



July 3, 2008

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Kathi Wiederhold

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

**Action Recommended: None. Information only.**

**Report**

This report covers the May and June meetings of the Citizen Advisory Committee. The committee took a field trip in lieu of their regular meeting on May 21, 2008. The committee held their regular meeting on April 16, 2008, with eight of the thirteen voting members in attendance. The main agenda items were updates from staff and follow-up on review of the Public Participation Plan. The agenda was adjusted to add two reports from citizen committee members: a debrief from those who attended the Moving Forward Together conference on June 11, 2008; and a report from Eleanor Mulder, committee member who served on a LTD committee dealing with funding for the Job Access and Reverse Commute program.

**Field Trip**

Thanks to the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Lane Transit District for partnering to take the citizen committee on a field trip to two Oregon Department of Transportation projects—the Beltline/Interstate 5 Flyover and Highway 99. The field trip drew rave reviews from the ten members who attended. We all donned hard hats and safety vests to tour the Beltline/I-5 Flyover, part of one of the busiest interchanges in Lane County. We learned amazing and fascinating details about the many aspects of building the flyover and enjoyed the view of the new bicycle/pedestrian bridge over I-5. Thanks to Karl Wieseke, Assistant Project Manager, and Sonny Chickering, Area 5 (Lane County) Manager, for an interesting and informative tour of a facility not many members of the public have the opportunity to walk over during construction. Our route back was via Highway 99 for a windshield tour of that project, which includes repaving from Garfield to Roosevelt and installing sidewalks. We traveled in comfort and style on a bus generously provided by Lane Transit District.

**Staff Updates**

This item inaugurated a new standing agenda item to build in a regular time for staff to briefly update the committee on current items concerning MPO regional transportation planning. These updates have been occurring along the way, this item provides a place

to collect and present them as a cluster. At the June meeting, staff updated the committee about Title VI, Oregon Transportation Commission earmark priorities, the work plan to integrate the transportation and land use planning, The Big Look, MPO greenhouse gases, the Oregon Transportation Commission draft policy on public involvement, the federal reauthorization bill for transportation funding, and the upcoming field trip to Lane Transit District.

The committee unanimously passed a motion to encourage the MPO to take every opportunity to help the Lane Transit District resolve its anticipated funding problem.

### **Public Participation Plan**

The committee discussed how to implement the recommendations that came out of their first annual evaluation of the *Public Participation Plan*, which was adopted by the Metropolitan Policy Committee in January 2007. The nine general recommendations were presented to the Metropolitan Policy Committee at the May 8, 2008, meeting. The committee decided to focus their discussion on the first two recommendations, which lend themselves to early implementation. Both deal with making it easier for the public to find out about transportation related activities, plans, projects and programs. The first recommendation was to establish a central clearinghouse for information on transportation-related public involvement opportunities. The second was to designate a first point of contact for members of the public. Staff will work to flesh out and refine the committee's many ideas and suggestions, coordinating with the Transportation Planning Committee as appropriate.