



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting minutes

Meeting: **Tualatin Valley Highway Steering Committee meeting**

Date/time: Thursday, April 14, 2022 | 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Place: Virtual webinar meeting held via Zoom

Members, Alternates Attending

Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Co-chair
Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Co-chair
Councilor Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg
Brian Pohl (alternate for Mayor Truax)
Commissioner Nafisa Fai
Commissioner Jerry Willey (alternate)
Councilor Rick Van Beveren
Mayor Jeffrey Dalin
Rian Windsheimer
JC Vanatta
Ernesto Olivia

Affiliate

Metro
Metro
City of Beaverton
City of Forest Grove
Washington County
Washington County
City of Hillsboro
City of Cornelius
ODOT
TriMet
Unite Oregon

Panelists Attending

Eryn Kehe
Malu Wilkinson
Yuliya Lee
Erin Wardell
Jamie Snook
Carina Solis

Affiliate

Metro
Metro
Metro
Washington County
TriMet
Unite Oregon

Welcome and introductions (Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Metro)

Co-chair Councilor Gonzalez called meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and welcomed the attendees to the meeting. Councilor Gonzalez highlighted the significance of the Tualatin Valley Highway (TV Highway) project and urged committee members to work together to ensure project's success. The committee members and panelists proceeded to introduce themselves, noted their jurisdictional affiliation, and shared their aspirations for the TV Highway project.

Public comment

Jahed Sukhun, Muslim Education Trust (MET), expressed concern about lack of results from work that was previously done on TV Highway project and hoped that the current Steering Committee will ensure its effectiveness.

Summary of past planning efforts on TV Highway (Erin Wardell, Washington County; Jamie Snook, TriMet)

Erin Wardell, Washington County, proceeded to give an overview of the TV Highway Corridor. She emphasized that this corridor encompasses many communities and provided a list of previously worked on projects and outreach efforts that included multiple partnerships. The list of projects included:

- Beaverton Canyon Road Safety/Complete Corridor Project
- Beaverton Active Transportation Plan
- Beaverton Downtown Design Project
- Cornelius Town Center Plan and Urban Renewal Plan
- Forest Grove TV Highway Improvement Plan
- Hillsboro Transportation System Plan
- South Hillsboro Focus Area Plan
- TV Highway Corridor Plan
- Aloha-Reedville Livable Community Plan
- Aloha Tomorrow
- Moving Forward TV Highway
- Cornelius Road Safety Audit

Ms. Wardell noted that some funding success was achieved with completed transportation projects, which included:

- ODOT 18-21 STIP – approximately \$21M for safety and operational improvements (sidewalk infill, signal upgrades, ADA)
- ODOT 21-24 STIP – approximately 12M for safety and operational improvements (lighting, signal upgrades, fiber optic)
- Arterial crossings at 185th, 209th, Century - include lighting, sidewalk, bus stops, and stormwater
- ODOT immediate arterial improvement 2020 - \$1.76M for lighting
- Congressionally Directed Spending award to ODOT - \$1M for Safety improvements in Cornelius

Ms. Erin Wardell continued with an overview of the corridor vision statement that was developed for Regional Funding Measure and outlined corridor's needs and opportunities, which included:

- Need: support communities of color and low-income populations; Opportunity: provide safe access to transit and improve travel time and reliability
- Need: improve safety for all users; Opportunity: better pedestrian crossings, upgraded bus stops, lighting, bike lanes, and sidewalks that improve comfort and visibility
- Need: make it easier to get around; Opportunity: address major bottlenecks, complete bike and walk network including crossings, implement smart signals and technology to improve travel time and reliability for cars, trucks and buses
- Need: protect clean air; Opportunity: priority transit investments could result in three times increase in transit ridership by 2040 (8,600 people board transit service along the corridor every day on lines 57 and 58)
- Need: support livability, growth, and economic opportunity; Opportunity: provide a road that brings people together, improves people's travel options and supports a more livable and vibrant corridor

Another transit opportunities included:

- Enhanced transit
- Stop improvements
- Relocate stops to far side, as warranted
- Install Transit Signal Priority at intersections to increase bus speed and reliability
- Construct pedestrian access to transit improvements
- Upgrade fleet

Ms. Wardell concluded her presentation with a brief overview of additional unique corridor opportunities that were identified in multiple individual planning studies.

Mr. Rian Windsheimer asked about which bike lanes were included, specifically if parallel routes were considered.

The committee members inquired about frequency of bus service, number of bus stops, data on minority owned businesses, and if there was an express bus service along the corridor. Ms. Jamie Snook, TriMet, responded that TV Highway corridor has over 50 bus stops with 15 minutes frequent service and no express bus service due to short bus trips. Ms. Erin Wardell added that data on minority owned businesses was collected from various studies. The committee members emphasized the importance of focusing on accessibility across the highway and keeping in mind bus congestion in the corridor.

Mr. Jahed Sukhun, MET, inquired why other studies are collecting dust. Ms. Erin Wardell responded that other studies have been moving forward incrementally and they have contributed to getting everyone where we are now.

Co-chair, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, noted that the committee needs to stay on track timewise, therefore additional questions can be answered later on.

Ms. Jamie Snook, TriMet, started her presentation on bus line 57 route and ridership. She highlighted the importance of the bus line, noting that it provides an essential service between Forest Grove and Beaverton Transit Center. Ms. Snook stated that out of TriMet's 17 frequent service bus lines, line 57 retained the second highest level of ridership during the pandemic. She elaborated on the data concerning line 57 riders, which included:

- 50% of trips are for work
- 63% of trips less or equal to five miles distance
- 75% of riders access route by walking or rolling

TV Highway corridor demographics included:

- Higher Hispanic/Latino population
- Higher number of people under 18 years old
- Higher percentage of incomes below 1.49 x poverty
- Higher rate of low English proficiency

Ms. Jamie Snook concluded her presentation noting that TriMet's 2013 Westside Service Enhancement

Plan recommended high capacity transit for TV Highway.

Co-chair Gerritt Rosenthal, Metro, inquired if there are any existing transit configurations that would make it easier or harder to accommodate a high volume of riders getting on and off the bus. Ms. Snook responded that TriMet is working on different options, such as articulated buses with multiple door boarding, near level boarding, and exploring how various vehicle types will work with different bus stop configurations.

Councilor Rick Van Beveren commented on the high-level of details in TriMet's studies and how statistics are being used to improve transit system and safety and accessibility of pedestrian traffic.

HOPE grant overview (Eryn Kehe, Metro)

Ms. Eryn Kehe started the presentation with background information on the Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone (HOPE) grant from Federal Transit Administration (FTA) that was specifically created to address transportation challenges faced by areas of persistent poverty. She stated that the grant will focus on two areas of work: public transit planning and producing an Equitable Development Strategy. Ms. Kehe noted that public transit planning deliverables would include an analysis of travel times and reliability, and electric vehicle feasibility study, and approved concept design or Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). Equitable development strategy deliverables would include a strategy document created by community-based organizations.

Ms. Eryn Kehe stated that the committee will focus on transit needs for this grant, which include:

- Safety
- Transit speed and reliability
- Transit dependent communities in the corridor

She continued her presentation by highlighting number of partners involved, their roles, and how they will work together. Committees that support the grant included TV Highway staff groups, TV Highway Steering Committee and TV Highway Equity Coalition. Ms. Kehe stated that with grant includes \$944,450 (\$850,000 federal funds, \$94,450 locally matched funds) the goal of this project is to identify a preferred transit design and the Equitable Development Strategy by June 2023.

In conclusion, Ms. Kehe noted that transit need is only one need on this corridor. She urged the committee to use the momentum to make improvements and enhancements to the corridor and hoped that the Equitable Development Strategy will look at the entire picture of needs.

Mr. Rian Windsheimer inquired if the Equitable Development Strategy includes placing conditions on development to help provide funds for transportation improvements. Ms. Eryn Kehe responded that the Equitable Development Strategy is a community-based recommendation that would not include planning policies or code changes.

Mr. JC Vanatta, TriMet, asked if there's any way to condense the timeline of this project to ensure its competitiveness. Ms. Malu Wilkinson, Metro, responded that current timeline of the project is already compressed and possible because a large amount of work is already done. Ms. Jamie Snook agreed with Ms. Wilkinson and added that staff is working very hard on moving this project forward to ensure the opportunity for government funding is being used.

Co-chair Gerritt Rosenthal asked for clarification if equity aspect of the project will focus on bus stop location, access, and safety and if there's data available for persons with disabilities in the corridor. Ms. Jamie Snook responded that his assumptions are correct, confirmed that data for persons with disabilities is available and considered, and added that the committee will also look into transit speed and reliability.

Equitable Development Strategy; community members on this group (Eryn Kehe, Metro)

Ms. Eryn Kehe gave a brief overview about work that's being done to recruit community members to serve on TV Highway Steering Committee and introduced Mr. Ernesto Olivia, Unite Oregon, to elaborate about their involvement with the creation of the Equitable Development Strategy and partnership with Metro.

Mr. Ernesto Olivia briefly highlighted Unite Oregon's involvement and discussed partnerships for the TV Highway project and beyond. He welcomed Carina Solis, Washington County, TV Highway Equity Coalition organizer. Ms. Carina Solis gave a short introduction of herself and her past experiences.

Councilor Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg, City of Beaverton, commented on the significance of having an equitable development strategy to ensure no harm is being done to the communities while working on the corridor improvement.

Commissioner Jerry Willey, Washington County, expressed hope that the study for this project will provide enhanced look at the communities involved, and will guide the committee members to make informed equitable decisions.

Ms. Eryn Kehe responded to the chat comment from Councilor Rick Van Beveren, City of Hillsboro, about the importance of consulting with minority owned businesses along the corridor. She noted that there are organizations with those connections and that she is looking forward to exploring partnership opportunities with them.

Steering Committee schedule and charter review (Eryn Kehe, Metro)

Ms. Eryn Kehe gave an overview of the Steering Committee meetings schedule. She elaborated about scheduling a bus tour along the TV Highway corridor in June. The committee members expressed interest in participating in the tour.

Ms. Kehe continued by introducing committee's charter document. She noted that the committee members have some time to look over it and make amendments and edits prior being approved at the next meeting. She emphasized that the primary focus of this group is to create a transit concept to pursue with Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Mr. Rian Windsheimer commented on the importance of focusing on the aspects of the project that can be delivered, rather than aspirations.

Draft project purpose and need, goals and objectives (Eryn Kehe, Metro)

Ms. Eryn Kehe summarized the initial Purpose and Need document. She pointed out the importance of the project to the region and the communities involved. Ms. Kehe continued with an overview of the

Goals and Objectives document. She noted its focus on improving travel experience for communities of color and low income communities, feasibility to fund, construct, and operate, the ability to move into the project development phase, and having community support.

Mr. JC Vanatta, asked if one of the goals on the Goals and Objectives document can be edited to enhance transportation alternatives.

The committee members thanked project team and inquired if project staff plans on using equitable contracting and what level of details will be required for Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). Ms. Jamie Snook responded that project team plans on working with minority-owned contractors and that level of design will be conceptual.

Next steps (Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Metro)

There being no further business, co-chair Juan Carlos Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 5:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Yuliya Lee, TV Highway Steering Committee Recorder

Attachments to the Public Record, TV Highway Steering Committee meeting, April 14, 2022

Item	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1	Agenda	4/14/2022	04/14/2022 TV Highway Steering Committee meeting agenda	041422TVHSC-01
2	Table	4/7/2022	Draft TV Highway Committee meeting schedule	041422TVHSC-02
3	Document	4/7/2022	Draft TV Highway Steering Committee charter	041422TVHSC-03
4	Document	4/6/2022	Draft TV Highway Transit Project Initial Purpose and Need Statement	041422TVHSC-04
5	Document	4/6/2022	Draft TV Highway Transit Project Goals and Objectives	041422TVHSC-05