



METRO POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)

Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joe Buck (Chair)
Ed Gronke
Gerritt Rosenthal
Alex Howard
Mary Nolan
Brett Sherman
Christine Lewis
Mark Shull
Sherry French
Denyse McGriff
Kim Harless
Kirstin Greene
Pam Treece
Luis Nava
Terri Preeg Rigsby
Thomas Kim
Vince Jones-Dixon
Kim Harless
Gordon Hovies
Peter Truax

AFFILIATION

City of Lake Oswego, Largest City in Clackamas County
Citizen of Clackamas County
Metro Council
Port of Portland
Metro Council
City of Happy Valley, Other Cities in Clackamas County
Metro Council
Clackamas County
Special Districts in Clackamas County
City of Oregon City, Second Largest City in Clackamas County
City of Vancouver
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
Washington County
Citizen of Washington County
Special Districts in Multnomah County
TriMet
City of Gresham, Second Largest City in Multnomah County
City of Vancouver
Special Districts in Washington County
City of Forest Grove, Other Cities in Washington Cities

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Nadia Hasan
Ted Wheeler
Carmen Rubio
Brian Cooper
Susheela Jayapal
Omar Qutub
Nadia Hasan
Temple Lentz
Brian Hodson
James Fage
Steve Callaway
Mark Watson

AFFILIATION

City of Beaverton, Second Largest City in Washington County
City of Portland
City of Portland
City of Fairview, Other Cities in Multnomah County
Multnomah County
Citizen of Multnomah County
City of Beaverton, Second Largest City in Washington County
Clark County
City of Canby, City in Clackamas County outside UGB
City of North Plains, City in Washington County outside UGB
City of Hillsboro
Hillsboro School District Board of Directors, Governing Body
of a School District

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Donnie Oliveira
Anthony Martin
Lacey Beaty
Laura Kelly

AFFILIATION

City of Portland
City of Hillsboro
City of Beaverton
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and
Development

OTHERS PRESENT: Roger Alfred, Jose Nava, Tara O'Brien, Katherine Kelly, Chris Deffebach, Sarah Paulus, Andy Shawn, Erin Doyle, Jamie Stasny, Laurie Petrie, Laura Terway, Megan Beyer, Jeff Gudman, Megan McKibben, Jean Senechal Biggs, Jaimie Lorenzini, Matt Bihn, Schuyler Warren

STAFF: Liam Frost, Brianna Dolbin, Eryn Kehe, Eduardo Ramos, Kim Ellis, Roger Alfred, Ramona Perrault, Jaye Cromwell, Connor Ayers, Malu Wilkinson

1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

MPAC Chair Joe Buck (he/him) called the virtual Zoom meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Metro Staff Connor Ayers (he/him) called the role.

2. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION ON AGENDA ITEMS

No members of the public chose to provide testimony on agenda items.

3. COUNCIL UPDATE

Metro Councilor Christine Lewis (she/her) began the Council Update by noting that the Metro Council Inauguration will take place on January 3, 2023 at the East Portland Community Center. At this event, several Metro Councilors will be reappointed to their positions and Ashton Simpson will be sworn-in as the new District 1 Councilor.

Councilor Lewis then informed the committee that Metro acquired 3.7 acres of land between Wilsonville and Tualatin, connecting the North Coffee Lake Wetlands and the Tonquin Scablands to create a mile-long stretch of protected creek surrounded by more than 90 acres of wildlife habitat.

Lastly, Councilor Lewis provided updates on the Supportive Housing Services (SHS) committee, which recently reported on the first 15 months of the program. The report stated that the SHS fund has helped over 2,100 people into supportive housing, provided 9,000 individuals eviction protection services, and

the 2018 housing bond has resulted in the construction of 1,600 housing units.

4. **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS**

No members provided updates to the committee.

5. **CONSTENT AGENDA**

MOTION: Clackamas County Commissioner Mark Shull moved to approve the consent agenda. City of Happy Valley Councilor Brett Sherman seconded.

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

6. **ACTION ITEMS**

6.1 Policy Framework for 2023 Regional Transportation Plan Call for Projects

Chair Buck introduced Metro Staff Kim Ellis (she/her).

Key elements of the presentation and member discussion included:

The presentation overviewed the scope and timeline of the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), focusing on the call projects stage of the planning process. The call for projects stage involves local jurisdictions, agencies, and committees updating the RTP by adding new projects that seek to fulfill the region's transportation visions and goals. Ellis detailed the policy framework for the 2023 RTP, highlighting that included projects must support measurable objectives and targets, as well as aligning with the RTP's goals of providing equitable transportation, mobility options, thriving economy, safe systems, and climate action and resilience.

City of Hillsboro Councilor Anthony Martin expressed that administrative costs and staff burden should be considered as a factor in the call for projects stage.

City of Portland Director of Planning and Sustainability Donnie Olivera (he/him) questioned if Metro staff has been weighing projects that address several of the RTP goals greater than projects that primarily only impact one target area.

Ellis responded by explaining that Metro is using a quantitative scoring system to evaluate projects, stating that projects that score highly on multiple goal areas will receive greater consideration than those that only address one goal.

Commissioner Shull recommended that the wording "regional balance" should be included in RTP's vision and goals, highlighting the need for a transportation system that accommodates the needs of individuals outside of the metropolitan area. He expressed concerns over the development of high capacity transit, as well as the Regional Mobility Pricing Policy, stating that he would like to ensure that there is adequate time for all jurisdictions to discuss these projects.

6.2 RTP – Climate Smart Strategy Update and Climate Analysis for 2023 RTP

Chair Buck introduced Metro Staff Kim Ellis.

Key elements of the presentation and member discussion included:

Ellis described the implementation of the Climate Smart Strategy, a regional strategy targeted at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector, in the climate analysis for the 2023 RTP. She explained that this strategy has been designed to synergize with the 2040 Growth Plan, bringing investment to communities that will lead to positive climate impacts over time. Notably, Ellis stated that significant investment in transit is the key to reaching desired greenhouse gas emission levels, along with transit supporting other regional goals and visions. The presentation detailed how the region's transportation climate has changed since the 2018 RTP, noting the dramatic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, new state policies that bring additional tools to support the reduction of emissions, and the increased prominence of electric vehicles. To conclude the presentation, Ellis overviewed responses from the JPACT and MTAC committees on the Climate Smart Strategy.

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Director Terri Preeg Riggsby (she/her) questioned the timeline for providing feedback on this project.

Ellis noted that it would be ideal to submit feedback by the start of January 2023.

City of Happy Valley Councilor Brett Sherman commented that he was surprised to see that JPACT members had collectively rated parking management and pricing as a relatively low priority, compared to high-capacity transit which was regarded as being high priority. He then asked if seasonal variables are added to projections for multimodal transportation metrics.

Ellis explained that these models use average daily walking, biking, and transit travel as their metric. While seasonality is not directly included in the models, the averaging of this unit serves to capture the influence of the seasons.

Councilor Sherman followed up by questioning if projections that are plainly unachievable will be recalibrated to align with emerging trends.

Ellis responded affirmatively, stating that many of the projections from the 2018 RTP have shifted drastically and that it is necessary to create a new baseline of performance to serve as a basis for improvement.

Councilor Sherman commented that it would be logical to align the Climate Smart Strategy's pricing strategy with the Metro Regional Congestion Pricing Strategy.

Councilor Martin highlighted that the data sources used in the presentation could have been clarified. He then suggested that the assumption that transit ridership will increase should be altered amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and the increase in telecommuting. The councilor then spoke to potential policy approaches for this strategy, discussing increasing and extending the State Electric Vehicle Tax Credit and boosting the flexibility of TriMet. He then remarked that he believes that priority should shift away

from encouraging people to drive more fuel-efficiently towards not driving at all. Lastly, Councilor Martin raised that there may be an overreliance on Climate Friendly Equitable Communities (CFEC).

Ellis responded by noting that Councilor Martin is correct that pricing is not a requirement of CFEC.

Commissioner Shull questioned if the Climate Smart Strategy pricing analysis considers the impact of tolling heightening traffic on byroads, leading to slower traffic and greater emissions. The councilor then cautioned against assumptions about transportation mode shifts, noting that there has been no significant shift towards transit. He asked staff how they will verify that the policy objectives are actually being met.

Ellis remarked that they will be reporting their analysis of the program's success relative to set targets in the RTP. She specified that the RTP seeks to create a unified transportation system that will effectively address the needs of the entire region.

Washington County Commissioner Pam Treece commented that there is only so much that can be done to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) using regional funding sources, and that it may be necessary to request additional support from the state.

Ellis expressed her agreement with the commissioner, stating that local plans and projects can be used as a platform for advocating for greater funding.

Metro Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal asked if there is a method to project how the Inflation Reduction Act's (IRA) incentives for electrification may affect the state of electric vehicles in the region.

Ellis highlighted that the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has been working to quantify the electrification of the fleet and that this information may be used to shape the direction of the Climate Smart Strategy.

Chair Buck questioned if there is any reason to tie in other policies such as the Regional Mobility Pricing Project (RMPP) into this work.

Ellis commented that this policy will be evaluated in the call to projects stage and considered as a factor in the Climate Smart Strategy.

6.3 Factors of Homelessness: Regional Cooperation

Chair Buck introduced Metro Staff Liam Frost (he/him).

Key elements of the presentation and member discussion included:

The presentation overviewed how Metro's Supportive Housing Services (SHS) program enforces regional collaboration to assist individuals experiencing homelessness into long-term housing. Frost described the formation of the Tri-County Planning Body, a group of regional leaders, experts, and members of the public who have experienced homelessness with the goal of creating a common strategy to address homelessness. The Regional Long-Term Rent Assistance (RLRA) program, which seeks to leverage the

best practices of the Housing Choice Voucher across the region, was explained to the committee. Frost concluded the presentation by highlighting the importance of data coordination in reaching the region's goals related to homelessness.

Councilor Sherman asked if there are any programs to support low-income individuals with mortgage payments or first-time home purchases, rather than solely supporting renters.

Frost clarified the SHS program is specifically targeted at serving people experiencing chronic, severe homelessness, and therefore program funds would not be diverted to supporting home payments.

Councilor Sherman questioned how outreach teams connect homeless individuals with the services provided by this program.

Frost explained that Metro is primarily responsible for providing funding; the actual services are administered by the counties.

Councilor Rosenthal discussed a developing Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) program that would allow people with severe mental health issues to receive aid before being placed into housing. He asked staff if programs such as this will be considered for integration into SHS policy.

Frost stated that mental health services and homelessness services have previously been regarded as entirely separate programs, and that this assumption is rapidly shifting. As for OHSU's new mental health matrix, he expressed support for the program but noted that there must be significant capacity to effectively help individuals.

Councilor Martin questioned the purpose of the Housing Memo letter.

Chair Buck explained that the letter was at the request of Metro Council President Peterson.

After ending discussion on the SHS, Chair Buck took a moment to congratulate City of Forest Grove Mayor Peter Truax for his retirement, thanking the mayor for his continued hard work and commitment to regional success. City of Hillsboro Mayor Steve Callaway and Commissioner Treece similarly shared his gratitude for Mayor Truax.

Councilor Rosenthal thanked Chair Buck for chairing MPAC over the 2022 year.

Mayor Truax thanked the committee and several members for their service to the region.

7. ADJOURN

Chair Buck adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Kain

Jeffrey Kain
Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF December 14th, 2022

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
6.1	Document	12/14/2022	2023 Regional Transportation Plan Call for Projects Overview	121422m-01
6.1	Presentation	12/14/2022	Overview of Timeline and Process for Call for Projects	121422m-02
6.2	Presentation	12/14/2022	Climate Smart Strategy Overview	121422m-03
6.3	Memo	12/14/2022	MPAC Report-Back on Discussions Regarding Homelessness	121422m-04
6.3	Presentation	12/14/2022	Metro Regional Supportive Housing Services	121422m-05