



METRO POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)

Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2017

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sam Chase
Carlotta Collette
Betty Dominguez
Denny Doyle
Amanda Fritz
Mark Gamba (*Chair*)
Gordon Hovies
Larry Morgan
Nathan Phelan
Craig Prosser
Jeanne Stewart
Peter Truax

AFFILIATION

Metro Council
Metro Council
Citizen of Clackamas County
City of Beaverton, Second Largest City in Washington County
City of Portland
City of Milwaukie, Other Cities in Clackamas County
Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, Special Districts in Washington County
City of Troutdale, Other Cities in Multnomah County
Peninsula Drainage District #1, Special Districts in Multnomah County
TriMet
Clark County
City of Forest Grove, Other Cities in Washington County

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Anthony Martin

AFFILIATION

City of Hillsboro, Largest City in Washington County

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Jeff Gudman
John Hayes

AFFILIATION

City of Lake Oswego, Largest City in Clackamas County
Forest Grove School District, Governing Body of a School District

OTHERS PRESENT: John Griffiths, Gretchen Buehner, Adam Barber, Eric Hessa, Paul Savas, Laura Weigel

STAFF: Tom Kloster, Ramona Perrault, Ernest Hayes, Tyler Frisbee, Kim Ellis, Christopher Spencer

1. CALL TO ORDER, SELF INTRODUCTIONS, CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

MPAC Chair Mark Gamba called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. Chair Gamba proceeded to have attendees introduce themselves.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Paul Savas, Clackamas County: Commissioner Savas testified on affordable housing. He noted that there was a shortage of affordable housing in the region and that development has led to gentrification. He asked rhetorically on the tools and methods that elected representatives could adopt to improve equity and serve disadvantaged populations through infrastructure development. He explained that representatives should examine if actions taken in region can be refined. He recommended shaping the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to best connect affordable housing to employment areas and to address the needs of accommodation over time.

Member discussion included:

- Mayor Peter Truax discussed affordable housing in Forest Grove. He noted that there were conversations that revealed it to be of priority concern for constituents in the region. He continued to discuss funding for affordable housing and noted that MPAC needs to continue to make clear to the congressional delegation that funding cannot go away. He stated that the programs that funding support were important to livability. He explained that it was important to show support to members of congress to maintain funding for critical programs in the region.
- Councilor Collette noted that it would be beneficial to share success stories from the programs that support affordable housing in the region.
- Ms. Betty Dominguez thanked Commissioner Savas for his testimony. She explained that affordable housing is a top priority. She explained that if work was preemptively done that there the current situation could have been mitigated. She noted that affordable housing initiatives should be developed as a group and efforts to avoid the negative connotations towards affordable housing should be made.
- Councilor Chase stated that Community Planning and Development Grants (CPDG) deadline for submission was on June 5, 2017. He explained that the funds would be used towards proposals that further affordable housing initiatives, inclusionary zoning, streamline permitting for system development charges, and site specific master plans. He noted that a large area was covered under the qualifications and explained that he wished the full funds to be used.
- Councilor Chase discussed the equitable housing report and outlined strategies.
- Councilor Collette added that May 26, 2017 was the deadline for CPDG letters of intent. She noted that MPAC could benefit from speakers highlighting progress through grant reports.
- Councilor Chase noted that Metro staff could bring copies of the Equitable Housing Report at the following MPAC meeting to provide highlights on the report.

3. COUNCIL UPDATE

- Councilor Carlotta Collette highlighted the opening of Farmington Paddle launch to kayaks, canoes and other non-motorized vehicles into the Tualatin River starting in May 2017. She invited attendees to the opening of Discovery Day on June 24, 2017. She explained that the launch site was at southwest Farmington and River roads and was built in partnership with Clean Water Services. She noted that it provided a key stop between Rood Bridge and Eagle Landing parks along the Tualatin River Water Trail. She explained that funds were provided through a grant from the Oregon parks and Recreation Department and Metro's natural are bond measures approved in 2006.
- Councilor Collette discussed the Oregon Convention Center plaza project. She noted that the groundbreaking for the Hyatt Regency was a few months away. She added that improvements would also be done to the convention center building. She stated that a RFP would be released the following month for the renovation of the plaza between the convention center and the MAX station to improve visibility and access to the convention center from the MAX station.
- Councilor Collette provided a legislative update on a land use and referenced HB 2095 to allow Metro to establish an interim process for cities to do small UGB expansions mid cycle. She noted that the bill passed the State House and was referred to a senate committee.

4. MPAC MEMBER COMMUNICATION.

- Councilor Chase mentioned a recent headline in the Portland Tribune on Councilor Larry Morgan. He noted that the article discussed overcoming barriers and obstacles and his journey towards becoming an elected representative.
- Mayor Truax discussed the parking lot on the work program. He noted that the extent of the parking lot was growing and recommended moving items off the parking lot and schedule items for upcoming MPAC discussions.
- Councilor Anthony Martin asked that UGB reports be included in the parking lot. Councilor Collette and Chair Gamba noted that MPAC is required to review the UGB reports and would not be included in the parking lot as since it is one of MPAC's major roles and responsibilities.
- Mayor Denny Doyle recapped the recent JPACT transportation lobby day to the state legislature. He gave his perspective that the conversations were position and realistic. He highlighted the focus on the three bottleneck projects and the Southwest Corridor study.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- **Consideration of the April 12, 2017 Minutes**

Please Note: Approval of the consent agenda was deferred to the following MPAC meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

6. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 2018 RTP Update: Building the RTP Investment Strategy

Chair Gamba provided a brief update on the RTP Investment Strategy. He noted that the item was related to the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan update and was for discussion only. He stated that the discussion would provide an update on where the region stands in the process and the elements that would be asked for MPAC to make a recommendation to Metro Council. He added that Metro staff was seeking MPAC comments and feedback on the revised vision statement and process for moving forward to update and evaluate the strategy. He noted that MPAC would be asked to make a recommendation on May 10, 2017 on building the RTP investment strategy. He noted that MPAC would also be presented updates on the Regional Transit Strategy and the Regional Freight Strategy. He added that pending Metro Council action on MPAC's and JPACT's recommendation, Metro would issue a call for projects to update the region's transportation investment priorities for the 2018 RTP in June 2017. He introduced Councilor Collette to introduce the topic further, and Ms. Kim Ellis, Metro staff, to lead the presentation.

Councilor Collette thanked Chair Gamba for the introduction. She noted that the Metro region's economic prosperity and quality of life was partially depended on having equitable access to safe, reliable, healthy and affordable travel options. She explained that the 2018 RTP would provide the opportunity to work together to update the shared vision and investment strategy for building the transportation system that the region needs for the next 25 years. She stated that three forums were held in 2016 that provided opportunities to discuss trends, challenges, and the vision for the future, and potential strategies to reach that vision. She stated that there was agreement over the vision and the challenges and solutions and that funding was emphasized as a critical solution to

multiple challenges. She touched on the commitments highlighted towards equity, safety, and implementation of the Climate Smart Strategy. She noted that public comment opportunities have provided valuable input on the public priorities for both short-term and long-term investments and that a summary of the most recent comment opportunity was available at the meeting. She highlighted areas to focus on including maintenance, safety, mixed investments to connect people to communities, address congestion, safeguard the environment, promote air quality and to improve access to ports, industrial areas, job centers and other opportunities. She explained that funding was limited but that there was strong regional support for more funding to expand and maintain the regional transportation system of roads, bridges, transit, bikeways and sidewalks. She added that MPAC's recommendation would include policy direction on the vision for the future of transportation in the region, and the framework and process that would be used to evaluate and refine the initial draft investment strategy.

Key elements of the presentation included:

Ms. Kim Ellis, Metro staff, stated that this was her fourth RTP process. She went through the presentation and noted differences in the packet from the presentation that incorporated recommendations from JPACT. She explained the vision for the overall strategy and work done on investing in the shared priorities. She reminded attendees that the RTP was a federally required document to be re-examined every four years to provide opportunity to recalibrate the priorities and strategies outlined. She showed a timeline of the RTP process and noted that they were mid-way through the fourth phase of building the investment strategy. She explained that key challenges were identified in the financial forecast. She stated that they were on track to complete the re-examination by 2018 to undergo the federal review process. She reminded MPAC that their recommendation on the RTP was a primary duty of the committee.

Ms. Ellis discussed the technical work and engagement practices. She stated that the evaluation measures were designed to see how well investments address areas for concern. She noted that the following meeting would continue RTP updates for freight and transit strategies. She explained that the RTP was a plan for long term land use vision. She added that each area under the RTP had performance targets for active transportation, greenhouse gas emissions, maintenance, and transit. She noted work done by TriMet to develop service enhancement plans across the region and work done by ODOT on freight bottlenecks. She stated that the RTP included regional system and community priority investments with ODOT and TriMet.

Ms. Ellis discussed updates to the funding forecast. She explained that there would be less funding as we enter fiscal constraint. She explained the two levels of investment from what is predicted to be affordable and the strategic level, which represents local goals. She noted that the plan would help to understand the financial outlook and identify priorities. She added that JPACT and Metro Council were working to focus on the size of the investment strategy and tools to move beyond fiscal constraint. She explained the evaluation of investments and the three pieces of the framework for evaluation; system evaluation measures, transportation equity and pilot project level evaluation for a small number of projects.

Ms. Ellis discussed the process for building the investment strategy. She explained that there was a high level of overview with Metro Council asked to support building the strategy by issuing a call for projects to work with counties, cities and transit authorities to identify project policy updates. She noted that work with technical committees would review information and identify areas of

underperformance. She added that refinement would begin in January 2018 with a public review draft available in June 2018. She then asked MPAC for feedback on the process.

Member discussion included:

- Mayor Truax recommended the term “transparency” to be included in the objective. He noted that when used with a sense of purpose that it serves as a reminder that the process has to be transparent and accountable.
- Ms. Dominguez explained that the vision statement highlights a prosperous and equitable economy as if it was solely dependent on the transportation system. She recommended that the statement incorporate elements of healthcare, housing, and employment opportunity.
- Commissioner Amanda Fritz discussed the equity goal. She stated that she would like to see prioritization for areas that have more impactful infrastructure barriers.
- Ms. Ellis responded that MPAC could articulate priorities around the investment strategy and that specific areas could be emphasized.
- Commissioner Fritz discussed the list of criteria used for assessment, highlight work done in City of Portland departments for racial and economic equity.
- Chair Gamba discussed Vision Zero. He asked for further data so that MPAC could infer why impacts have disparity across the region.
- Councilor Anthony Martin noted that regional goals to identify priorities as outlined in the RTP require sound funding mechanisms.
- Chair Gamba noted the funding timeline and the transportation plan for the future was a transportation plan to address current needs and issues. He explained that the current package doesn’t inspire ambition and highlighted that this would be a pressing concern when presented to the voters.
- Ms. Ellis noted that the graphic was intended to highlight the need for funding rather than as a timeline to meet criteria.
- Chair Gamba discussed fiscal leadership and the efficient use of resources. He noted a recent project in the City of Milwaukie that went over-budget and exceeded the estimated completion time due to the requirements of federal funding toward the project.
- Ms. Ellis replied that \$2 billion was the estimated cost for building the investment regardless of the source of funds. She noted that some projects were being completed through private development.
- Councilor Collette noted efforts to defederalize projects, noting that federal standards increase costs and time for projects.
- Mr. Craig Prosser discussed presenting the RTP to voters for authority. He noted that the vision statement was verbose and not conducive to communicate a clear message to unfamiliar individuals. He added that financial constraint should not be communicated as it was often a source for confusion and was uninspiring for public perception.
- Ms. Ellis concurred with Mr. Prosser that the statement should be condensed before presenting to voters.
- Mr. Kloster stated that the term meets state and federal requirements. He noted that the RTP as a document would not be presented to voters but would highlight the inspirational matters in the document. He added that Ms. Ellis’s presentation is to meet requirements before submitting to the public. He explained that a digestible RTP would help understand the process and that the term “financially constrained” was difficult to bypass.
- Mr. Prosser recognized that the document sets the discussion and emphasized the need for MPAC to consider how this would be communicated to the public.

- Ms. Ellis discussed the project list and noted that the description of project did not describe the purpose and intent. She explained that simple jargon would help promote the plan and investment areas so members of the public could provide meaningful feedback.
- Commissioner Fritz discussed gas tax in the City of Portland and noted that even with the added rate that the price of gas was comparable to City of Wilsonville. She linked this to funding mechanisms and highlighted the need to include people into the project list and to make the statement promising and worth funding.
- Mayor Doyle stated the need to be specific and having voters on the forefront of efforts.
- Mayor Truax noted the weight placed on the first sentence of the vision statement as inspirational.
- Chair Gamba recommended that climate be integrated in the first sentence through the term “sustainability”.
- Councilor Collette acknowledged that the first sentence of the vision statement should be concise.
- Ms. Dominguez recommended that the vision statement highlight prosperity and quality of life.
- Mr. Kloster suggested that the phrasing be modified to highlight safety, reliability and health.
- Ms. Ellis concluded her presentation by noting a call for action would occur at a following meeting with the updated vision statement.

ADJOURN

MPAC Chair Mark Gamba adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christopher Spencer
Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 26, 2017

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
4.0	Handout	04/26/2017	The Portland Tribune on Councilor Larry Morgan	042617m-01
6.1	PowerPoint	04/26/2017	Building the RTP Investment Strategy PowerPoint	042617m-02