

# Agenda Item Number 12.

## Advisory Council Reports

**Presenter:** George Kloeppel

**Action Recommended:** None. Information Only

**Background:**

*Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC)*

Met October 3, 2002

The Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) met on October 3 with representation from Lane County, Springfield, Eugene, LTD and ODOT. Lane County Commissioner Bobby Green presided in the absence of Councilor Hatfield and Commissioner Dwyer. OTC Commissioner Randy Pape was also present and participated.

The MPC addressed three transportation issues. Paul Thompson, LCOG, provided a report on the results of a September 23 “All Area” meeting of ODOT Region 2 regarding federal earmarks. The MPC’s recommendations from September had been forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners, which accepted the list of highway projects appropriate for earmarks and added a fourth project (Coburg interchange). The “All Area” meeting had resulted in five “high cost” projects being submitted for further consideration by the OTC. Among the five was the I-5 at Beltline interchange project from the MPC/Lane County list. Several issues were discussed, but not fully resolved. For example, the question of whether “earmarks” would be taken from- or added to- the Oregon allocation from a federal appropriation was explored. It was understood that the answer depended upon the language of the reauthorization legislation (ISTEA added earmarks to the states’ allocations and the subsequent TEA 21 reduced state allocations by the amount of earmarks approved). Similarly, there was some uncertainty as to whether non-highway projects seeking federal earmarks would be included in the OTC’s communication with the congressional delegation. It was generally presumed that such project needs—for transit, etc.—would be communicated separately. It was also understood that, as long as intentions were communicated to all concerned,

local jurisdictions could continue to advocate for earmarks e.g. as part of the United Front effort, even though projects advocated were not included on the OTC's communication with the delegation. Randy Pape emphasized that the state would not be obligating state resources as match for local earmarks not on ODOT's list of priority earmarks.

The MPC also revisited its previous discussion of the Department of Transportation's proposed Bypass Policy. Tom Schwetz, LCOG, reported that staff had utilized the MPC's comments from its September meeting and had crafted a proposed letter to the Chair of the OTC. After some discussion of the points raised in the letter, the MPC by motion authorized that it be sent over the Chair's signature. (Betty Taylor voted against the motion).

The MPC discussed the proposed transfer from the LCOG Board to the MPC of certain MPO/TMA-related transportation planning responsibilities, expected to be formalized by LCOG Board action on October 24. It was noted that an MPC Bylaw amendment would be needed in order for the Committee to accept and discharge the new responsibilities and, further, that there were options that would have to be considered and decided upon relative to the voting procedures that would be followed. Commissioner Green requested that staff provide an analysis of the MPC's policy-making prerogatives under the Joint Resolution by which the Committee was formed by Eugene, Springfield and Lane County. George Kloeppel agreed to provide that background prior to the Committee's next meeting.

**Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)/  
Senior Services Advisory Council(SSAC)**

met October 8, 2002

The Disability and Senior Services Advisory Councils hosted a Legislative Candidate Forum on Tuesday, October 8, at the Siuslaw Public Library in Florence. Several advisory council members from the Eugene area traveled to the event and three of the four candidates from House Districts 9 and 10 participated. Approximately 30 community and advisory council members attended the event on a beautiful fall day on the coast.

The candidates provided information on their backgrounds and explained their positions on the S&DS Legislative Priorities for the 2003 Legislative Session. They also offered their approaches to balancing the 2003-05 State's budget and explained how funding for senior and disability services would fit into their budget-balancing plans.

The audience submitted written questions for the candidates' response and was pleased to hear the candidates generally affirm their support for senior and disability services, particularly the Oregon Project Independence (OPI) program. Two candidates spoke of their personal involvement with senior and disability issues as they described their caregiving roles for family members. The candidates remained after the forum ended to meet individually with community members.

The Florence forum completed the Advisory Councils' series of legislative candidate forums that were beneficial to members and candidates alike. A greater understanding of senior and disability issues and concerns emerged, as well as the realization of the difficult task ahead for legislators as they embark on the 2003-05 session with a budget deficit of \$1.5 billion.