



February 7, 2008

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Byron Vanderpool
Subject: Item 4.f: Televising MPC Meetings

Action Recommended: Direction to Staff.

Background:

At its January 10 meeting, MPC members asked MPO staff to bring back information on feasibility and costs to televise and/or web-cast MPC and CAC meetings.

Metro TV was asked for information on options and expenses.

At its January 16 meeting, the CAC was asked for its recommendations and comments.

Currently monthly MPC meetings alternate between the Bascom-Tykeson Room in the Eugene Public Library and the Library Meeting Room in Springfield City Hall.

The CAC meets in the Singer Room of the Eugene Public Library.

Summary:

The Bascom-Tykeson Room is fully wired for audio and video. 6 meetings a year would cost approximately \$1,950. Coverage on Comcast Channel 21 could be live with subsequent replays.

The Springfield Library Meeting room is wired for audio, but not video, so would require a 2-person team to tape the proceedings. 6 meetings per year would cost approximately \$3,750. Coverage would be taped (not live) and played on Comcast Channel 21 at a subsequent time.

The Singer Room is not wired for either video or audio, so audio equipment would have to be purchased at a one-time cost of approximately \$2,500, then taping and replaying CAC meetings would cost approximately \$5,640 per year.

To web-cast either or both meetings requires the meetings to first be recorded for television broadcast. Then to convert each hour of TV and post it to the web costs \$25. This would cost approximately \$600 per year for MPC and an equal amount for the CAC.

Web-casting the meetings requires a web hosting location. Currently the County hosts its Board meetings and the City of Eugene hosts its Council proceedings. LCOG does not have an equivalent web-cast hosting capability. Our understanding is that the County is currently at capacity on its system. It is unknown if Eugene has spare capacity and could host the MPC's web-casts.

So in broad terms, cost for MPC televising is roughly \$6K per year, with an additional \$6K required to televise the CAC. Web-casting, if hosting capacity is available, will add another \$600 per year per committee.

Recommendations:

The CAC was in favor of televising MPC meetings. The CAC was unanimously opposed to televising CAC meetings.

The CAC did draw a distinction between televising meetings to provide information to the public, and encouraging the public to attend meetings to achieve public participation and input.

The CAC also encouraged the MPC to consider making their meetings available on the radio (much as City Club meetings are rebroadcast), and on the web in a variety of formats including pod-cast and through i-Tunes.

Note that although televising MPO proceedings is an allowable expense from federal transportation funds, non-MPO coverage would have to be paid for from a non-federal funding source. So when the MPC conducts non-MPO business such as dispute resolution, Metro Plan work, Parks & Open Space coordination, Cable Commission business, etc., the MPO's budget could not be used.