

# Meeting minutes



**Metro**

600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting: **Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC)**

Date/time: Friday September 1, 2023 | 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Place: Virtual online meeting via Web/Conference call (Zoom)

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## **Members Attending**

Tom Kloster, Chair  
Karen Buehrig  
Allison Boyd  
Dyami Valentine  
Judith Perez  
Jaimie Lorenzini  
Jay Higgins  
Mike McCarthy  
Tara O'Brien  
Chris Ford  
Gerik Kransky  
Laurie Lebowsky-Young  
Bill Beamer  
Ellie Gluhosky  
Sarah Iannarone  
Danielle Maillard  
Indi Namkoong  
Katherine Kelly

## **Affiliate**

Metro  
Clackamas County  
Multnomah County  
Washington County  
SW Washington Regional Transportation Council  
City of Happy Valley and Cities of Clackamas County  
City of Gresham and Cities of Multnomah County  
City of Tualatin and Cities of Washington County  
TriMet  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
Community member at large  
OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon  
The Steet Trust  
Oregon Walks  
Verde  
City of Vancouver

## **Alternates Attending**

Sarah Paulus  
Adam Fiss  
Kristin Hull  
Dayna Webb  
Will Farley  
Gregg Snyder  
Neelam Dorman  
Glen Bolen

## **Affiliate**

Multnomah County  
SW Washington Regional Transportation Council  
City of Portland  
City of Oregon City and Cities of Clackamas County  
City of Lake Oswego and Cities of Clackamas County  
City of Hillsboro and Cities of Washington County  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
Oregon Department of Transportation

## **Members Excused**

Eric Hesse  
Lewis Lem  
Jasia Mosley  
Jasmine Harris  
Steve Gallup  
Shawn M. Donaghy  
Ned Conroy  
Rian Sallee

## **Affiliate**

City of Portland  
Port of Portland  
Community member at large  
Federal Highway Administration  
Clark County  
C-Tran System  
Federal Transit Administration  
Washington Department of Ecology

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### Guests Attending

Bryan Graveline  
Camilla Dartnell  
Cara Belcher  
Cody Field  
Cody Meyer  
Jeff Owen  
Joe Stenger  
Kirsten Beale  
Laura Terway  
Max Nonnamaker  
Nik Ramstad  
Stephanie Millar

### Affiliate

Portland Bureau of Transportation  
Kittelson & Associates  
TriMet  
City of Tualatin  
DLCD  
HRD  
  
WSP  
City of Happy Valley  
Multnomah County  
City of Troutdale  
Oregon Department of Transportation

### Metro Staff Attending

Alex Oreschak, Ally Holmqvist, Andrea Pastor, Caleb Winter, Carson Fehrer, Eliot Rose, Grace Cho, Isaiah Jackman, Jake Lovell, John Mermin, Ken Lobeck, Kim Ellis, Lake McTighe, Marie Miller, Marne Duke, Matt Bihn, Matthew Hampton, Michaela Barton, Ted Leybold, Thaya Patton, Tim Collins, Tom Kloster.

### Call to Order, Declaration of a Quorum and Introductions

Chair Kloster called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Introductions were made. A quorum of members present was declared. Reminders where Zoom features were found online was reviewed. Input was encouraged for providing safe space for everyone at the meeting via the link in chat. Comments would be shared at the end of the meeting.

### Comments from the Chair and Committee Members

- Chris Ford announced a new position opening at ODOT, Region 1. The Technical Center Manager will work with transportation infrastructure development and project delivery. Encouragement was given to forward the announcement to those who might be interested to apply.
- **Monthly MTIP Amendments Update** (Ken Lobeck) Reference to the memo in the packet was made on the monthly submitted MTIP formal amendments submitted during August 2023. Questions on the memo can be directed to Mr. Lobeck.
- **Fatal crashes update** (Lake McTighe) The monthly fatal traffic crash report for Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties was given. In the three counties, there have been at least 4 traffic fatalities in August (19 traffic fatalities July). There have been at least 99 fatalities in the three counties since the start of the year. And 373 in Oregon. 2022: same time, 374 in Oregon; 95 in three counties.
- **Reminder of upcoming FY 2024-25 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) kickoff and request to share new projects** (John Mermin) A reminder was given on the annual development of the UPWP which will kick off with an email to project managers in mid-October. It was asked to contact Mr. Mermin about new federally funded / regionally significant planning projects that are planned to be underway between 7/1/24-6/30/25. Any new projects planned with lead person for the kick off email was requested.

**Public Communications on Agenda Items** – none received

**Consideration of TPAC Minutes from August 4, 2023**

Minutes from August 4, 2023 were approved unanimously with no abstentions.

**Decision-Making Refresh & Democratic Rules of Order** (Chair Kloster) An overview review of how decision-making motions were made and referred to in the Democratic Rules of Order was presented. Included in the presentation were meeting protocols, methods of making, amending or postponing a motion, and voting procedure on motions.

**2023 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): Overview of Draft Adoption Legislation and Next Steps for Responding to Public Comments Received** (Kim Ellis, Metro) An update on the timeline and decision process and overview of public comments received was provided. A draft compilation of all comments received will be available next week. Metro staff recommendations on comments received are under development. Key themes from public comments noted safety, transit service, investment emphasis and distribution of funding across modes, accountability to ensure policies implemented, climate and project specific feedback.

Key topics for further discussion include:

1. Investment emphasis
2. Pricing policy application to ODOT toll projects
3. Increasing regional transportation investments (funding)
4. Mobility policy implementation
5. Climate tools and analysis

Next steps for finalizing the RTP and HCT strategy for adoption was given.

Comments from the committee:

- Indi Namkoong asked for a point of clarification on the list of topics for further discussion over the next few months. Were more substantial topic recommendations anticipated that may not be part of the TPAC discussion? Ms. Ellis noted staff is working on answering and compiling all the comments, some of which are substantial. All topics and comments can be highlighted or acknowledge recommendations. They could lead to amendments to the RTP following adoption.
- Karen Buehrig noted some places in the RTP said “will be completed...as part of the analysis”, which would not necessarily be part of the public comments but waiting for further analysis to be completed. Will all those be updated before the RTP is reviewed/adopted or included with public comments, and be completed before the public hearing on impact conversations? Ms. Ellis noted some of the analysis has been presented and discussed. Further changes are expected to the projects from further analysis and process. The final model run after the RTP is adopted will show where missing gaps are. Besides the technical updates, additional staff recommendations will be brought forward from Chapter 8.

Reference to Chapter 7 where “analysis under development for RTP related performance measures” for versions of the travel reliability measures would be included in the final draft. If changes are made to the draft for those measures, they would not be available until the adoption vote, correct? Will review of past materials be needed? Chair Kloster noted the two documents needed to know are the public comment draft and all the proposed changes

from staff, which become TPAC recommendations. We will run one more model after the adoption to capture any climate changes which may change some numbers in the analysis, which is important for possible local transportation planning.

- Mike McCarthy asked for clarification with the process to review and vote with two documents with the understanding they might not blend together toward the RTP that gets adopted. Chair Kloster described the process how items needing further discussion for recommended changes would be brought forth.
- Karen Buehrig noted the Sept. 13 TPAC workshop and Oct. 6 TPAC meeting before the recommendation vote in November with no other meetings planned for discussion scheduled. It was asked what the timeline was for individual organizations being reached out to for feedback to project changes. Ms. Ellis noted community input is being added to the comments and welcome to be part of the discussion at the Sept. 13 and Oct. 6 meetings.
- Tara O'Brien noted mention of presenting alternatives so that recommendations on the RTP can move forward. It was asked if the list of key topics for further discussion was where alternatives could be considered for recommendation to JPACT and Metro Council. Clarification on ways to plan ahead from the Sept. 13 workshop was requested. Chair Kloster noted typical alternatives are considered for doing less with the topic at the current time, or postponing. Ms. Ellis noted materials for the workshop will help develop recommendations. Policy questions for JPACT and Metro Council can be discussed around the topics as well.

*There was a 15-minute break in the meeting.*

**Better Bus Update** (Alex Oreschak, Metro and Cara Belcher, TriMet) The presentation began with information on the background of the program. In 2018, Metro, in partnership with TriMet, introduced the Regional Enhanced Transit Concept (ETC) pilot program to enhance transit across the region. Metro solicited applications from jurisdictions throughout the region and allocated \$5 million to this initial draft of projects. From 2018 to 2022, hundreds of projects were studied and designed, and more than 50 have been implemented.

The Regional ETC pilot program has since been rebranded as the Better Bus Program. This program will support Metro, TriMet, and their partners in delivering the next phase of Better Bus improvements. The Better Bus program will contribute up to \$10 million towards the planning and delivery of capital projects that address hotspot bottlenecks or congested corridors. It will deliver projects in partnership with local jurisdictions and facility owners. TriMet and Metro are working with a consultant team led by Nelson/Nygaard to update the project identification methodology, analysis tools, and evaluation process. As the Better Bus program moves forward, there will be further coordination with local jurisdictions to identify whether and how Better Bus improvements could be integrated into HCT corridors or may move forward more quickly.

Starting in August 2023, a series of meetings with local jurisdictions began to introduce the project team, provide an overview of the previous ETC work and the Better Bus program, and to learn from local jurisdictions about their needs and interests. In late Sept./early Oct., the Better Bus program will re-engage local jurisdictions in a series of workshops to review the program methodology and initial data analysis, working together to identify potential Better Bus candidate projects. The workshops will be followed by a call for partnership in late Oct./early Nov. Project evaluation and selection will occur in Nov., followed by initial project development in early 2024. This is anticipated to be a multiyear program with additional opportunities for project identification in future years.

Comments from the committee:

- Jaimie Lorenzini asked, regarding the approach in call for projects, because cities may not interact with the Better Bus system, what tech support can TriMet offer to help guide smaller jurisdictions through the application process. Mr. Oreschak noted they are still working on the process, hoping the workshops provide opportunities to walk through the analysis tools and set up the conversation to help build capacity. Ms. Lorenzini asked what TriMet plans with how the applications will be analyzed regarding effects on tolling and give consideration for ways it will likely affect more pronounced effects between now and the near future. Mr. Oreschak noted they are hoping to identify corridors that are likely to be affected by tolling, but hard to plan best strategies before we understand the affects. It was noted the transportation tool will be providing new data each year with updates.
- Sarah Iannarone reminded the committee we are not alone in facing the transit crisis post pandemic recovery and the challenges this brings. Referencing recent engagement through the RTP, it was suggested to reach out to community reps and organizations where months of discussions working through the public engagement process covered these issues. These discussions, unlike ones held with jurisdictions, many will show transit dependency from the public and from historically disproportionately groups that are impacted greatly. TriMet must also include safety and cleanliness with their system planning besides frequency and reliability. It was suggested that we move more things in tandem with these rollouts and let the public know there will be safety investments included in order to reach our goals. Offer to share more with the Better Bus team was offered.
- Ellie Gluhosky agreed with Sara that safety, affordability and reliability are the top issues from transit-dependent folks. OPAL would be happy to share their community feedback.
- Bill Beamer and Indi Namkoong agreed and offered to share their experience with the RTP engagement with communities.
- Mike McCarthy noted that in previous versions of the program or similar program they have identified minor changes to make the ability to fix minor operational elements or add to another project underway. It was suggested to add staff to the workshops that have authority for making such changes with projects already in place to multiply the benefits of the program.
- Dyami Valentine agreed with the small improvements that can make big improvements. It was asked what the source of the funding was, and if we could leverage this in thinking about larger competitive grants for ways to incorporate this work into our larger potential projects if it is from local sources. Mr. Oreschak confirmed the program is local funding.
- Karen Buehrig suggested for the workshop seeing the Forward Together on the map along with the Better Bus routes with changes anticipated. Jurisdictions have different roll outs in programs with changes to different times which can be noted for future planning. Some instances in the TriMet system may not see transit delays but there may be other reasons why frequency or access to transit create barriers. There is more than just congestion that slows down or limits access to transit.

**Committee comments on creating a safe space at TPAC** (Chair Kloster) none received.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned by Chair Kloster at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Miller*

Marie Miller, TPAC Recorder

Attachments to the Public Record, TPAC meeting, September 1, 2023

Item	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1	Agenda	9/1/2023	9/1/2023 TPAC Agenda	090123T-01
2	2023 TPAC Work Program	8/25/2023	2023 TPAC Work Program as of 8/25/2023	090123T-02
3	Memo	8/24/2023	TO: TPAC and interested parties From: Ken Lobeck, Funding Programs Lead RE: TPAC Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Monthly Submitted Amendments during August 2023	090123T-03
4	Draft Minutes	8/4/2023	Draft minutes from TPAC August 4, 2023 meeting	090123T-04
5	Handout	N/A	Democratic Rules Cheat-Sheet: Making Decisions	090123T-05
6	Memo	8/25/2023	TO: TPAC and interested parties From: Kim Ellis, AICP, RTP Project Manager Ally Holmqvist, HCT Strategy Project Manager RE: Draft Legislation and Next Steps for Finalizing the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and 2023 High Capacity Transit (HCT) Strategy for Adoption	090123T-06
7	Handout	8/25/2023	Key Dates for Finalizing the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan and 2023 High Capacity Transit Strategy for Adoption	090123T-07
8	Draft Ordinance NO. 23-1496	N/A	Draft Ordinance No. 23-1496 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE 2018 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL AND STATE LAW AND AMENDING THE REGIONAL FRAMEWORK PLAN	090123T-08
9	Exhibit A	7/10/2023	Exhibit A to Ordinance No. 23-1496: PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT 2023 Regional Transportation Plan	090123T-09
10	Supplement to Exhibit A to Ordinance No. 23-1496	N/A	Supplement to Exhibit A to Ordinance No. 23-1496: 2023 Regional Transportation Plan Appendices	090123T-10
11	Draft RESOLUTION NO. 23-5348	N/A	Draft Resolution No. 23-5348 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING THE 2023HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT STRATEGY	090123T-11
12	Exhibit A	7/10/2023	Exhibit A to Resolution No. 23-5348: HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT Strategy Public Review Draft	090123T-12

13	Memo	8/25/2023	TO: TPAC and interested parties From: Alex Oreschak, Project Manager, Metro RE: Better Bus Program Update	090123T-13
14	Presentation	9/1/2023	Better Bus Program Intro to Program Re-Launch	090123T-14
15	Slide	9/1/2023	Monthly fatal traffic crash report for Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties	090123T-15
16	Presentation	9/1/2023	Decision Making Refresh	090123T-16
17	Presentation	9/1/2023	2023 Regional Transportation Plan Final Steps to Adoption	090123T-17
18	Presentation (final)	9/1/2023	Better Bus Program Intro to Program Re-Launch	090123T-18