



January 4, 2007

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Kathi Wiederhold

Subject: Item 5.a – Report from Citizen Advisory Committee

Action Recommended: None, information only.

Report

The committee held their regular meeting on January 4, 2007, with nine of the ten voting members in attendance. There were three main items on the agenda. The first was an update on the e-MPO. The second was to design a public outreach strategy for the Update of the Regional Transportation Plan to recommend to MPC for adoption. The third was to provide input on portions of the Citizen's Guide. Two citizens, Zach Vishanoff and Jan Spencer, spoke during the agenda item for comments from the audience.

The officers reported that they were working with staff to design and schedule a special meeting focusing on energy issues, following up on the committee's discussion at the December meeting. The plan is to combine an educational presentation with time to discuss whether to formulate a resolution to the Metropolitan Policy Committee. Staff will poll the committee for possible meeting times in February, hoping to find a time that all members can attend.

Progress Report on e-MPO

Petra Schuetz, Lane Council of Governments, reported on the progress made on the e-MPO web site, including map integration, the MPO website and database development. The committee had a number of suggestions including: add important public involvement dates to the data tracking template for each project; remember to look at other websites as examples; remember to distinguish between the different types of transportation committees and meetings listed; make the site friendly for the person who is not a transportation expert; move the user name and password off the home page or separate a public access from a staff access location; remember to provide a way to send a message to ask a question; list a contact person and phone number; and clearly identify the MPO acronym upfront. Questions dealt with how the e-MPO ties in with other Lane Council of Governments web sites and accessibility.

Regional Transportation Plan Update

The purpose of the agenda item was to design a public outreach strategy for the Update of the Regional Transportation Plan. Staff briefly reviewed the nature of the Update and highlighted comments about the outreach that the CAC had made previously. The committee was in agreement that the limited nature of the update did not seem to warrant extensive public outreach. Instead, the committee suggested using the outreach to build community contacts and interest for the future. Rather than emphasize the limited nature of the Update, design the outreach to educate and inform—a first step that will lead to later more involved work in future years on the Regional Transportation Plan. The committee brainstormed the following messages for the outreach:

- Transportation planning has a big effect on your life.
- Here's what the Regional Transportation Plan does and what the update includes.
- We're inviting you to learn more about this process.
- It's how we get there that matters.
- We're building anticipation for the future.
- We appreciate your input—it can make a difference.

Citizen's Guide to Transportation Planning

Staff reviewed, particularly for new members, some of groundwork the committee has done to design a public outreach tool to provide the community with information on the MPO process and how to get involved. The committee reviewed and commented on draft outlines for the Table of Contents and the "Did You Know?" sections of the Guide.