

Lane Council of Governments

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June 1, 2005

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Tom Schwetz

Subject: Item 4.d: Oregon MPO Consortium Meetings

Action Recommended: None. Information only.

Issue Summary

The Oregon MPO Consortium met on Thursday May 26th in Salem. Representatives from each of the six MPOs were in attendance. The agenda for the meeting covered the following topics:

- Conversation with Lori Sundstrom, ODOT Chief of Staff – The focus of this conversation was around ODOT's reluctance to participate in the West Coast Corridor Coalition (WCCC). ODOT feels that the WCCC is a solution in search of a problem. Given ODOT's resource limitations and the feeling that there are unlikely outcomes, ODOT has not seen the benefit of participation in the WCCC at this time. Ms. Sundstrom also indicated that ODOT has had problems with the Discovery Institute who is acting as a consultant to the WCCC process. Overall, ODOT feels that the process needs a more discrete purpose and concrete outcomes. She indicated that ODOT was concerned that the state would possibly be standing in line behind California and Washington waiting for increased funding from the WCCC process. ODOT feels the state would be better off on its own. Discussion from Consortium members noted that, while the verdict is still out on the WCCC process, Oregon should be at the table for the current discussions. This topic was discussed in more detail later in the meeting.
- Resolution No. 0501 for the Purpose of Establishing Oregon MPO Consortium Bylaws – This Resolution was passed unanimously after an Article-by-Article review of the Bylaws by the members present. Anne Ballew and Tom Schwetz reviewed MPC's discussion and concerns regarding the draft Bylaws, noting the Central Lane MPO's desire to have the Consortium operate on consensus basis. This concern was echoed by the other members present. An amendment to the draft Bylaws was proposed by representatives from the Corvallis MPO reading as follows:

Article V.f. OMPOC will make decisions using the following procedures:

- * *The OMPOC will strive to reach decisions on a consensus basis.*
- * *If members of the OMPOC conclude that consensus cannot be attained, then the OMPOC shall review the Common Interests of the OMPOC in Consensus Decision Making attached hereto as Exhibit “B”.*
- * *After the review of common interests, a vote will be called if requested by a majority of the MPOs present.*
- * *Decisions made by vote require a majority of the OMPOC members present.*

The Common Interests referred to in the Corvallis amendment read as follows:

Exhibit B: Common Interests of the OMPOC in Consensus Decision-Making

1. *Quick/efficient*
2. *Uses available information (no hidden agendas or information)*
3. *Takes all players into account*
4. *High value on decisions that OMPOC members can support*
5. *One MPO should not control/prohibit decisions*
6. *Builds trust among all partners*

These common interests will be reviewed by the OMPOC members after two MPOs make a request for review.

The Consortium decided to accept these common interests as drafted with direction to staff to review them and put a topic on the next Consortium agenda for further discussion.

These amendments were accepted and incorporated into the adopted bylaws. A copy of the bylaws as adopted is provided as **Attachment 1** to this memo.

- Oregon MPO Consortium Election of Delegates to Chair and Vice Chair Positions – Nominations were provided for Rex Burkholder (Portland Metro) as Chair and Linda Modrell (Corvallis MPO) as Vice Chair. Both were unanimously elected.
- West Coast Corridor Coalition – MPO Participation and follow-up on comments from Lori Sundstrom – Discussion on this topic centered around the feeling that participation in the WCCC is not a zero sum game as characterized by Ms. Sundstrom. It was noted that, in the face of a general underinvestment in the transportation system at the federal level, the WCCC represents a significant opportunity to speak with a much stronger voice at the federal level on this issue.

There was discussion about a Coalition meeting coming up in June, to be attended by representatives from Metro, Corvallis, and Medford. Those representatives would report back to the Consortium at the next meeting. This Coalition meeting was characterized as an opportunity for the coalition to “come into its own” as a group, thus taking more control of the process from the Discovery Institute. It was also felt that this meeting would produce some of the more discrete purposes and concrete outcomes desired by ODOT.

- Legislative Update – Given the limited time remaining in the meeting and the fact that Randy Tucker, Metro’s Legislative Affairs staff was unable to attend, this item was not discussed.
- ODOT Local Officials Advisory Committee (LOAC) follow-up – A request has been made to ODOT to add an MPO representative as a member of LOAC.
- MPO Strategy on Oregon Transportation Planning Rule (TPR) and Oregon Transportation Plan (OTP) – Time permitted limited discussion of these topics. Rex Burkholder noted that the OTP Update would have more material available to review at the next Consortium meeting. Regarding the TPR review, Rex Burkholder noted the issues that Metro had with the recently adopted amendments to the TPR, specifically dealing with the ½ mile limitations around interchanges on specific highways.

The next Consortium meeting has been tentatively scheduled for late July in Corvallis.

Attachments: Attachment 1 – Adopted OMPOC Bylaws