



May 3, 2006

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Kathi Wiederhold

Subject: Item 4.a – Report from Citizen Advisory Committee

Action Recommended: None, information only.

Report

The committee held their regular meeting on May 3, 2006, with eight of the nine voting members and the one non-voting member in attendance. The key agenda items were: election of a Vice-Chair; review of the revised Draft Public Involvement Plan; a public outreach strategy for the Public Involvement Plan; a presentation on regional project coordination; and discussion of the Surface Transportation Program-Urban Funds. Although the evaluation of the CAC's first year was an agenda item, meeting time ran out before getting to it. MPC agenda item 4b requests appointment of new CAC members recommended by the Recruitment Subcommittee.

Election of Vice-Chair

The committee elected Webb Sussman as Vice-Chair to serve a term that expires at the last meeting of the calendar year.

Revised Draft Public Involvement Plan

The committee reviewed the draft Public Involvement Plan which had been revised to reflect comments made by the CAC at the February 1, 2006, meeting. Staff will revise the draft document further per suggestions from the committee and correspond with the committee via email on other details of the draft that need committee attention before forwarding the draft to MPC. These details include the changes suggested at the May 3, 2006, meeting and revisions to tables and graphics. The goal is to present the draft Public Involvement Plan to MPC in July.

Public Outreach Strategy for the Public Involvement Plan

The committee agreed to recommend to MPC that the public outreach for the draft Public Involvement Plan consist of a public comment period, public hearing, e-mail notice to interested parties, and notice on the MPO website. These are the core public involvement tools recommended in the draft Public Involvement Plan for this document. The committee made this recommendation because the Public Involvement Plan is a pro-forma document designed to meet federal and state requirements and likely will not be used much by the public. Instead, the committee will move forward with developing

a Citizen's Guide that will fill the role of a user friendly outreach tool and focus their attentions on a broader outreach strategy for it.

Regional Project Coordination

The committee received informational presentations from Connie Bloom-Williams of LTD and Christian Watchie of Trans-Watch that highlighted the regional coordination occurring through Commuter Solutions and keepusmoving.info website. The presentations were a good way for the committee to become familiar with not only the coordination happening regionally but the many programs addressing non-car modes, a topic the committee has expressed considerable interest in.

Surface Transportation Program-Urban Funds

This item was background discussion in preparation for making a recommendation to MPC at the next CAC meeting. The committee used the discussion to try an approach that focuses their review on the portions of a document where their input can make a difference. They also used the item to talk about mechanisms to solve the recurring dilemma of how to have enough time for thorough consideration leading to meaningful recommendations to MPC. The committee talked about several mechanisms they could use to more thoroughly review this, or other, key MPO products—appointing a subcommittee, holding longer meetings, prioritizing agenda time to focus only on those products where their comments can make a difference in the outcome, and holding on-line discussions, which would need to be structured to meet the Oregon Public Meetings Law.