



**METRO POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)**

Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2015

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sam Chase  
Tim Clark, *1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair*  
Carlotta Collette  
Denny Doyle  
Mark Gamba  
Lise Glancy  
Ed Gronke  
Jeff Gudman  
Jerry Hinton  
Dick Jones  
Susie Lahsene  
Anne McEnerny-Ogle  
Marilyn McWilliams  
Craig Prosser  
Martha Schrader, *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair*  
Loretta Smith  
Bob Stacey  
Peter Truax, *Chair*  
Jerry Willey

AFFILIATION

Metro Council  
City of Wood Village, Multnomah Co. Other Cities  
Metro Council  
City of Beaverton, Washington Co. Second Largest City  
City of Milwaukie, Clackamas Co. Other Cities  
Port of Portland  
Clackamas County Citizen  
City of Lake Oswego, Clackamas Co. Largest City  
City of Gresham, Multnomah Co. Second Largest City  
Oak Lodge Water District, Clackamas Co. Special Districts  
Port of Portland  
City of Vancouver  
Tualatin Valley Water District, Washing Co. Special Districts  
TriMet Board of Directors  
Clackamas County  
Multnomah County  
Metro Council  
City of Forest Grove, Washington Co. Other Cities  
City of Hillsboro, Washington Co. Largest City

MEMBERS EXCUSED

AFFILIATION

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Carrie MacLaren  
Marc San Soucie  
Jeff Swanson

AFFILIATION

Department of Land Conservation and Development  
City of Beaverton, Washington Co. 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest City  
Clark County

OTHERS PRESENT: Adam Barber, Eric Chambers, Carol Chesarek, Colin Cooper, Chris Deffebach, Jennifer Donnelly, Eric Hesse, Stephan Lashbrook, Brenda Perry

STAFF: Roger Alfred, Nick Christensen, Alexandra Eldridge, Kim Ellis, Elissa Gertler, Ted Leybold, Nellie Papsdorf, Ted Reid, Jamie Snook, Nikolai Ursin

**1. CALL TO ORDER, SELF INTRODUCTIONS, CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS**

MPAC Chair Peter Truax called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. and declared a quorum. All attendees introduced themselves.

Chair Truax notified the committee that an off-site MPAC event would be held in lieu of the regular meeting scheduled for July 22. He explained that the event will be held in the City of Milwaukee for a walking tour of downtown led by Mayor Mark Gamba and Councilor Wilda Parks to discuss new downtown and transit-oriented development as well as how the city is managing new residential and commercial growth. The tour will be followed by a presentation by Joe Minicozzi, a Principle from Urban3 that specializes in the economic impacts of different land use choices and how they connect to transportation decisions. Chair Truax encouraged the committee to attend the event and take the opportunity to visit other parts of the region.

Councilor Carlotta Collette added that the event was the first of the Speakers Series supported by a recent budget amendment passed by the Metro Council. She expressed her excitement for the Speakers Series as well as for the committee's opportunity to familiarize itself with one of the region's local jurisdictions.

## **2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

There were none.

## **3. COUNCIL UPDATE**

Councilor Carlotta Collette notified MPAC members of the following items:

- Willamette Falls was granted \$7.5 million in lottery bond money for the Willamette Falls Legacy Project. Designs are currently being developed for the RiverWalk that will provide public access to the falls. The complete budget is about \$30 million, and with the addition of the lottery bond funds the project currently has \$17 million raised. Councilor Collette thanked Metro's partners in the project such as Oregon State Representative Brent Barton, Clackamas County, and the City of Oregon City, and noted that the project had an excellent architecture team working on the design.
- An update on the urban growth management (UGM) decision process: Metro Council President Tom Hughes sent a letter to the region's leaders on June 25, asking Metro Chief Operating Officer (COO) Martha Bennett to draft her recommendation on the UGM decision by the end of July. The Metro Council expects to see the recommendation by July 22 and hopes to wrap the decision process up in the fall. Councilor Collette noted that the Council expressed support for wrapping up this year's decision by the end of the year and starting a new process as soon as 2018.
  - Councilor Bob Stacey added that President Hughes made a visit to the Regional Mayors forum to discuss the UGM decision earlier that day. Councilor Stacey acknowledged that the Metro Council as a whole shares the President's opinion on the decision. He added that restarting the process in 2018 would allow the region to evaluate fresher data and make a clearer decision once the ongoing issues are settled.
  - Commissioner Schrader noted that she would also like to see the decision finished so the region can move forward. She explained that the decision would be somewhat controversial and that it would be important to communicate the reasons behind the decision with the region's stakeholders, partners, and local jurisdictions.

- Councilor Jeff Gudman shared that Yakima Manufacturing, a company currently based in the City of Beaverton but moving due to the upcoming Nike expansion, has chosen to purchase the City of Lake Oswego's West End building to act as their new headquarters. Councilor Gudman expressed his excitement about the move and noted that it means about 150 well-paying jobs will stay in the region.

#### **4. MPAC MEMBER COMMUNICATION**

There were none.

#### **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **5.1 Consideration of June 24, 2015 Minutes**

MOTION: Mayor Denny Doyle moved and Mayor Mark Gamba seconded, to adopt the June 24, 2015 minutes as amended.

ACTION: With all in favor, the motion passed.

*Notes*: Councilor Carlotta Collette requested that the June 24, 2015 minutes be amended to include the notes from the meeting's discussion groups.

#### **6. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **6.1 2018 Regional Transportation Plan Update**

Chair Truax introduced Metro Planning and Development Director Elissa Gertler to provide an overview of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update. Ms. Gertler expressed her excitement about the update and explained that it was an opportunity to start thinking about how to coordinate transportation visions with Metro's new policies and programs that have been developed since the last update, such as the Climate Smart Strategy and Active Transportation Plan. She added that MPAC's discussion would inform staff as they work on the development of a work plan and engagement strategy for the update.

Key elements of the presentation included:

- Kim Ellis, Metro Principal Transportation Planner and RTP update project manager, provided an overview of the project's timeline and a background of the RTP.
- As the region's federally-designated metropolitan planning organization, Metro is responsible for coordinating the region's shared transportation vision and goals using the Regional Transportation Plan. The RTP serves as a blueprint to guide investments in the region's transportation system for all forms of travel and the movement of goods and freight. The plan identifies current and future regional transportation needs, investments recommended to meet those needs, and local, regional, state, and federal transportation funds the region expects to have available over the next 25 years to make those investments a reality.
- Ms. Ellis shared some stories and examples from recent public engagement efforts to highlight what is important to people in the region's communities.

- Ms. Ellis explained that an update is required at least every four years. She noted that the 2018 update will include new policy direction from the recently approved Climate Smart Strategy and Regional Active Transportation Plan and address a number of issues deferred during the last RTP update.
- Ms. Ellis shared a historical perspective of the RTP that included major and minor updates. She pointed out that the 2018 RTP update will fall halfway through Metro's 2040 Growth Concept process, approved in 1995, and is an opportunity to evaluate how well the region is progressing toward its 50-year vision. She then shared a RTP update timeline highlighting the four main phases of the process.
- Next steps include: convening the regional advisory committees to discuss priorities and desired outcomes for the update, outreach to further develop the work plan and engagement strategy, discussions between Metro Council and the regional advisory committees to evaluate the draft work plan and outreach strategy in the fall, and consideration of the proposed work plan and outreach strategy by the advisory committees and the Metro Council by the end of the year.
- Ms. Ellis then asked the committee to consider the following questions:
  - How can this update best support your community and the region?
  - What is most important for this update to address?
  - Who should we be working with in this update?
  - How do you want to be involved in this process?

*Member discussion included:*

Chair Truax asked how the update can best support the community and the region. He expressed concern about equity in transportation and shared the example of the City of Forest Grove's GroveLink, noting that it provides service to people who cannot otherwise afford transportation. He added that it was crucial that transportation options are established that can suit the needs of all of the region's residents, including people who have no other means of transportation.

Mayor Mark Gamba shared his experience with Metro's Climate Smart Strategy process and noted his concerns about designing innovative programs without sufficiently planning for their funding. He emphasized the importance of developing a regional funding mechanism for transportation projects, as state and federal funding levels fail to provide the resources needed.

Councilor Jeff Gudman concurred with Mayor Gamba and added that the region should work under the assumption that it will need to find local funding. He also expressed interest in developing an Oregon City-Portland bicycle and pedestrian trail that would pass through the Cities of West Linn and Lake Oswego. He explained that the trail would reduce the amount of cars on the roads, support the goals of the Safe Routes to Schools program, and take advantage of existing public assets.

Members expressed frustration with funding limitations and discussed alternative funding mechanisms.

Councilor Stacey agreed with the members' concerns about funding, but noted that the RTP does include a financially-constrained version of the plan as an alternate option. He encouraged the committee to make the case for increased funding to the voters, and added that there were some upcoming prospects, such as TriMet's possible increase to the Employer Payroll Tax, that will allow some aspects of the transportation plan to move forward.

Marilyn McWilliams praised the Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) expansion and urged staff to evaluate how it may impact traffic. Councilor Bob Stacey noted that the impacts are currently being considered in Metro's work on the Southwest Corridor Plan.

Mayor Denny Doyle emphasized the need for expanded mass transit in all of the region's cities, noting its importance for the region's residents and employers alike.

Mayor Jerry Willey noted that the region needs to adapt to the current political climate and think about funding transportation differently. He shared examples of potential alternative funding mechanisms, such as public and private partnerships, road tolls, Vehicle-miles Traveled (VMT) fees, and the pilot OreGO program.

Councilor Gudman agreed with Mayor Willey and suggested considering a carbon tax as well.

Members expressed their support for joint MPAC-JPACT meetings to further discuss the Regional Transportation Plan update.

Mayor Willey thanked Kim Ellis for all her hard work.

## **6.2 Regional Transit Strategy Overview**

Metro Planning and Development Director Elissa Gertler introduced the topic with a brief overview of the Regional Transit Strategy's (RTS) role in Metro's overarching planning goals. She explained that the strategy will serve as the transit component of the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan update and provide a coordinated vision and strategy for transit in the Portland metropolitan region. The strategy will be the result of a collaborative effort led by Metro, TriMet, and South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART).

Ms. Gertler introduced Jamie Snook from Metro, Eric Hesse from TriMet and Stephan Lashbrook from SMART, to provide an overview of the Regional Transit Strategy and its coordination with TriMet and SMART. Key elements of the presentation included:

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- Eric Hesse provided an overview of TriMet's Service Enhancement Plan (SEP) process. To improve the current system, TriMet divided the region into five areas and evaluated existing ridership patterns and projected land use changes within each area, and used community outreach to develop area-specific solutions for the region's transit needs. Mr. Hesse explained that TriMet was particularly focused on better serving the growing region and adapting to its changing needs by providing more local and regional service with a focus on improving bus services, and providing better connections to jobs, education, and services in local communities and throughout the region.
- Stephan Lashbrook provided an overview of SMART's Master Planning process. Mr. Lashbrook explained that SMART, operated by the City of Wilsonville, is one of more than a dozen outlying transit agencies that make connections with TriMet and expand the transit opportunities for the region's residents. He noted that in this way, transit agencies from across the region are involved in the region's transit development and need to be involved in the Regional Transit Strategy process. Mr. Lashbrook shared some important factors involved in SMART's Master Planning process including: planning for a commuter culture, payroll tax funding, and coordinating with Metro and TriMet. He explained that the focus of

the SMART Master Plan update is to provide the existing plan with a longer range view of transit services in and around the City of Wilsonville.

- Jamie Snook of Metro provided an overview of the Regional Transit Strategy, including a brief background. She explained that there has been a focus on transit planning across the region and there was interest in bringing attention to what the larger shared transit system and vision should be, leading to the development of the Regional Transit Strategy, to be adopted as the transit modal component of the 2018 RTP.
- The 2018 Regional Transit Strategy will include updates to the High Capacity (HCT) Plan and the System Expansion Policy, incorporate TriMet's Service Enhancement Plans and SMART's Master Plan, support the Climate Smart Strategy's recommendations, coordinate the region's transit vision and transit system expansion policy, and act as the transit modal component of the 2018 RTP update.
- The strategy is guided by an overall policy framework consisting of the 2040 Growth Concept, the Regional Framework Plan, and the Regional Transportation Plan. The four key phases to the development of the Regional Transit Strategy: creating the regional transit vision and organizing partnerships, developing policy to guide phasing of investments, developing a shared transit investment strategy, and adopting the Regional Transit Strategy as part of the 2018 RTP.
- The first phase of work will begin this summer and continue through early 2016. Next steps include: community engagement and outreach linked with the 2018 RTP update process as much as possible, special events with community-based organizations, focused workshops and a working group with transit providers and further discussions with the regional advisory committees including MPAC and the Metro Council.
- Ms. Snook then asked the committee to consider the following questions:
  - What is most important for the Regional Transit Strategy to address?
  - Do you have specific goals for the Regional Transit Strategy?
  - How would you like to be engaged in the process?

*Member discussion included:*

Members expressed concerns about past disagreements between TriMet and SMART.

Mayor Willey commended TriMet for reconciling their finances and acknowledged that it had been a critical part of engaging the rest of the region in endorsing new programs. He noted that for most of the region's history, transit had been based in the City of Portland, but explained that as the region has developed, those needs have changed. He expressed interest in moving away from that model and developing connections between the suburbs in order to better serve the region's residents. He also suggested considering the viability of express trains to popular stops such as Portland International Airport and the Oregon Zoo in order to further incentivize people to use transit.

Mayor Gamba raised concerns about the lack of connections between the east and west sides of the region. He explained that there are many people in the City of Milwaukie who commute across the river for work, noting that statistics show only 1,000 of the city's residents live and work in the city.

Mayor Doyle noted that the goals reflected in the Climate Smart Strategy should be top priorities of the Regional Transportation Plan and the Regional Transit Strategy. He also expressed interest in seeing the WES commuter rail connect with GroveLink and SMART.

Craig Prosser concurred with Mayor Doyle about aligning the RTP and the RTS with the Climate

Smart Strategy. He also agreed that systems such as the GroveLink and SMART are essential to providing sufficient transit services in the region and noted the importance of continuing these services in the future. He explained that devising a strategy to fund the systems was crucial to their longevity, as it is not clear how much longer they will be able to rely on federal funds.

Jeff Swanson expressed interest in considering how the region can make itself competitive in terms of eligibility for federal funds.

**7. ADJOURN**

MPAC Chair Peter Truax adjourned the meeting at 6:56p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nellie Papsdorf".

Nellie Papsdorf  
Recording Secretary

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JULY 8, 2015**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT No.</b>
<b>1.0</b>	Flyer	N/A	MPAC Walking Tour and Speaker Series Event Invitation	070815m-01
<b>1.0</b>	Letter	N/A	From President Tom Hughes re: The Urban Growth Management Decision	070815m-02
<b>1.0</b>	Handout	06/25/15	Urban Growth Management Decision Timeline	070815m-03
<b>1.0</b>	Handout	06/24/15	Urban Growth Management Decision MPAC Discussion Notes	070815m-04
<b>6.1</b>	PowerPoint	07/08/15	2018 Regional Transportation Plan update	070815m-05
<b>6.2</b>	PowerPoint	07/08/15	Regional Transit Strategy	070815m-06
<b>6.2</b>	Handout	N/A	The Future of Transit in North/Central	070815m-07
<b>6.2</b>	Handout	N/A	The Future of Transit in Southeast	070815m-08
<b>6.2</b>	Handout	N/A	The Future of Transit on the Eastside	070815m-09
<b>N/A</b>	Handout	07/01/15	Metro Hotsheet	070815m-10