

## MINUTES

Metropolitan Policy Committee  
Springfield City Hall—Library Meeting Room—225 5th Street  
Springfield, Oregon

July 12, 2007  
11:30 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Kitty Piercy (City of Eugene), Chair; Bill Dwyer (Lane County), Anne Ballew, Sid Leiken (City of Springfield), Gerry Gaydos, Greg Evans (Lane Transit District), John Thiel (City of Coburg), Jane Lee (Oregon Department of Transportation), members; Bill Van Vactor (Lane County), Len Goodwin for Gino Grimaldi (City of Springfield), Mark Pangborn (Lane Transit District), *ex officio* members.

Byron Vanderpool, Ann Mortenson, Susan Payne, Kathi Wiederhold, Paul Thompson, Jamon Kent (Lane Council of Governments); Randy Papé (Oregon Transportation Commission); Ed Moore (Oregon Department of Transportation); Tom Schwetz, Connie Bloom Williams (Lane Transit District); Tom Stinchfield (Lane County); Rob Zako, Terry Connelly, Zachary Vishanoff, Joseph Vardner, guests.

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

### COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

**Zachary Vishanoff**, Patterson Street, Eugene, commented that planning for the Eugene City Hall complex and the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) site could come together with a win for everyone if the City hall planning to date was scrapped. He said the EWEB site could provide a large park along with riverfront to accompany the new City Hall complex, which could be located at the rear of the EWEB site. He said a park was preferable to condominiums as it gave the entire community access to the site. He referred to a recent newspaper article about the possibility of eminent domain for the University of Oregon's basketball court site. He said eminent domain was a threat to neighbors and if the University's project was not self-supporting the City should not pay for transportation improvements to enhance the area. He thanked Ms. Piercy for her efforts to bring transparency to the project.

**Rob Zako**, 1000 Friends of Oregon, spoke to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). He said the draft RTP would be reviewed by the MPC at its August meeting, released for public comment and adopted in September. He urged the MPC to use the federal dollars available for planning activities to address land use planning issues and consider the type of future the community desired. He said that growth scenarios should be consistent with jurisdictions' goals.

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

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

Ms. Wiederhold reported that the CAC had participated in a tour of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the area in lieu of its regular July meeting. She said the tour was informative for members and thanked the MPO partners that helped to make the tour a success by identifying points of interest and providing bus transportation. She said that CAC officers hoped new committee members would be appointed by the August 1 meeting, which was planned to include an orientation for new members and a brief business meeting followed by a social hour for current and new members to become acquainted.

### **Appointment of Citizen Advisory Committee Members**

Ms. Wiederhold said that 18 applications for CAC membership were received by the deadline of June 29. She noted that one application had been omitted from the agenda packet and had been distributed to MPC members. She said that application could be added to the list of alternates.

Ms. Ballew reported that a recruitment committee composed of herself, MPC members Bobby Green and Kitty Piercy and CAC officers Moriah Demers and Webb Sussman met to review applications. She thanked Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) for recruiting a highly qualified pool of applicants. She determined there were no objections to adding the application of Damien Gilbert to the candidates list.

Ms. Ballew said the recruitment committee reviewed applicants to develop a list of candidates representing a broad range of community interests. She said in order to avoid having to engage in another recruitment process, the provision of the CAC bylaws requiring members' terms to begin on January 1 would need to be waived to appoint four members as of August 1 to fill immediate vacancies. She four additional candidates would be appointed January 1.

Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Gaydos, moved to appoint eight candidates recommended by the recruitment committee to the Citizen Advisory Committee and waive the CAC bylaws to allow four appointments to become effective on August 1, with the next four being appointed January 1. The motion passed unanimously, 8:0.

Ms. Ballew said that LCOG staff would propose amendments to the CAC bylaws at a future date.

Mr. Vanderpool confirmed that Mr. Gilbert's name would be inserted alphabetically on the candidate list.

### **Amendments to FY06-09 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)**

Mr. Thompson stated there were eight amendments to be approved and copies were included in the agenda packet. He said that staff was available to respond to any questions.

Mr. Van Vactor asked why replacing non-standard and unserviceable signs on Interstate 5 and all major ramps in Lane County was an MTIP amendment and not an administrative responsibility of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). He said it did not seem to be a policy issue. Mr. Thompson

agreed it was a lower level project, but federal funds were being used and that meant the MPO had to approve that use and the funds had to be programmed into the MTIP.

Mr. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Gaydos, moved to approve Resolution 2007-06 adopting amendments 2007-24 through 2007-31 to the FY06-09 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program. The motion passed unanimously, 8:0.

### **Draft FY08-11 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)**

Mr. Thompson stated that the full draft of the FY08-11 MTIP was included in the agenda packet. He said the FY08-11 MTIP would meet the requirement that the MPO maintain an MTIP that coincided with the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) cycle. He pointed out language modifications on pages 5 and 6 that reflected direction from the MPC at its last meeting. He said the public comment period commenced on July 6 and would remain open through August 6.

Ms. Piercy opened the public hearing and called for testimony.

**Zachary Vishanoff**, Patterson Street, Eugene, spoke about the connection between neighborhoods and the transportation system. He said neighborhoods in the vicinity of the University of Oregon had not had an updated review of cultural resources. He was concerned that expansion of the University would overlook the cultural resources and historical assets of those neighborhoods if there was no holistic planning that integrated neighborhoods, transportation and cultural resources to provide essential data before proceeding with regional projects.

**Rob Zako**, 1000 Friends of Oregon, said it was unclear what decisions were being made in the MTIP and what decisions had already been made elsewhere. He asked if the CAC had reviewed the MTIP process and the extent to which it was accessible to the public. He thanked the MPC for its continuing efforts to involve the public in transportation planning.

Ms. Piercy remarked that the CAC had expressed concern that it was difficult for the public to understand at what point in a project it was possible to have meaningful input before major decisions had been made. She said that was an issue the CAC would continue to explore with the assistance of the MPC.

Ms. Piercy determined there was no one else wishing to testify and closed the public hearing.

Mr. Thompson described the outreach efforts that had already occurred and were planned for the draft MTIP. He stated there was a procedure problem as ODOT's deadline for submitting draft MTIPs for inclusion in the printed draft STIP was July 13 and even though the MPC had not yet taken action, ODOT wanted a copy of the project list for the STIP public review process. He asked if there were any objections to that process.

Mr. Dwyer pointed out that the process was being driven by federal timelines and constraints and it was a cumbersome process.

Ms. Piercy commented that the CAC was interested in how people could have input at the beginning of a project in order to influence the decision-making process. She said a website was being developed to provide better project information. She said that people had commented to her that the MPC meeting was in the middle of the day and not televised, making it inaccessible to many.

Mr. Evans asked if information on projects was available online. Mr. Thompson said the draft MTIP was available online and the e-MPO website under development would allow people to obtain detailed information about regional transportation projects, including status, contact information and relationship to other projects. He said a prototype of the website would be demonstrated at the next MPC meeting.

Mr. Papé pointed out that while people tended to be focused on current project activities in the transportation system, it was necessary to look five to ten years into the future to affect planning and decisions.

Mr. Van Vactor asked if the draft STIP would note that the MTIP project list was a draft and not yet approved by the MPC. Mr. Thompson said that the entire STIP would be noted as draft at this time, but that he would check with ODOT.

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

#### **ODOT Update**

Ms. Lee reminded the MPC that ODOT would be recruiting candidates to fill her position when she moved to a new job within the organization. She encouraged interested individuals to apply.

#### **Environmental Consultation Report**

Mr. Thompson announced that draft environmental consultation maps discussed at the June MPC meeting had been reviewed by a group representing the state and federal cognizant resource agencies. He said the group was very pleased with the maps and had provided some feedback that was incorporated in the final draft versions. He said the maps were also posted on the LCOG website and would be included in the draft RTP. He said that feedback from Springfield regarding a brownfield had been checked with the database and the location confirmed. He said the maps represented resource databases alongside MPO project planning for transportation. He said the MPO could not change the underlying resource data information shown on the maps but could be a conduit for changes requested by member jurisdictions; any changes that then occurred would be reflected in the maps.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

(Recorded by Lynn Taylor)