



August 6, 2008

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Webb Sussman, Chair, and Dave Jacobson, Vice Chair, Citizen Advisory Committee

Subject: Item 5.b: Report from the Citizen Advisory Committee

Action Recommended: None. Information only.

Report

The committee held their regular meeting on July 16, 2008, with eleven of the thirteen voting members in attendance. The main agenda item was discussion and committee input on long range transportation planning efforts.

Regional Planning Efforts

This item updated the committee on the July 9, 2008, Regional Planning Coordination open house that introduced three major regional projects that will answer critical questions about the region's growth. The projects are population projections, land supply and demand assessment, and update of the transportation plan. The event asked for input and asked attendees how they prefer to be involved. Staff reported on what was learned from the public at the event and then focused broadly on the transportation plan update and asked for committee input on how to engage the public.

The committee commented on the scheduling of eight transportation-related meetings over three nights. They felt this led to confusion and lack of attendance. Using the term "perfect storm" to describe the clustering of public outreach events, the committee cited it as a perfect example of the need for a central clearinghouse for public outreach about transportation in the MPO area.

MPO staff have been working to develop a proposal to implement the committee's recommendation for a clearinghouse, which was presented to the Metropolitan Policy Committee in May 2008 along with eight other broad recommendations on public involvement. We have talked with the Transportation Advisory Subcommittee about their ideas for implementation; set aside agenda time at the August 20, 2008, Citizen Advisory Committee meeting to flesh out the proposal; and invited public involvement staff from MPO partners to attend the August 20 meeting to join in the discussion. MPO staff will continue to update the Metropolitan Policy Committee about this item.

Staff Updates

This standing agenda item provides time for staff to briefly update the committee on a range of current activities in MPO regional transportation planning. At the July meeting, staff updates included:

- Recent public involvement activities, including the July 9, 2008 Regional Coordination Workshop;
- MPC endorsement of the Campaign for Active Transportation Draft Case Statement;
- Oregon Transportation Commission earmarks approved by the MPC; and
- Phase II of the KeepUsMoving website.

Staff also provided some initial follow-up on the nine public involvement recommendations made by the Citizen Advisory Committee.

Committee Membership

Rich Hazel, who was appointed to the Citizen Advisory Committee in May 2006, has resigned. Rich stated that his reason for leaving is that he does not have enough time to contribute to committee activities in a manner that will have meaningful results. With his resignation, the committee will have twelve voting members. The bylaws specify that the committee shall consist of ten to fifteen members.

Special Field Trip/Meeting at the Lane Transit District

The Lane Transit District generously offered to host a tour and meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee in response to interest expressed by the committee. The field trip will be conducted on August 6, 2008 and will include a tour of LTD facilities as well as staff presentations about EmX and Commuter Solutions activities, sustainability planning, and budget issues.