

# MINUTES

Metropolitan Policy Committee  
Springfield Library Meeting Room - 225 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Springfield

June 12, 2003  
11:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Bill Dwyer, Chair; Bonny Bettman, Vice Chair; Hillary Wylie, Anne Ballew (for Tammy Fitch), Gerry Gaydos, Nancy Nathanson (for Jim Torrey), Bobby Green, Michael Dean, Bob Pirrie, Gary Papé, members; Dennis Taylor, Bill Van Vactor, Mike Hudson, Tom Boyatt, Mike Kelly, *ex officio* members; George Kloeppe, Tom Schwetz, Paul Thompson, Byron Vanderpool, Lane Council of Governments; Lisa Gardner, Lane Transit District; Jim Carlson, Jan Childs, City of Eugene; Greg Mott, City of Springfield, Tom Stinchfield, Lane County; Rob Zako, 1,000 Friends of Oregon

ABSENT: Sid Leiken, member; Ken Hamm, *ex officio* member.

## 1. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF MAY 8, 2003, MINUTES

Mr. Dwyer called the meeting of the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) to order.

*Ms. Bettman, seconded by Mr. Gaydos, moved to accept the minutes of May 8, 2003.*

Mr. Pirrie noted that he did not make the motion to approve minutes of the April 10, 2003 meeting.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Dwyer stated the minutes were accepted as corrected.

## 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Those present introduced themselves.

### **3. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

There were no comments from the audience.

### **4. MPO ISSUES**

#### **a. Amendments to FY02-04 TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan)**

Mr. Dwyer opened the public hearing and asked for testimony on the proposed amendments.

**Rob Zako**, 120-B East 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Eugene, representing 1000 Friends of Oregon, commented that five of the six amendments were from Lane Transit District (LTD) and asked if the MPC exercised any discretion over the amendments or if decisions had already been made and the hearing was only a formality. He said if the MPC had no decision to make, then public input was unnecessary.

Mr. Dwyer said the LTD board had made its decision regarding the amendments and the MPC had a role in approving or disapproving the amendments.

There being no further testimony, the hearing was closed.

Paul Thompson, Lane Council of Governments (LCOG), provided background information on the TIP and the process for adoption of amendments. He commented that four of the five LTD amendments were housekeeping in nature and the fifth represented a new projected funded by federal and local grants, not MPC discretionary funds. He said the sixth amendment was funding for MPO activities for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2003. He added that no public input had been received during the last thirty days.

Mr. Dwyer noted that the record had been left open to provide an opportunity to review documents and provide comments.

***Mr. Gaydos, seconded by Mr. Green, moved to adopt the proposed amendments to the FY02-04 Transportation Improvement Program.***

Ms. Bettman asked what disposition was made of the \$500,000 for the Fairgrounds Park and Ride and the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) vehicle funds. Mr. Thompson replied that he understood the BRT funds were being moved to the actual fiscal year in which expenditure would occur.

Lisa Gardner, LTD, explained that there was not a pot of funds earmarked for the Fairgrounds project that now could be reallocated, but rather reprioritization of projects during subsequent BRT planning phases and updated federal allocations had dropped the Fairgrounds project below the funding line. She said that funds for BRT vehicle purchase would simply be carried forward to the actual year of purchase.

Referring to the RideSource Maintenance and Operations Facility amendment, Ms. Bettman questioned the use of funds for transit capital improvements, rather than operations. Ms. Gardner explained that the funds were from the 5310 federal program and dedicated to capital assistance for transportation for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Ms. Bettman observed that LTD had cut services and consolidated routes, but was planning capital expenditures. Ms. Gardner explained that targeted funds, such as the RideSource 5310 federal funds, could not be used for other purposes or combined with funds for general operations.

Ms. Wylie added that LTD had increased services two year ago, but the recent economic downturn had affected payroll taxes and reduced revenue. She said increased costs and reduced revenues caused LTD to make service cuts. Ms. Gardner said RideSource was a core program and the capital project was essential.

Ms. Bettman said that she was unfamiliar with the LTD capital infrastructure, but she had heard complaints from constituents about services and was opposed to using operations funds for capital

projects and would oppose the motion.

Ms. Wylie replied the RideSource maintenance facility was inadequate and a new facility was critical. She said states funds had been cut and the LTD Budget Committee had done its best to meet demands for service. Ms. Bettman wondered if the 6.86-acre site could also accommodate other vehicles besides the twenty-eight RideSource buses.

Ms. Ballew referred to the Central Lane MPO Amendment and asked that timelines for the receipt of materials and comments from LCOG staff be tightened to give the committee better information on the actions it was requested to take. Mr. Schwetz replied that LCOG wanted to return at the July meeting with an overview of first quarter work activities and make that report an ongoing agenda item. He said that staff had been working with two policy bodies and concentrating on the MPC would make the reporting process easier.

Ms. Bettman said it appeared the MPC was adopting reallocation of funds before the work program. Mr. Kloepfel said that while LCOG staff would respond to the MPC's wishes on timelines and reporting, the work program had been provided to the committee and was adopted at its April meeting. He said LCOG Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) staff desired to have a partnership process in every respect between the LCOG and participating jurisdictions.

*The motion passed, 12:1, with Ms. Bettman opposed.*

**b. Review of TIP Update Development Schedule**

Mr. Schwetz briefly reviewed the overview of the TIP process contained in his memo of June 5, 2003 to the MPC. He noted that the TIP, as adopted by the MPC, became a part of the STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program) and could not be modified by the State. He also reviewed the types of TIP actions and factors that could affect the TIP update schedule. In response to a question from Mr. Dwyer, he said the type of TIP action designated as an "administrative adjustment" would

typically be a minor adjustment of some type, but there was no federal definition. He suggested the MPC develop a threshold for determining when an action would be considered an administrative adjustment and said staff would develop some suggestions for guidelines to be adopted by MPC as part of the TIP Update.

Mr. Van Vactor observed that neither Lane County nor Coburg was mentioned in the discussion of road fund needs. Mr. Schwetz responded that he had only received information from Eugene and Springfield and that was why those jurisdictions were referenced in his memo. Mr. Dean stated that Coburg had streets that required repair and maintenance.

Mr. Schwetz said that pending state transportation financing legislation could include funding for city and county maintenance and preservation activities. He reviewed the FY04-06 TIP Update schedule options. He said the original schedule targeted July, 2003 for MPC adopted of criteria and evaluation process, and September, 2003 for adoption of the update; the recommended scheduled targeted August, 2003 for criteria and evaluation process adoption and October, 2003 for update adoption. He said the recommended schedule provided greater opportunities for public input and participation.

Ms. Bettman asked how staff generated the criteria. Mr. Schwetz replied that OTC provided guidance and there were federal requirements for criteria.

Ms. Bettman asked for clarification on the process of programming STP funds into the TIP for maintenance and preservation. Mr. Schwetz said there were some limitations; funds were available for projects that could be broadly defined as preservation, but not for ongoing operations and maintenance activities. Ms. Bettman asked how it could be assured that funds were programmed for preservation. Mr. Schwetz responded that criteria could be weighted for those types of projects. He said that local governments had lists of likely projects and the MPC could periodically review the weighting of criteria, as priorities shifted, to assure consideration of preservation projects.

Ms. Ballew said the schedule for development of criteria was acceptable, but noted there were \$1.5 million in federal funds available and the 2003-04 construction season had arrived. She asked if there

was a way to expedite getting those funds to cities, possibly through exceptional criteria.

Mr. Schwetz said it would be difficult to follow the federal process and achieve expedited funding. He suggested that one approach would be to consider another TIP amendment in July to program the \$1.5 million and this would require quick assembly and distribution for review of a project list. He would determine if this would be acceptable under federal requirements. Mr. Schwetz asked for approval of the TIP update schedule, with direction to staff to develop a TIP amendment.

*Mr. Green, seconded by Ms. Ballew, moved to approve the development schedule for the FY04-06 TIP and direct staff to develop a list of local government preservation projects to be considered as a TIP amendment at the July, 2003 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.*

**c. Report from the MPC Subcommittee on Public Involvement**

Mr. Thompson reported that the subcommittee had completed its fourth meeting and materials from the May 15, 2003 meeting were included in the agenda packet. He said the subcommittee looked at gaps in the MPO public process and developed recommendations for modifying the process. He said those recommendations would be considered by the MPC at its July meeting and, if accepted, the details for implementing the recommendations would be developed.

Mr. Green reminded the MPC that the subcommittee was charged with identifying and proposing solutions to gaps in the public process. He noted some of the specific recommendations that were made, including adding citizens to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) to achieve a broader discussion and a clear, transparent process.

Mr. Van Vactor noted the May 9, 2003 memo from Paul Thompson outlining the subcommittee recommendations. He expressed reservations with the extensive public process that was proposed and whether it would hamper the MPC's ability to respond quickly when necessary.

Mr. Dean asked if there was a high level of agreement among subcommittee members to the extensive modifications being proposed. Mr. Green replied that there had been consensus on the modifications, but some level of disagreement on certain issues, such as inclusion of citizens in the currently staff-driven TPC technical advisory process. Ms. Bettman added that a majority of the work consisted of documenting activities consistent with federal requirements. She said there was consensus on the need to expand the TPC process to include the public, but not consensus on how to implement that recommendation.

Mr. Dean said he was not opposed to broader public involvement, but it must be balanced with the need of jurisdictions to react.

**d. Recap of Federal Certification Review of MPO Process**

Mr. Schwetz gave an overview of the certification review process, which was concluded on June 9, 2003, and identified the following areas that would require MPO attention during the next fiscal year:

- Development of a Congestion Management System - review congested facilities and propose solutions other than adding facilities
- Plan Development - updated planning horizon and new TMA boundary
- TIP and Project selection - revise allocation method for local STP funds from a formula distribution to a more merit-driven process based on criteria
- Update of Public Involvement Process - would include MPC subcommittee recommendations
- Air Quality - relating to carbon monoxide pollution and federal standards
- Title VI and Related Requirements - ensure no discrimination in the MPO process on basis of race, color, or national origin and consideration of the impact of projects on minority and poverty populations

In response to a question from Mr. Dwyer on the Environmental Justice requirements, Mr. Schwetz said the requirements included senior and disabled populations.

**e. MPO Calendar and Information Items**

Mr. Dwyer reviewed the MPO-related calendar update included in the agenda packet. Mr. Kloeppe noted that there would be additional TIP activity, as a result of the MPC's action, that was not reflected on the calendar.

Mr. Schwetz drew the committee's attention to the Oregon Transportation Commission's (OTC) April minutes included in the agenda packet and distributed copies of the OTC's May minutes. He also distributed a fact sheet on ODOT's construction project at the intersection of Oregon 99W and Roosevelt Boulevard in Eugene. He said the project's purpose was to improve safety at the intersection.

Mr. Pirrie said the intersection had a high number of rear-end accidents because of the unexpected traffic signal at the end of the railroad overpass. He said improvements would include an extension of the northbound turn lane and a flashing sign warning of the signal ahead.

**STATUS REPORTS**

Mr. Kloeppe referred to members to a June 5, 2003 from Milo Mecham, which provided information on the cable franchise. He noted that related matters would come before the MPC at a later date.

Mr. Pirrie thanked elected officials, staff, and members of the community who had worked with ODOT on the Willamette River bridge detour project.

Mr. Dwyer thanked the City of Springfield for hosting the MPC meeting.

Mr. Van Vactor said the County Board of Commissioners asked him to convey that it would not take action on the Willamette River Greenway exception at its June 18, 2003 joint meeting and would hold the record open for a period of time.

Mr. Dwyer announced the next meeting would be held July 10, 2003 at the Springfield Library Meeting Room and adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

(Recorded by Lynn Taylor)

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*Last Saved: July 1, 2003*