

Agenda Item Number 5. Advisory Council Reports

Presenter: George Kloeppel

Action Recommended: None. Information Only

Background:

Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC)

October 11, 2007

The Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) met on October 11 in the Eugene Library's Bascom-Tykeson Room with representation from Lane County, Springfield, Eugene, Coburg, LTD, and ODOT. The MPC:

- Heard a report from its Citizen Advisory committee regarding the committee's meetings held on September 19 and October 3. The report described the committee's development and adoption of a work program, its consideration of the RTP update, and its recommendation for Bylaw changes. In addition, the committee had sought a more complete understanding of the role played by Commuter Solutions and discussed results of the federal certification review of the Central Lane MPO.
- Conducted a public hearing (five persons providing comment) on the proposed Regional Transportation Plan. Issues raised by the public—at the hearing or in writing—were discussed by the MPC and questions were asked of and answered by the staff. The primary critical issue raised by the public related to the relationship of the RTP and the locally adopted TSPs. The MPC was urged to delay adoption of the Regional Transportation Plan or, at a minimum, delete capacity-building projects not in the current constrained RTP list until land use planning efforts of local jurisdictions can be carried out to clarify the need for transportation investments. Public comments also encouraged the MPC to more effectively enlist public participation in the long-range transportation planning process. Representatives of the State Department of Transportation indicated that the "gap" between the planning horizon used in the proposed RTP and that used in the MetroPlan (Eugene, Springfield and Lane County) was too great and that LCOG staff had been asked to bring together the planning/development/public works professionals in the participating jurisdictions to explore means by which the comprehensive plans could be updated and their horizons extended. It was noted that, while ODOT would not object to the adoption in December of the proposed RTP update, the "gap" issue could negatively impact local projects with respect to the STIP.
- Heard a staff report and testimony from one person in a public hearing on the proposed Air Quality Conformity Determination (AQCD), scheduled for adoption in November.

The citizen providing testimony encouraged the MPC to request staff to develop a plan for carbon dioxide. Staff was requested to invite Merlyn Hough, director of LRAPA, to speak on the CO2 issue at the next MPC meeting.

- Authorized the Chair to sign a letter of support for a proposed Connect Oregon II application from the City of Eugene for state support of the “Eugene Depot Phase 2—Platform and Vehicular Improvements” project.
- Approved amendments to the Central Lane MPO Citizen Advisory Committee Bylaws. These were characterized as “housekeeping amendments” in seven areas, and had been unanimously recommended for adoption by the MPO-CAC.
- Heard a report from Byron Vanderpool, LCOG, on the final report issued by the US Department of Transportation on the Certification Review, conducted earlier in the year. Vanderpool noted that the MPO was recertified for a four-year period based upon the positive findings from the review. He reported that staff was working on the two areas in which “corrective actions” had been recommended.
- Heard a report from Jeff Scheick, ODOT Region 2 Manager, on the department’s anticipated budget deficit and possible corrective actions under consideration by the OTC, and the “Large Project Strategy” in Region 2 for the prioritization of modernization projects costing in excess of \$15 million.
- Welcomed Sonny Chickering as the new Area 5 (Lane County) manager for ODOT.
- Was reminded that the November 8 meeting of the MPC would be held in the LCOG office (fourth floor large conference room) because of scheduling conflicts in the two normal venues for the MPC.

Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC)

November 8, 2007

The Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) met on November 8 in the Conference Room of the LCOG office with representation from Lane County, Springfield, Eugene, Coburg, LTD, and ODOT. The MPC:

- Heard comments from two members of the public
- Heard a report from its Citizen Advisory committee regarding the committee’s meeting of the previous day. The report touched upon the “e-MPO” website and the two “primers” provided to the Committee to continue the members’ education on the transportation planning process. One primer was on the Air Quality Conformity Determination and the other was on the transportation improvement programs. Regarding the proposed Regional Transportation Plan, the Committee expressed the hope that in the next cycle there could be an opportunity for broader community conversation with extensive public outreach. Also presented was a report from the CAC’s Freight Subcommittee, which had met on September 24.
- Reviewed public comments received and, by resolution, adopted the proposed 2007-2031 Regional Transportation Plan for the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- By resolution, adopted the Air Quality Conformity Determinations (AQCD) for the 2007-2031 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the FY 2008-2011 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)

- Reviewed a proposed draft Legislative Policy Concepts and Objectives document of the Oregon Metropolitan Planning Organization Consortium (OMPOC). The original draft had been considered by the MPC in June and, subsequently, comments from participating jurisdictions had been sought. A second draft was presented that incorporated the comments received. By motion, the MPC endorsed the “option 2” draft.
- Heard a report from Commuter Solutions regarding its 2005-2010 Strategic Plan. By motion, the MPC urged the Transit District to pursue a plan that would ultimately bring transit service to a “zero reliance” on the fare box for revenue.
- Heard a report from Jeff Scheick, ODOT Region 2 Manager, on the department’s anticipated budget deficit and the corrective actions under consideration by the OTC. The “allotment adjustment” described would reduce Region 2 resources in 2008-11 by approximately \$20.5 million. In anticipation of action by the 2009 Oregon Legislature, Mr. Scheick indicated the Central Lane MPO would also be solicited for input as to how it would propose spending as much as \$32M additional in the 2011-2013 timeframe.
- Heard a report from the staff on an “administrative amendment” to the 2008-11 MTIP to provide for a federally-supported purchase of two LTD vehicles for rural service.

Disability Services Advisory Council

November 9, 2007

At that meeting the following occurred:

- Standing Committee assignments for 2007-08 were proposed and accepted by the Council.
- Standing Committee reports of the Advocacy Committee, Long Term Care Committee, and the Planning and Budget Committee were reviewed.
- The “S&DS Highlights for FY 2006-07”, a summary of the services delivered through S&DS during July 2006-June 2007, was presented to the Council.
- Information regarding a change in the delivery of medical transportation services for Medicaid clients in Lane County was presented. LTD has contracted with the State of Oregon to be the Medicaid transportation broker for Lane County. LTD is rolling out the service during FY 2007-08. They are actively engaging partners (such as S&DS) and consumers in the implementation process. Residents in Oakridge began using the LTD brokerage this summer. Expansion to the Florence area is to begin in the winter, with the Eugene/Springfield area coming on to service in the Spring of 2008. LTD has contracted with Special Mobility Services to do the centralized call center, which is currently used by RideSource participants. LTD’s goal is to integrate services as much as possible to provide easy access to an assortment of special transportation services.

Senior Services Advisory Council

October 9, 2007

At that meeting the following occurred:

- A one year extension of the contract with Red Cross for the delivery of Meals on Wheels in the Eugene metro area was approved. The extension will place the Red Cross contract on the same 5 year cycle as other contracts.

- Standing Committee reports of the Advocacy Committee, Long Term Care Committee, and the Procurement and Monitoring Committee were reviewed.
- Two opportunities for Committee membership were presented to the Council. The Senior Meals Advisory Council and the LCOG Budget Committee are currently seeking new members.
- A presentation, “S&DS Overview: The Front Door to Services” was given to the Council by Lisa Shamoon, S&DS Program Supervisor of the Support Unit, and Elizabeth Wills, S&DS Program Supervisor of the Disability Services and Screening Units. Council members learned how the public accesses information, assistance, referral, and screening for benefits through S&DS.

Lane Economic Committee

The Lane Economic committee met on October 15 and November 19, 2007. The meetings focused on the following topics:

October: Discussed upcoming implementation of Lane County Infrastructure Inventory process.
November: Reviewed and ranked the top four projects under the Infrastructure Inventory process. Forwarded ranked projects to Regional Investment Board. Forwarded all projects to State of Oregon.