

## MINUTES

Metropolitan Policy Committee  
Springfield City Hall – Library Meeting Room – 225 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Springfield, Oregon

January 11, 2007  
11:30 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Kitty Piercy, Chair, Alan Zelenka (City of Eugene); Faye Stewart (Lane County), Anne Ballew, Sid Leiken (City of Springfield); Gerry Gaydos (Lane Transit District), Jane Lee (Oregon Department of Transportation), members; Dennis Taylor (City of Eugene), Mark Pangborn (Lane Transit District), Bill Van Vactor (Lane County), Gino Grimaldi (City of Springfield), *ex officio* members.

Byron Vanderpool, Kathi Wiederhold, Petra Schuetz, Susan Payne, Jamon Kent (Lane Council of Governments); Randy Papé (Oregon Transportation Commission), Jeff Scheick, Ray Mabey, Joe Harwood, Ed Moore (Oregon Department of Transportation), Greg Mott, Tom Boyatt, John Woodrow, Len Goodwin (City of Springfield), Kurt Corey, Chris Henry (City of Eugene), Tom Stinchfield (Lane County), Tom Schwetz, Anita Yap (Lane Transit District), Terry Connolly (Chamber of Commerce).

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Piercy called the meeting to order. She stated that she would be chairing the meeting as Mr. Green was unable to attend. She welcomed committee members, staff and guests. Those present introduced themselves.

### APPROVE DECEMBER 14, 2006 MINUTES

Ms. Ballew, seconded by Mr. Stewart, moved to approve the December 14, 2006, minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously, 7:0.

### COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

**Terry Connolly**, Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce, 1401 Willamette Street, Eugene, stated that the community was appreciative that the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) had reallocated \$3.5 million in funds previously allocated to the West Eugene Parkway project to the Beltline/Interstate 5 project. He said the Beltline/I-5 project was strongly supported by the chamber as very important to the region's transportation system and economy.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Piercy cited the MPC Bylaws provision requiring officers to be elected for a one-year term and drawn from among Eugene, Springfield and Lane County voting members. She noted that the position of chair

had traditionally rotated among the three jurisdictions and following the normal rotation the chair for 2007 would be a Eugene representative, with the vice chair being from Springfield. She called for nominations for chair.

Mr. Zelenka, seconded by Ms. Ballew, moved to elect Kitty Piercy as Metropolitan Policy Committee chair for 2007. The motion passed unanimously, 7:0.

Ms. Piercy called for nominations for vice chair.

Ms. Ballew, seconded by Mr. Gaydos, moved to elect Sid Leiken as Metropolitan Policy Committee vice chair for 2007. The motion passed unanimously, 7:0.

Ms. Piercy said the Oregon Metropolitan Planning Organization Consortium (OMPOC) was meeting on January 26, 2007, and asked for two committee members to volunteer to attend. Ms. Ballew and Mr. Gaydos agreed to represent the MPC at the OMPOC meeting. Ms. Piercy and Ms Susan Ban were suggested as the MPC's voting representatives at OMPOC for 2007. Ms. Piercy accepted, and LTD staff indicated that Ms Ban (absent at this meeting) would be consulted to see if she was agreeable.

## **METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) ISSUES**

### **Report from the MPO Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)**

Ms. Wiederhold reviewed her written report on the January 4, 2007, CAC meeting. She said that work had begun on design of a public outreach strategy for the Regional Transportation Plan update as well as design of the Citizen's Guide. She said the Guide would be a shorter, user-friendly guide for the general public to transportation planning. She said a draft of the Guide would be reviewed by the MPC prior to finalization. She was working with CAC officers to schedule a special meeting of the committee to discuss energy issues.

In response to a question from Mr. Zelenka, Ms. Wiederhold said the CAC was established by the MPC as a way to enhance public involvement in transportation planning. She identified current CAC members and the interests they represented, and offered to send Mr. Zelenka the biographies of the members

### **Adopt Public Participation Plan (PPP)**

Ms. Wiederhold briefly reviewed the materials provided in the agenda packet. She said that comments and changes previously reviewed by the MPC were incorporated in the draft PPP, with outstanding changes remaining in legislative format. She said the Transportation Planning Committee (TPC) recommended adoption of the draft PPP with the remaining changes, the details of which were provided in her memorandum of January 4, 2007. She noted the MPC had previously discussed proposed language from Rob Zako to the language in legislative format on page 5 of the draft PPP. The TPC recommended that the MPC adopt the draft PPP without making changes to the language on page 5 recommended by Rob Zako. She reviewed the other changes reflected in the final review draft of the plan.

Mr. Vanderpool said that the issue raised by Mr. Zako would be discussed in greater depth during the update of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). He said it was important to understand the impact adoption of the RTP will have on local jurisdictions and their local (State) plans. He said that staff was

trying to work out the details of a planning process with the State that would eliminate duplication of effort and unintended consequences. He did not believe the PPP was the appropriate venue for that issue, which was why the staff was recommending no language changes at this time.

In response to a question from Ms. Piercy, Mr. Vanderpool said there would be no negative impact on the PPP if the staff's recommendation to accept the language as it was in the document was agreed to, or the section in question was deleted from the PPP.

Ms. Ballew, seconded by Mr. Gaydos, moved to approve the Public Participation Plan as submitted. The motion passed unanimously, 7:0.

### **Prioritization of Projects on the Short List for Transportation Enhancement Funding**

Ms. Payne related that four projects from the area had been submitted to the State and two of those projects—Eugene's Delta Ponds Path project and Spring Connector Multi-Use Path project—had advanced to the next selection round. She said the MPC had an opportunity to submit a letter of support for the projects to ODOT and to prioritize them. She referred to the draft letter of support provided in the agenda packet, which categorized the Delta Ponds project as #1 and the Spring Connector project as #2. She noted that the statement in the letter that the Delta Ponds project leveraged nearly \$5 million would be corrected to reflect the figure of \$6.5 million.

Mr. Zelenka asked how much of the almost \$29 million in proposed projects would be funded. Ms. Payne said that \$11 million in funding was awarded.

Ms. Ballew, seconded by Mr. Gaydos, moved to approve the letter to the ODOT Transportation Enhancement Program prioritizing the two advancing projects, with the correction as noted. The motion passed unanimously, 7:0.

### **Redeployment of West Eugene Parkway (WEP) Funds**

Mr. Scheick referred to his letter of December 21, 2006, requesting support for reallocation of \$11.7 million previously allocated for WEP construction. He said the OTC had provided direction that the funds should be reallocated to modernization projects in Region 2 that were currently in construction or would be in construction by 2011, meaning they were contained in the 2008-11 Draft Construction State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). He said his letter contained the proposed distribution of those funds consistent with the OTC's direction, including \$3.5 million for the second phase of the Beltline/I-5 project. He asked for approval of the draft letter of support from the MPC for the proposed distribution, a copy of which was provided in the agenda packet.

Mr. Leiken thanked ODOT for keeping funds in the region to support active projects; he supported the proposed distribution.

Ms. Ballew expressed her appreciation for the proposed distribution.

Ms. Ballew, seconded by Mr. Gaydos, moved to approve the draft letter of support and authorize the Metropolitan Policy Committee chair to sign it. The motion passed unanimously, 7:0.

In response to a question from Mr. Zelenka, Mr. Scheick said that the state was divided into five ODOT regions and Lane County was part of Region 2.

### **Willamette River Bridge Project and the Oregon Transportation Improvement Act (OTIA) Program**

Mr. Mabey gave a slide presentation highlighting the OTIA bridge program, the Willamette River Bridge project and types of bridges that would be considered during the selection process. He said that shear cracking on the old bridge had necessitated replacement and a detour structure was built to avoid negative impacts to the economy of the State and the area by placing load restrictions on the old structure. He said the project would replace the decommissioned structure and remove the detour structure. He said a community advisory group was formed to identify issues and provide input on evaluation criteria for an alternative bridge type, design detail and landscaping and community values relative to the project. He listed the following key issues:

- Cost
- Vertical and horizontal geometry
- Aesthetics
- Parks and natural areas
- Trails and recreation on the river
- Noise and impacts to neighborhoods
- Water quality, fish habitat
- Archeological and historical resources
- Other issues as identified

Mr. Mabey used photographs and renderings to illustrate bridge types that could be considered in the selection process: girder, box girder, arch, cable stayed and suspension or a hybrid structure that combined one span type with a different superstructure type. He said that a new bridge, regardless of type, would be designed for a life of 75 to 100 years. He discussed features of the different bridge types and construction materials. He said a straight girder bridge was the lowest cost and cable and suspension bridges were the highest cost. He said a typical square foot cost for a base bridge was \$180 to \$200, although that could vary depending on the design.

Ms. Ballew observed that lighting played an important role in making a bridge distinctive. Mr. Mabey replied there were many options for aesthetic lighting and funds had been allocated for increased aesthetics of the basic structure.

Ms. Ballew asked if ODOT was still committed to a design that would accommodate at a later date ramps near Franklin Boulevard. Mr. Mabey said the design would not preclude future ramps.

In response to a question from Mr. Taylor, Mr. Mabey said that pedestrian amenities were not planned as the cost was actually higher than for a highway structure, and that pedestrian access on the interstate was not encouraged.

Ms. Piercy asked about the composition of the Citizen Advisory Group. Mr. Mabey said he would forward that information.

Mr. Leiken asked if the plan was to begin construction in 2011 with completion in 2012. Mr. Mabey said the project would cover more than one construction season but the plan was for completion in 2012.

Mr. Leiken asked what approvals were involved with the demolition permit to remove the old bridge and a greenway permit. Mr. Mabey said he would provide a list of required permits and approving jurisdictions. Mr. Van Vactor added that the permit for the detour bridge was for a ten-year period.

Mr. Mabey summarized that ODOT was working with the community to evaluate reasonable alternatives with a focus on the highest value alternative that balanced the needs of the area.

Mr. Leiken thanked Mr. Mabey for the overview of bridge design options. He supported ODOT's original intent to have a signature bridge; it was important for the State and the region as the bridge represented an entryway over the Willamette River to the Eugene/Springfield area.

Ms. Piercy agreed with Mr. Leiken about the importance of a signature bridge to the community's vision for the future. She felt that a connection with the advisory group was important to monitor progress of the design. Mr. Mabey said his intent was to establish that connection.

In response to a question from Mr. Zelenka, Mr. Mabey said that \$10 million of the \$180 million earmarked for the bridge would be dedicated to aesthetics.

Mr. Van Vactor asked how long the old bridge would remain in place. Mr. Mabey said one of the first steps in the project would be demolition of the old bridge. Ms. Lee added that a consideration in demolition was whether the old bridge could be a useful structure during construction as a platform for equipment.

### **e-MPO Status**

Ms. Schuetz distributed a handout illustrating the e-MPO website, which was an interactive source of information on construction and transportation planning for the general public. She said it would also increase public involvement by providing information in a user-friendly way. She described the database that was being built to support the website and said the Citizen Advisory Committee had reviewed the project to date and made some recommendations. She expected a beta site to be available in February 2007 for members to review.

Ms. Piercy asked if there could be a link to the e-MPO website on each jurisdiction's website. Ms. Schuetz said that once the website was fully functional there could be a link similar to the one used to direct people to the Keep Us Moving website. She said the e-MPO could also point people to jurisdictions' websites.

### **Follow-up and MPO Calendar**

#### **MPO Dispute Resolution Process – Joint MPC/LCOG Board Meeting**

Mr. Vanderpool reported that in response to the MPC's request for a face-to-face discussion with the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board related to dispute resolution a meeting was tentatively scheduled for February 13, 2007. He said that Jim Johnson had agreed to facilitate the discussion. He reviewed the

materials in the agenda packet and asked members to notify him if any additional information was required.

Mr. Van Vactor asked if the issue of dispute resolution was still a significant one to the LCOG Board. Mr. Vanderpool replied that it was still a concern.

### **ODOT Update**

Mr. Scheick reported that the OTC had received a report from the Oregon Transportation Investment Group regarding potential tolling scenarios to build the Newberg-Dundee Bypass. He said an investigation of those scenarios was moving forward as ODOT explored how to bring a toll project to the State. He said ODOT's construction program in 2007 was even bigger than the 2006 program and included multiple bridge projects in Lane County. He said a more detailed presentation would be made at a future meeting and he would again ask for the region's assistance in mitigating the impacts of that construction.

Mr. Taylor asked if a second version of the ConnectOregon legislation, this time with some emphasis on maintenance and preservation, was likely to come out of the legislative session. Mr. Scheick said the Governor's recommended budget did include a ConnectOregon 2 proposal for another multi-modal package, not a highway package. He said the State had received significant positive feedback on the initial ConnectOregon program and projects were moving forward. He said that maintenance and preservation would not be a part of a new ConnectOregon program but anticipated the subject would be discussed during the session because of the interest from local governments.

Mr. Papé said there was significant discussion of transportation and the desire to propose a funding package to the legislature during the Oregon Business Plan Summit last week. He said such legislation would include sharing revenue with cities and counties.

Ms. Ballew remarked that the Freight Advisory Committee had also discussed the need for maintenance and preservation funding and there would likely be competition for funds from a number of sources.

Mr. Leiken commented that Lane County and other timber-producing counties were at risk of losing federal funding and that could make it much more difficult to meet ODOT's matching fund requirements. He hoped the State would be open to reconsidering that requirement if no local funds were available for a match and working with local jurisdictions to determine how projects could get done.

Mr. Papé said he hoped the State would always be open to all opportunities. He said the intent of match was to leverage available resources and stretch them as far as possible to projects across the State.

Mr. Leiken urged that all parties be involved in discussions of a solution.

### **FFY06 Report on Obligated Projects**

Ms. Payne said the report on FFY06 obligated projects met the federal requirement to publish for public review an annual list of projects for which federal funds had been obligated. She noted that the projects represented those projects with federal funds that had been programmed through the MPO.

## **MPO Calendar**

Mr. Vanderpool reminded members of the OMPOC meeting on January 26, 2007. Ms. Payne said the OTC's January 24-25 meeting in Salem would include a presentation on Peak Oil.

She said that the Peak Oil presentation would also be made to the CAC at a special meeting and the date would be announced once plans were finalized.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 8, 2007, at the Eugene Public Library Bascom-Tykeson Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.

(Recorded by Lynn Taylor)