highlighted the importance of increasing the transit modal share to the region meeting its transportation goals.

Commissioner Hardesty asked how the study will influence the availability of workers and where workers are coming from. She stressed the interconnection of transit and affordable housing.

In the chat, Commissioner Savas asked if there is an analysis on the geographic growth of the commute shed.

Margi responded by explaining that the emerging trends study will be a piece of information that will inform goals and outcomes for the RTP.

Connor Ayres (he/him), Metro Staff, put the following link in the chat:

<https://trimet.org/forward/>

Mayor Callaway highlighted that arterials are a diversion for when highways are congested and stressed the importance of trying to keep people on highways and freeways instead of commuting on arterials. He asked if getting people on e-bikes gets people off transit or if e-bike and transit ridership increase and decrease together.

Eliot responded by explaining that people need a complete package of options to provide what a car provides so e-bikes and transit complement each other.

Commissioner Fai (she/her) asked TriMet staff if they will be coming to JPACT to do a presentation on the Forward Together project and asked if a “free ride zone” is being looked into to re-encourage people to using transit.

JC Vannatta explained that TriMet can come to JPACT to present on Forward Together findings and explained that TriMet would need to find a revenue source to offset any free-ride program.

## **6.2 Freight Commodity Study**

Chair Craddick introduced Tim Collins (he/him), Metro, to present to JPACT.

*Key elements of the presentation included:*

Tim explained the reason for this study, the study’s purpose, the early tasks in the scope of the work, summarized the stakeholder advisory committee members, and freight policy framework and questions. Tim moved on to discuss the main tasks in the scope of the work, major milestones for the commodities movement study, and next steps.

*Member discussion included:*

Councilor Hyzy asked if vehicle miles traveled and mode shift is ever looked at in how freight is transported.

Tim responded by explaining that about 75% of the freight being moved in the region is by truck, so they look at truck vehicle miles travelled.

Commissioner Savas explained that there is a disconnect between businesses and elected officials as elected officials sometimes struggle to hear directly from businesses. Commissioner Savas stressed the importance of hearing from them directly.

Councilor Gonzalez asked how the port project in Coos Bay might interact with freight movement in the Metro area.

Tim explained that a majority of the port activity in the state comes from the Port of Portland and stressed that if freight problems aren't solved here it will have statewide impacts.

Curtis Robinhold responded to Councilor Gonzalez's question by explaining that the idea with the Coos Bay port is to take cargo inland, essentially avoiding road traffic.

In the chat, Rian Windsheimer wondered if the Coos Bay project is taking some of the rail traffic, meaning that more truck traffic will need to travel to and through the region.

Commissioner Hardesty expressed concern over the lack of diversity of opinions among advisory committee members and asked how other voices can get involved.

Tim responded by explaining that they did not get the responses they were looking for from some of the organizations Commissioner Hardesty mentioned.

## **7. UPDATES FROM JPACT MEMBERS**

*There was none.*

8. **ADJORN**

Chair Craddick adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Stellan Roberts*

Stellan Roberts  
Recording Secretary



**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 16, 2022**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT NO.</b>
2.0	Written Testimony	6/16/2022	Chris Smith Written Testimony	06162022-01
2.0	Written Testimony	6/16/2022	Joe Cortright Written Testimony	06162022-02
3.0	Presentation	6/16/2022	Fatal Crash Slide	06162022-04
5.1	Presentation	6/16/2022	Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Slides	06162022-05
6.1	Presentation	6/16/2022	Emerging Trends Slides	06162022-07
6.2	Presentation	6/16/2022	Freight Commodity Study Slides	06162022-08