

## MINUTES

Metropolitan Policy Committee  
Bascom/Tykeson Room—Eugene Public Library—100 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Springfield, Oregon

June 14, 2007  
11:30 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Kitty Piercy, Chair; Alan Zelenka (City of Eugene), Bobby Green, Peter Sorenson (Lane County), Anne Ballew, John Woodrow (City of Springfield), Greg Evans (Lane Transit District), Judy Volta (City of Coburg), Jane Lee (Oregon Department of Transportation), members; Dennis Taylor (City of Eugene), Bill Van Vactor (Lane County), Gino Grimaldi (City of Springfield), Stefano Viggiano (Lane Transit District), *ex officio* members.

Byron Vanderpool, Ann Mortenson, Petra Schuetz, Kathi Wiederhold, Paul Thompson (Lane Council of Governments); Ed Moore (Oregon Department of Transportation); Len Goodwin, Tom Boyatt (City of Springfield); Mark Schoening, Kurt Yeiter, Chris Henry (City of Eugene); Tom Schwetz, Connie Bloom Williams (Lane Transit District); Tom Stinchfield (Lane County); Lauri Segel, Zachary Vishanoff, Philip Farrington, guests.

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Piercy called the meeting to order. She welcomed committee members, staff and guests. Those present introduced themselves.

### APPROVE APRIL 12, 2007, MINUTES

Mr. Zelenka, seconded by Ms. Ballew, moved to approve the April 12, 2007, meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously, 8:0.

### COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

**Zachary Vishanoff**, Patterson Street, Eugene, spoke about the bridge replacement plan. He urged that consideration be given to interim bicycle access during construction. He also asked that the bike path through Glenwood be improved to enhance the alternate transportation link between Eugene and Springfield. He said that Eugene was conducting cultural resources studies; each neighborhood was evaluated periodically and depending on what was important to a neighborhood, those things were considered for historic preservation. He said the Joe Romania property on Franklin Boulevard was an important regional, cultural resource and neighborhoods near the University of Oregon should be reevaluated to identify those types of resources. He was concerned that recent development in those neighborhoods was not consistent with neighborhood character.

**Lauri Segel**, 642 Charnelton, Eugene, discussed the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) project list. She said the draft RTP list represented a recipe for sprawl. She noted that the new arterial and interchange projects were in Springfield and those were in addition to the Beltline project. She cautioned that the plan

for the future should not be based on the past and that was a serious concern as the region could not rely on yesterday's monies, resources or goods and services. She urged a robust discussion of the RTP project list.

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

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

Ms. Wiederhold reported that the CAC's June 6 meeting focused on reviewing and editing the Citizen's Guide to Transportation Planning. She hoped to have a review draft to the MPC at its August meeting. She distributed CAC membership recruitment materials.

Mr. Thompson said the CAC also reviewed the RTP project list and discussed ways to have more public involvement during the design/construction phase of projects.

Ms. Piercy added that even with the CAC's work on the Citizen's Guide, members still felt it was difficult for the public to understand at what point in a project they would have an opportunity for meaningful input. She said it was an important issue and staff was working with jurisdictions and committee members to address it.

Mr. Thompson noted that the CAC was excited about the e-MPO prototype and the opportunity for the public to access, in an interactive manner, extensive information about projects throughout the region.

Ms. Wiederhold reported that the public outreach event on May 21, 2007, was very successful, with over 60 members of the public in attendance. She said the CAC was scheduled to take a field tour focusing in bicycle and pedestrian issues on July 11 and MPC members would be invited to participate. She reviewed the timeline for recruiting and appointing new CAC members.

Mr. Green arrived at 11:45 a.m.

Ms. Volta asked about the terms CAC members served and the number of members. Ms. Wiederhold replied that members terms were initially staggered between two and three years to avoid having all terms expire at the same time, but as members had left and new ones were appointed that was not necessary and all appointments were now for a three-year term. She said there were currently seven voting members, plus Ms. Piercy as the MPC liaison, and the bylaws allowed up to 15 members.

### **Amendment to Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)**

Mr. Thompson reviewed the background information provided in the agenda packet. He said that about \$2.8 million was anticipated for 2007 and \$2.3 million was conservatively programmed. He said the actual amount was very close to \$2.8 million, leaving several hundred thousand dollars available for programming. He said staff was developing options for the use of those funds, including an update to the household activity survey, which formed the basis for the trip generation model and other work of the MPO. He said the proposed amendment would program funds to pay for that update.

Ms. Ballew, seconded by Mr. Woodrow, moved approval of Resolution 2007-05, adopting MTIP Amendment #2007-23 as shown in Exhibit A to the Resolution. The motion passed unanimously, 9:0.

## **Draft FY2008-2011 MTIP Project List and Text Modifications**

Mr. Thompson used a chart to illustrate changes to the MTIP that were required in order to keep the MTIP aligned with the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). He referred to Attachment 3: Proposed Changes to Draft FY08-11 MTIP "Development and Modification of the MTIP" Language and said the draft language was intended to be more consistent with State and federal procedures. He said a full draft of the MTIP would be presented at the MPC's July meeting for a public hearing, followed by a 30-day public comment period and possible adoption at the August meeting.

Ms. Ballew expressed concern with language in Item 10 of Attachment 3, related to the Transportation Planning Committee (TPC) role in retracting funding authority for a program or project. She felt the TPC was moving into policy areas that were the purview of the MPC. Mr. Thompson said that item was intended to address specifically projects that were programmed in the MTIP in a certain fiscal year and needed to be either obligated or rolled forward to the next fiscal year. He said the language would allow the TPC to notify jurisdictions that action had to be taken within 60 days or the TPC would initiate an amendment for MPC adoption. He noted that the TPC initiated all MTIP amendments and only acted on those that were limited to administrative issues.

In response to a question from Ms. Piercy, Mr. Thompson said the language did not grant the TPC additional authority; it merely formalized existing practices.

Ms. Ballew said she did not want to restrict jurisdictions' ability to manage their MTIP projects.

Mr. Woodrow suggested revising the language to remove any implication that the TPC was being given more authority.

Ms. Ballew suggested replacing language in Section "a" of Item 10 related to instigating an amendment with language that said the TPC would be proposing an amendment to the MPC. She noted that Section "b" should read "...MPO flexible funding authority..."

## **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2031 Update: Draft Environmental Maps**

Mr. Thompson stated that 28 environmental maps were posted on the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) website. He said under new federal requirements the MPO must consult and coordinate with regulatory agencies responsible for social, cultural and environmental resources within the MPO area. He said the purpose was to assure those issues were considered in the transportation planning process.

Mr. Woodrow asked if the maps would be used for land use decisions. Mr. Thompson said they would not and contained disclaimers that they were for purposes of meeting federal requirements only and assure that environmental concerns were addressed early in the planning process. Mr. Thompson said the maps had been reviewed by the CAC and were available for public review and comment during the next two months.

## **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2031 Update: Draft Project Lists**

Mr. Thompson commented that the MPC had reviewed a full list of Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) projects three months earlier and this update added input from all of the jurisdictions. He briefly reviewed the materials in the agenda packet, which identified and summarized project changes. He said the lists had been reviewed by the CAC and was available for public comment.

## **May 4 OMPOC Meeting Summary**

Ms. Ballew gave an overview of the May 4 OMPOC meeting. She reported it was a good meeting. Mr. Vanderpool stated one outcome was the legislative agenda, which the MPC would discuss next. He said ODOT was promulgating a freight questionnaire and MPOs were being asked to comment. He said that OMPOC had established a subcommittee to develop a proposed MPO response and that would be provided to the MPC when it was available.

## **OMPOC Legislative Agenda**

Mr. Vanderpool drew attention to the first draft of OMPOC's legislative policy concepts and objectives. He asked for direction to staff on any revisions the MPC might wish to propose.

Ms. Ballew suggested that the last two bulleted items relating to advocacy and support for transportation demand management and special transportation programs specify that the advocacy was for *funded* programs to avoid burdening jurisdictions with unfunded mandates. She also suggested a policy relative to cost sharing with ODOT that assured costs were shared in a rational, consistent, predictable and fair manner.

Ms. Piercy noted an item related to efficiency of the public transit system and asked if there were any references to bicycle travel. Mr. Vanderpool replied that was generally considered to be covered under the topic of transportation demand management programs. He asked if a specific reference should be proposed.

Ms. Piercy asked that a specific reference to alternative modes of transportation and sustainable funding option be included.

Mr. Green asked if the item related to advocacy for a transportation funding package was linked to any specific piece of legislation. Mr. Vanderpool said that several bills somewhat related to that were proposed for the 2009 legislative session. He said the OMPOC legislative agenda was being developed for the 2009 session.

Mr. Green noted that the reference was fairly generic and he would prefer a more specific reference. He understood the target was the 2009 legislative session, but pointed out that there could be another session in the interim. Mr. Vanderpool said that legislative liaisons briefed OMPOC that nothing of substance related to transportation was likely to occur in the current legislative session and the 2008 session would be narrowly focused on a few budget issues. He said the plan was to gear up for a major transportation initiative in the 2009 session. He said one of the reasons for OMPOC's creation was to give MPOs a venue for presenting collective concerns to the legislature.

Mr. Green cautioned that advocating for a generic program could have unintended consequences if it resulting in a program designed by others and not the MPOs. He would consider the issue and suggest language to staff.

Mr. Sorenson discussed efforts to establish an annual legislative session and thought that the interim sessions would include more than the typical Emergency Board issues but not be as broad as the regular sessions. He inquired about the status of the gas tax issue.

Mr. Green commented there had been discussions by business groups about increasing the gas tax statewide and vehicle registrations. He said that the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) was concerned with the ability of smaller counties to implement some provisions, equity of fund sharing and preemption of local authority.

Mr. Vanderpool remarked that the only revenue measure that was likely to pass, other than ConnectOregon 2, was HB 3018, which increases vehicle registration fees and uses that as a revenue stream for bonding.

Mr. Evans encouraged more specificity in the bulleted item related to supporting efforts to better coordinate land use, transportation and economic development. His concern was that planning and economic development process seemed to run ahead of transportation and mass transit was often in the position of trying to catch up. He wanted the items for spell out the need for coordination and comprehensive planning.

Mr. Van Vactor noted that most jurisdictions had their own legislative agendas and were members of other associations, such as the League of Oregon Cities and AOC, which also had legislative agendas. He asked if there had been discussion about how to coordinate those agendas to assure there were not contradictory positions.

Ms. Ballew agreed that was a valid concern and she would raise it at the next OMPOC meeting.

Mr. Van Vactor suggested that each jurisdiction take the OMPOC legislative agenda back to its respective legislative committee for feedback.

### **MPO USDOT Certification Review: Initial Report**

Mr. Thompson reported that the certification and review by the U.S. Department of Transportation had gone very well and LCOG was pleased with feedback on the planning process. He said that a final report would be provided to the MPC when it was received from USDOT.

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

#### **ODOT Update**

Ms. Lee introduced Nate Scott of ODOT. She announced that she would be leaving her current position for a role as ODOT's statewide design/build manager. She invited recommendations from the MPC on her replacement as the ODOT representative.

Ms. Piercy thanked Ms. Lee on behalf of the MPC for her service.

**Letters Regarding FY2010-2013 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)  
Criteria and Factors and Stakeholder Committee**

Ms. Piercy reported that the response from the Oregon Transportation Committee to the MPC's request to participate as a member of the stakeholder committee was no. She suggested enlisting others in the MPC's efforts to be a member.

Mr. Thompson commented that the STIP stakeholder group had completed its work and would reconvene in approximately a year and a half.

**TGM and TE Grant Awards**

Mr. Thompson announced that two projects that had received MPC endorsement for funding had received grant awards. He said the projects were the Delta Ponds Multiuse Path and the Coburg Multimodal Loop Implementation Strategy.

**MTIP Administrative Amendments**

Mr. Thompson reviewed the amendments. There were no questions.

**MPO Calendar**

Mr. Vanderpool called the MPC's attention to the invitation to meet with the LCOG Board on June 28 at Fire Station #1. He said that Ms. Lee would facilitate the discussion on transportation.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

(Recorded by Lynn Taylor)