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JOINT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION (JPACT)

Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2023

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

MEMBERS PRESENT

Juan Carlos González

Christine Lewis

Travis Stovall

Paul Savas

Nafisa Fai

Carley Francis

Anne McEnerny-Ogle

Mingus Mapps

Rian Windsheimer

Steve Callaway

Ashton Simpson

Shawn Donaghy

Susheela Jayapal

Ali Mirzakhilili

AFFILIATION

Metro Council

Metro Council

Cities of Multnomah County

Clackamas County

Washington County

Washington State Department of Transportation

City of Vancouver

City of Portland

Oregon Department of Transportation

Cities of Washington County

Metro Council

C-Tran

Multnomah County

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Sam Desue

Joe Buck

Curtis Robinhold

AFFILIATION

TriMet

Cities of Clackamas County

Port of Portland

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Emerald Bogue

Jef Dalin

Brett Sherman

Ty Stober

Scott Langer

AFFILIATION

Port of Portland

Cities of Washington County

Cities of Clackamas County

City of Vancouver

Washington State Department of
Transportation

OTHERS PRESENT: Mat Dolata, Chris Smith, Rye Baerg, Sarah Paulus, Alan Lehto, Mike McCarthy, Laurie Lebowky-Young, Jean Senechal Biggs, Monica Krueger, Dwight Brashear, Neelam Dorman, Jessica Pelz, Julie Gustafson, Jaimie Lorenzini, Allison Boyd, Brenda Bartlett, Michael Orman, Shoshana Cohen, Will Farley, Dave Roth, Taylor Steenblock, Eric Hesse, Brett M., Tia Williams, Sarah Iannarone, Margi Bradway, Karen Buehrig, Caleb Winter, Jeff Gudman, Mark Lear, Stephen Roberts, Mark Ottenad, Sandy Glantz, Vanessa Vissar, Sarah Wright, Katherine Kelly, Kate Hawkins, Laurie Petrie, Matthew Hampton, Jamie Snook, Cody Field, Jeffrey Hood, Sara Ryan, Tom Markgraf

STAFF: Grace Cho, Jeff Kain, Cindy Pederson, Connor Ayers, Carrie MacLaren, Jaye Cromwell, Ina Zucker, Molly Cooney-Mesker, John Mermin, Lake McTighe, Eliot Rose, Marielle Bossio, Matt Bihn, Katie McDonald, Ken Lobeck, Ally Holmqvist, Lisa Hunrichs

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

JPACT Chair Juan Carlos Gonzalez (he/him) called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

Chair Gonzalez called the role and declared a quorum.

2. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION ON AGENDA ITEMS

No members of the public chose to provide testimony.

3. UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR

Metro Planning and Development Department Director Catherine Ciarlo (she/her) shared the names and ages of traffic victims during the month of April:

Clifford Victor Bergland, 71, Katherine Lyda, 40, Cody William Hoffman, 30, David Ray Coffman, 73, Joanna M. Sunseri, 81, Daniel Q. London, 19, Luigina Elmer, 81, Christian Sage, 21, Rebecca Rae Barnet, 32, Lara C. Morrow, 35, and seven unidentified victims.

Chair Gonzalez introduced Ciarlo to the JPACT committee.

Chair Gonzalez then discussed the JPACT trip to Washington D.C., recounting the events of the trip and thanking key staff members.

Lastly, the Chair noted that the December JPACT meeting date has been moved from the 21st to the 14th of the month.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Gonzalez noted that there are two items on the consent agenda, Resolution No. 23-5345 For the Purpose of Adding Three new Projects and Canceling One Project to the 2021-24 MTIP Enabling Required Federal Approval Actions to Move Forward, and Consideration of the May 18, 2023 JPACT minutes.

MOTION: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Air Quality Administrator Ali Mirzakhilili moved to approve the consent agenda seconded by City of Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle.

ACTION: With all in favor, consent agenda passed.

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Resolution No. 23-5343 For the Purpose of Releasing the Draft 2023 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Project List for Public Review and Policy Discussion

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

Staff provided a brief presentation detailing the role of the public review process in the RTP. Ellis noted that several policies within the RTP have been updated following the guidance of the Metro Council as well as the JPACT and MPAC committees. Staff reviewed the projected progress of the RTP's outcomes towards fulfilling the target goals, highlighting that the region is on track to meet climate targets, that the RTP advances mobility, equity, and economy goals, and that the safety target will likely not be met by the projects within the RTP. Opportunities to further advance RTP goals were discussed, along with initial feedback from community engagement workshops.

Clackamas County Commissioner Paul Savas provided an anecdote from the JPACT trip to Washington D.C. about wildfire smoke and pollution. He then asked staff when the unfinalized sections of the RTP will be completed.

Ellis responded, stating that these sections will be complete by July 10th.

Commissioner Savas shared concerns that the RTP does not adequately consider the impact that will be caused by congestion tolling, questioning if it is possible to postpone the final release of the RTP until these concerns are addressed.

Ellis began by noting that it is not possible to request an extension to the RTP release deadline, explaining that federal requirements prevent such shifts.

Commissioner Savas reiterated his concern of using congestion pricing as a catch-all solution for reaching the region's climate goals.

Metro Councilor Christine Lewis highlighted that the public review process for the RTP should serve to display what is missing from the plan, not just critiquing the included projects. She remarked that she observed a discussion on the West Linn Community Facebook page of potential transportation projects, noting that this is the kind of response regional leaders should look to include in the governmental process. Lastly, she commented that this is the last RTP cycle in which governments can rely on the gas tax as a major source of funding, and that we need to begin engaging in more conversations about securing adequate funding in the future.

Mayor McEnery-Ogle questioned if there are opportunities to make changes or amendments to the RTP.

Ellis remarked that it is possible to amend the RTP through a lengthy process if it is decided that the amendment is necessary and cannot wait until the following cycle.

City of Hillsboro Mayor Steve Callaway remarked that there should be a focus on reducing new administrative hurdles, particularly in regards to housing development. He commented that he would like to see the multi-modal study found in the RTP is incorporated into future policymaking.

Oregon Department of Transportation Regional Administrator Rian Windsheimer began by thanking Councilor Lewis for her comments regarding the importance of finding a funding replacement for the gas tax. He remarked that he shares several of the concerns raised about the timeline of the RTP, noting that he still feels it

important to move the project forward today and receive public comment.

Metro Councilor Ashton Simpson discussed the urgent need for better pedestrian safety.

Mirzakhali remarked that transit investments will be the key to the region's long-term transportation needs, as personal vehicle centric funding streams such as the gas tax or a vehicle mile traveled (VMT) tax are not compatible with a regional transportation system that deemphasizes personal vehicles.

Commissioner Savas stated that reduced gas tax funds is not only a problem for ODOT, but for the cities and counties as well. He expressed a desire for the state legislature to more actively engage with smaller jurisdictions to find better solutions to improving the transportation system.

Washington County Commissioner Nafisa Fai asked about the purpose of the public comment period, as well as how public comments will be incorporated into the plan.

Ellis explained that the public review of the RTP helps to further refine the current plan, as well as establishing direction and policy ideas for future developments.

Windsheimer discussed the importance of taking steps such as updating transportation system plans (TSPs) to improve the project selection process for future cycles of the RTP.

City of Happy Valley Councilor Brett Sherman requested clarification on how the RTP goals are defined, questioning how to navigate a plan that is projected to fall short of several key metrics.

Ciarlo noted that transportation planning is by nature a slow process that can be heavily impacted by circumstance. She stated that there are opportunities for local jurisdictions to focus on projects that will have the greatest impact towards the listed goals.

Seeing no further discussion, Chair Gonzalez called for a vote to adopt the resolution.

MOTION: Mayor McEnerney-Ogle moved to adopt the resolution seconded by Councilor Simpson.

Commissioner Savas interjected to explain that he would be voting no to demonstrate that there is still a vast amount of work that needs to be done on this project.

ACTION: The resolution was adopted.

6. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Update on the 2024-2027 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)

Chair Gonzalez introduced Metro Staff Ted Leybold (he/him) and Grace Cho (she/her).

Cho began the presentation by overviewing the MTIP program, a multifunctional document that includes a list of regionally significant transportation projects and programs scheduled to receive funding in the upcoming

four years. She then discussed how the MTIP seeks to reach its mobility, climate, equity, and safety goals. Conclusions from the project's public comment period were provided, with the main feedback being dissatisfaction with the pace and level of investment into equity, safety, and climate change focused programs. A timeline for the program's next steps was explained.

C-Tran Chief Executive Officer Shawn Donaghy questioned how the included projects will be managed and prioritized over the duration of the MTIP cycle.

Leybold clarified that the MTIP serves as an amalgamation of many individual funding allocation decisions.

Mirzakhilili asked what the staff response will be to the public comments regarding the dissatisfaction with the pace of investments and concerns about climate change.

Cho explained that this feedback will be directly incorporated into the 2027-2030 MTIP, which will begin to be developed as soon as the 2024-2027 MTIP is adopted.

Mirzakhilili questioned if this strategy will be truly satisfactory to the public review process.

Leybold remarked that the public comment period is required by the federal requirements of the MTIP, imposing regulations on when this process must be conducted.

Chair Gonzalez commented that the public comment period is necessary for guiding staff towards including projects that will serve to better reach our outlined goals.

Commissioner Savas announced that our region should direct more focus towards electric vehicle charging stations, welcoming future technologies and incorporating them into our transportation system.

Leybold highlighted that the public comment period allows for the MTIP projects to be viewed as a collective, rather than a series of individual projects, which can allow for greater discussion on the program's direction holistically.

Donaghy questioned whether the general concern is related to public comment is a function of outcomes, or the public's concern over policy and decision-making within the MTIP.

Cho remarked that the public comments staff received didn't clearly delineate between these two aspects, but rather expressed a more straightforward dissatisfaction with the pace of investment.

Ciarlo discussed the importance of the public comment period as a regional collaboration forum.

Mirzakhilili expressed concerns that the public engagement efforts may be made too late in the process, after all the key policy decisions have already been established.

7. UPDATES FROM JPACT MEMBERS

Washington Department of Transportation Southwest Regional Administrator Carly Francis provided

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construction updates around the Seattle area.

Mirzakhilili noted that the Department of Environmental Quality has hired a transportation strategy expert.

Donaghy announced that C-Tran will be opening their second bus rapid transit (BRT) line on October 1st.

8. ADJORN

Chair Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 9:18 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Kain". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey Kain
Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 15, 2023

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
3.0	Presentation	06/15/2023	Fatal Crash Slide	061523-01
5.1	Presentation	06/15/2023	2023 Regional Transportation Plan Update	061523-02
6.1	Presentation	06/15/2023	2024-2027 MTIP – Overview of Adoption Draft	061523-03