

MPC ACT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**MEETING NOTES**

February 6, 2003

*1st Meeting of Subcommittee**Notes taken by Paul Thompson***• Call to Order and Introductions**

In attendance: Bobby Green (Chair), Bonny Bettman, Terry Connolly, Gerry Gaydos, Christine Lundberg, Tom Poage, Lauri Segel – Subcommittee Members; Nick Arnis, Tom Boyatt, Dave Reinhard, Tom Schwetz, Tom Stinchfield Paul Thompson, Stefano Viggiano – Staff; Rob Zako – Guest

• Review Subcommittee Objective

General consensus that the objective of the subcommittee is as stated on the meeting agenda: *MPC members agreed by consensus to form a subcommittee to work on a model for citizen involvement that would help to meet the ACT guidelines.* (Paraphrased from minutes of December 12, 2002 MPC meeting)

Further agreed that the subcommittee was not formed to move Lane County toward establishing an ACT.

• Review & Discuss MPO/Lane County Public Involvement Process

- Lauri Segel
 - The three-minute public comment period at the beginning of the MPC meetings is insufficient
 - Need to look not only at the ACT guidelines on the public involvement process, but also at the “Structure and Membership” piece of the ACT guidelines
 - There is a lack of transparency in the criteria and in the evaluation process
 - There is a lack of consideration of public comment/input
- Bonny Bettman
 - The process of having TPC (staff Transportation Planning Committee) generate the first draft STIP project list is not open and does not have public input
- Christine Lundberg
 - Early steps are where the public input is needed

- Bonny Bettman
 - Documented response to public input from the decision-making body(ies) is needed, including why the response and/or result is what it is
- Terry Connolly
 - What do other ACTs do? Do they create the project list themselves at the ACT level or are they responding to staff-generated lists?
- *Several Members*
 - Need more public involvement and input up front
 - Need public hearing input at the MPC level
- Lauri Segel
 - The I-5/Beltline public involvement/stakeholders group was a positive model
 - Need to maintain ongoing participation, institutional knowledge and continuity at a high level (policy guidance, criteria and evaluation process, etc.) as opposed to a project-by-project level
- Bonny Bettman
 - Need the Eugene City Council involved in the early development of the STIP project list, on the front end
 - Need fuller formal involvement of a full range of stakeholders in the process – address the entire list of stakeholders identified in the OTC ACT guidelines
- Lauri Segel
 - Need transparency, along with public input – the public needs to be able to know what the entire process is, what drives the decisions – not just the outcome
 - Need documented supporting technical information throughout the process
- Rob Zako
 - Public involvement is a 2-way street and there must also be sufficient information dissemination to the public along with more and better notices of meetings, decision points, etc.
- Lauri Segel
 - Need to integrate the metropolitan and non-metro public involvement processes
- Tom Poage
 - The Lane County Roads Advisory Committee (RAC) is already an important part of the non-metro process
 - The RAC trusts the Lane County Board to consider and prioritize the non-metro needs

- Bonny Bettman
 - Need accountability in the Lane County Board process of blending the metropolitan and non-metro priorities
 - Need to focus the public and stakeholder input at the front end and then determine one to two additional key points for public involvement during the decision-making process and keep that public involvement process consistent and predictable
- Christine Lundberg
 - Need to construct a diagram illustrating the full STIP process and public involvement points as it exists now
 - Need more and better meeting materials and notices
- *Several Members*
 - Need examples from other ACTs and JPACT (Portland Metro “ACT substitute”)
- Bonny Bettman
 - Need to address the specific stakeholders referred to in the OCT ACT guidelines
 - The public needs to see the specific criteria and tool(s) used to evaluate and select the projects
 - Need to consider convening MPO Policy Board meetings separate from the MPC meetings
- *Several Members*
 - Need to get ODOT (Bob Pirrie, Jerri Bohard, others) involved in the development of the new public involvement model
 - Need to get OTC buy-off on the new process up front
- Terry Connolly
 - What are the front-end constraints on the development of the list?
- *Several Members*
 - Need to recognize changing constraints from one STIP cycle to the next, including changing ODOT/OTC focus/priorities, changing State criteria, tight timelines
- Tom Boyatt
 - The Transportation System Plans (TSP) are where the list starts to be generated
 - Staff note: TSPs feeding into the process include the Eugene-Springfield TSP (TransPlan), Lane County TSP, Coburg TSP and all other small-city TSPs in Lane County
- Lauri Segel
 - Need to consider not just highway project input to the STIP, but also transit, bike/ped, etc.

- Stefano Viggiano
 - Lane Transit District (LTD) process is the development of the LTD Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which does include a public involvement component

- **Direction to Staff**
 - Bring to next Subcommittee meeting examples of several other public involvement models for the Subcommittee's consideration
 - The models should be evaluated for how they address the following points:
 - Composition/inclusion of public and stakeholders formally included in process
 - Structure of process – utilize existing structure as much as possible
 - Integration with other processes
 - Urban-rural split
 - Criteria for STIP project evaluation
 - Constraints (such as ODOT timeline)
 - Implications
 - Interactions with other MPO processes
 - Specifically bring the JPACT model
 - Develop map showing MPO/TMA and ACT boundaries in local area
 - Invite ODOT representatives to participate in process at appropriate times
 - Next meeting dates are March 6, April 3 and April 24
 - Have formal minutes recorder at future meetings