

Advisory Council Reports

Presenter: George Kloeppe

Action Recommended: None. Information Only

Background:

Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC)

July 8, 2004

The Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) met on July 8 with representation from Lane County, Springfield, Eugene, Coburg, LTD, and ODOT. The MPC:

- Heard comments from two citizens in the public comment period: One related to the West Eugene Parkway project and the other related to the State Air Quality Implementation Plan.
- Heard a report from Jeff Krueger, LCOG, on the recently completed Walkable Community Workshops. The MPC discussed the results of the workshops, which were held in four locations within the metropolitan area.
- Considered the staff proposal for acceptable “baseline” data on minority populations and poverty levels for consideration as the region meets its obligations under the federal Executive Order requiring the achievement of “environmental justice” goals. The task, mandated by the EO, is to avoid disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of transportation plans and projects.
- Discussed the substantial number of transportation projects scheduled for work during the next two years with an eye toward minimizing adverse impacts on the public. Bob Pirrie, ODOT, agreed to take the lead in working with local public works staffs to stage the work in the least disruptive manner possible.
- Discussed the proposed second MPO Summit (the first having been held in Portland in June) that will be conducted in Eugene in the fall. George

Kloeppel indicated that the staffs from all six MPOs will meet on July 23 to craft a draft agenda. It has been suggested, he reported, that the Summit be held on October 1 at the Hilton (Eugene Conference Center). The MPC discussed some of the topics with should be included on the agenda.

Examples: Citizen involvement processes (innovations), legislative agenda, land use and transportation planning integration, potential mutually beneficial systems consideration when multi-regional facilities are involved, and criteria and policies for considering large transportation improvement projects.

- Reviewed several MPO-related calendar and information issues. The MPC particularly discussed the staffs proposed schedule for a “limited maintenance plan” for carbon monoxide. Some members of the MPC expressed the belief that the proposed strategy for revising the State Implementation Plan should have been considered a policy matter and brought to the MPC as a decision item.
- Heard a summary report from Bob Pirrie, ODOT, regarding the substantial improvements scheduled for summer 2005 on I-105. Pirrie noted the Open House scheduled for July 12 and reported that LCOG had prepared the distribution list of notifications for that event from the geographic information system.
- Acting as the Metropolitan Cable Television Commission, heard a staff report on a proposed settlement with Comcast Cable on a long-standing dispute regarding the payment of franchise fees. It was reported that, while on the verge of initiating arbitration, a compromise proposal had been placed on the table. Weighing the costs and benefits, the joint staff team has agreed to place the proposed settlement before their respective policy bodies. It was understood that, if/when approved at the policy level, the agreement would resolve the franchise fee issue for the balance of the franchise period—2008.

Lane Economic Committee (LEC)

June 21, 2004

- Reviewed Needs & Issues projects and made final recommendation to LCOG Board