

MINUTES

Metropolitan Policy Committee
Springfield Library Meeting Room - 225 5th Street - Springfield

November 13, 2003
11:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Bill Dwyer, Chair; Bonny Bettman, Vice Chair; Bob Pirrie, Peter Sorensen (for Bobby Green), Anne Ballew, Mike Dean, Scott Meisner (for Jim Torrey), Sid Leiken, Hillary Wylie, Randy Papé, Gerry Gaydos, members; Bill Van Vactor, Dennis Taylor, Ken Hamm, Mike Kelly, Mike Hudson, *ex officio* members.

Jim Carlson, Mark Schoening, Chris Henry, City of Eugene; Tom Stinchfield, Lane County; George Kloepfel, Tom Schwetz, Paul Thompson, Jamon Kent, Lane Council of Governments; Cynthia Pappas, Greg Mott, Nick Arnis, City of Springfield; Debby Corey, Oregon Department of Transportation.

ABSENT: Tammy Fitch, Bobby Green, members.

I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 9, 2003, MINUTES

Mr. Dwyer called the meeting to order.

Mr. Pirrie noted that he did not move to accept the minutes at the last meeting.

Ms. Wylie, seconded by Ms. Ballew, move to accept the minutes of October 9, 2003, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Those present introduced themselves.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Rob Zako said the committee was heading in a good direction by adding citizen members to the Transportation Policy Committee. He noted that he had submitted comments on an integrated land use and transportation plan and called for a response to his written comments by December 11.

Mr. Dwyer called for an official MPC response to Mr. Zako's comments.

Mr. Schwetz said the reply would be made at the December 11 meeting.

Rob Handy said public involvement was complicated by the high level use of acronyms by the committee and called for an education and outreach component of citizen involvement.

Lauri Segel commented on the staff proposal for enhancement of public involvement. She expressed her gratitude for participation in the stakeholder group but raised concern that the staff proposal was not as broad-based as the citizen stakeholder group had called for. She expressed her hope to see a more broad-based public involvement segment in the process.

Ms. Bettman called for information on the LCOG budget for public involvement in TransPlan. She said soliciting public involvement and getting none was a failure in public outreach. She said the method for soliciting public involvement needed to be changed to get more input.

Mr. Dwyer called for input from Mr. Handy, Ms. Segel and Mr. Zako on what staff could do to attract more public involvement.

IV. MPO ISSUES

- **Resolution 2003-02: Adopting FY04-06 Central Lane MTIP Air Quality Conformity Determination - Public Hearing**

Mr. Schwetz provided the staff report. He said whenever the MTIP is changed it needs to be reviewed for compliance with federal standards for air quality in the Metro Area. He said the area was classified as being in maintenance of the standard. He noted that the area had not had a violation of the federal standards since 1980 and remarked that this was the major reason why there was not a high level of public interest in this issue – there is no controversy. He said the determination contained all the criteria that EPA and DEQ required to be addressed in the review.

In response to a question from Mr. Sorenson regarding the role of Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority, (LRAPA), in the review, Mr. Schwetz said the agency was the primary source for the information used for determining air quality. He said, through an agreement with LRAPA, Lane Council of Governments was the lead agency for addressing carbon monoxide. He noted that LRAPA was the lead agency on particulate matters.

In response to a question from Mr. Sorenson regarding whether the area was increasing or decreasing carbon monoxide in the area, Mr. Schwetz called attention to page seven in the meeting packet which contained that information. He said the area was expecting carbon monoxide in the area to go down.

Ms. Bettman noted that there were some typos in the proposed resolution.

Mr. Dwyer opened the public hearing.

Rob Handy said neighbors in his area were concerned about pollution from the Baxter Plant and noted that the only monitoring station in the area was in the south hills. He called for more monitoring stations or the ability of moving the single monitoring station.

Mr. Dwyer closed the public hearing and called for comments/questions from the committee.

Ms. Bettman, seconded by Ms. Ballew, moved to approve Resolution 2003-02 with noted typo corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Resolution 2003-03: In support of West Coast Corridor Coalition**

Mr. Schwetz made himself available to answer questions.

Ms. Bettman confirmed with Mr. Schwetz that resolution did not involve any additional resources.

Ms. Bettman, seconded by Ms. Ballew, moved to approve Resolution 2003-03. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Plan**

Jim Peterson of DKS & Associates provided a power point presentation on the Intelligent Transportation System, (ITS), plan. He said ODOT had made funds available to develop a plan for a Regional Intelligent Transportation System. The plan covered a range of services including travel and traffic management, communications, public transportation management, emergency management, information management, and maintenance and construction management.

The presentation included a work plan, mission statement, reasons for the plan, a breakdown of costs, a deployment plan, benefits of the plan, a ten year schedule, and features that would be available to the general public on the internet, phone, and while in route. He said evacuation route planning could be assisted using the ITS system. He noted that the ITS website would include construction information, transit information, and real time traveler information. He said the benefit-cost comparison for the 10 year plan was ten to one.

In response to a question from Mr. Dwyer regarding whether the 511 transportation information system was a toll call, Mr. Peterson said it was free from any phone.

In response to a question from Mr. Van Vactor regarding how traffic congestion would be coordinated with the 911 center, Mr. Peterson said information on congested areas would be provided to 911 dispatchers who would forward the information to those answering emergency calls.

Mr. Kloepfel stressed the importance of getting the information to the general public.

Mr. Peterson said the tourist industry was excited about getting such information to travelers.

In response to a question from Mr. Sorenson regarding distinguishing the roles of ODOT, 911 Dispatch, and county government, Mr. Peterson said 911 would still have its function for dispatch. He said ODOT would operate instant response vehicles to keep roadways clear. He said the cities and counties fit in at the emergency operations level.

In response to a question from Mr. Sorenson regarding the size of the budget for public outreach for the ITS website, Gail McGill, the ITS manager for ODOT, said the budget was not large but cited ways for public outreach such as state maps, local newspapers, the travel information council, and tourism publications. He said there were no plans for a major advertising campaign.

Mr. Sorenson suggested sending information to AAA, and putting the website and phone number on all ODOT signs.

Mr. McGill said 511 would be appearing on signs in the next month.

Mr. Sorenson stressed the importance effective public outreach.

In response to a question from Mr. Dean regarding the plans for placing regional interface signs between Highway 126 and Coburg, Mr. Peterson said Coburg road had been identified as an alternate route incase Interstate Five was closed and said the interface signs would be placed along that route to direct people. He added that the Eugene/Springfield area had been proposed for a virtual transportation operations center that would provide transportation information to the desk top and noted that Coburg would be connected to that system as well.

Mr. Dean stressed the importance of the system paying attention to developmental issues in the region so information could remain accurate.

In response to a question from Ms. Ballew regarding federal funding for the project, Mr. Gill said ITS would be getting a fair share of federal funds. He added that federal funding could be pulled from projects if a regional plan were not put in place by 2005.

Ms. Ballew commented that if decent roads did not underlie such an information system then the value of the system would be questionable.

Mr. Peterson said ITS was for maximizing the use of existing capacity.

- **Update on ODOT STIP Status & Process**

Debby Corey, Region 2 STIP Coordinator for ODOT, provided an update to the process. She distributed a timeline for the 2006-09 STIP. She noted that the 2004-07 timeline was already approved.

Ms. Corey said project scoping would be done in January through March. She said project proposals would go on to scoping lists which would fill the draft STIP. She said there would be an all area meeting in April, 2004, to determine modernization proposals that would go into the draft STIP. She said the Lane County Board of Commissioners would head up the proposals from the local area with the help of the MPO. She said MPC would get a chance to review the draft in July, 2004, and the draft would go out for public review in November, 2004. She noted that there would still be opportunities for revising the draft. She said June, 2005, was when the STIP would need to be reviewed and incorporated.

Mr. Schwetz noted that the calendar in the meeting packet showed the item on the December and January agendas.

Ms. Corey distributed a handout on program funding levels. She noted that the information might have already been reviewed. She provided an overview of what programs would be submitted to OTC. She noted that there were no changes except for the Bridge and Modernization debt service programs.

In response to a question from Mr. Van Vactor regarding bridge funding plans, Ms. Corey said the bridge program was much larger than it had been and the overall picture looked much better.

- **Implementation of Public Involvement Enhancements: Citizen Representatives on the Transportation Planning Committee**

Mr. Kloeppe said that this proposal that had come from the work of Commissioner Green's committee was only a part of citizen involvement as far as transportation planning was concerned.

Mr. Thompson said the memo before the committee was in direct response to the recommendations of the public involvement subcommittee. He said the public involvement process had already undergone significant changes in the past year. He noted that the public involvement portion of the MTIP had public workshops, mailing lists, and advertisements in newspapers.

Calling attention to the memo in the meeting packet that contained the staff recommendation for citizen representation, Mr. Thompson said there were four points that were being recommended:

- Add four citizen representatives to TPC. Citizen members would be interest-based and would vote on all TPC matters
- Add Roads Advisory Committee membership to the TPC
- Two-year terms for citizen representatives
- Staff recommends an open recruitment process

In response to a question from Mr. Sorenson regarding whether there had been any consideration to changing the structure of the TPC to make it a purely advisory committee, Mr. Thompson said that idea had not come up. He said TPC had certain responsibilities and was not purely an advisory group.

In response to a question from Mr. Sorenson regarding whether citizen TPC members would be paid, Mr. Thompson said there would be no remuneration.

Ms. Ballew said she was in favor of seeing each jurisdiction choose its own citizen members.

In response to a question from Ms. Bettman regarding whether the plan for citizen involvement would include opportunities for diverse citizen involvement at all points, Mr. Thompson said the update of the MPO's Citizen Involvement Plan, a draft of which is due before MPC in March, would address the overall process and streamline it wherever possible.

Ms. Bettman said the citizens should be appointed by separate jurisdictions and approved by the MPC. She was not in favor of TPC recruiting its own citizen members. She suggested two members from Eugene, one from Springfield and one from Lane County. She said that Lane County could take its member from the Roads Advisory Committee if it wanted. She said she was in favor of voting membership.

Mr. Dwyer said he had no objection to voting membership but stressed final voting authority needed to rest with MPC as the elected body.

Mr. Meisner agreed that there should be geographic rather than interest based membership. He stressed that adding four citizens to the committee did not and should not complete public involvement efforts.

Ms. Bettman said the citizen membership was only one piece of public involvement enhancement.

Mr. Sorenson said it was a good idea to increase citizen membership in TPC but it was not a substitute for full citizen involvement. He expressed a desire to see some qualifications for the possible membership. He said he was in favor of an interest based membership rather than geographic based membership.

Ms. Ballew said different communities would have differing views on what was important. She said communities could select what interests it wanted represented.

Mr. Taylor left the meeting at 1:12 pm.

Ms. Bettman, seconded by Mr. Sorenson, moved to direct LCOG to increase the TPC membership by four voting citizen stakeholder members, two from Eugene, one from Springfield, and one from Lane County. The motion failed for no favorable vote from the City of Springfield, 4: 2:1 with Ms. Bettman, Mr. Sorenson, Mr. Dwyer, and Mr. Dean voting in favor, Ms. Bellew and Mr. Leiken voting against, and with Mr. Pirrie abstaining.

Mr. Leiken suggested bringing the matter to the next meeting.

Mr. Leiken left the meeting at 1:18.

Mr. Meisner left the meeting at 1:20 pm.

Mr. Hamm left the meeting at 1:21 pm.

- **MPO Calendar & Information Items**

Mr. Schwetz referred members to the written material in the meeting packet.

- 1. Followup**

- A. Administrative Amendment to Fy04-06 Metropolitan Improvement Program**

- B. Adopted FY04-06 Central Lane Metropolitan Improvement Program**

- C. RTP Update Schedule**

- 2. Upcoming MPO - related activities**

- A. MPO Calendar**

V. STATUS REPORTS

There were no status reports

The next meeting was scheduled for December 11, 2003.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

