

Lane Council of Governments

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August 4, 2005

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Kathi Wiederhold

Subject: Item 4.e.1.i – Report from Citizen Advisory Committee

Action Recommended: None. Information only.

Background

On December 9, 2004, MPC approved the recommended 14-person membership slate and appointed Commissioner Bobby Green to serve as a liaison between the Citizen Advisory Committee and MPC. Twelve citizens accepted the appointment to the Citizen Advisory Committee. The committee attended a reception and field tour on January 28 and 29, received a primer on the Unified Planning Work Program at Orientation Sessions on March 29 and 30, and have been holding regular monthly meetings since April 2005. The CAC met jointly with MPC on July 14, 2005.

Report

The committee held their regular meeting on August 3, 2005 and was unable to take action due to lack of a quorum. The committee delved into the several meaty items on their agenda, asking lots of questions and providing substantive input. These items were the update of the Regional Transportation Plan, the phase 2 work plan for the proposed I-5/Franklin interchange, the FY 2007-09 Surface Transportation program-Urban Funds, the FY 2008-11 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, and public involvement documents. The discussions were thoughtful and lively, with the committee showing keen interest and involvement in the agenda items. The committee's comments on the first three items will be included in separate reports on those items.

The committee had a lot to say regarding public involvement, emphasizing outreach that is brief, to the point, and grabs people's interest in ways that involve more than words on paper. The discussion turned wild and crazy in a fun, positive way as the committee spun some innovative ideas for outreach—interactive web sites, short mail messaging, short to-the-point direct language that hits home personally, booths at the Saturday Market or County Fair, video games, dressing up as a bus or train or car (Tom the Trolley) to hand out a broadsheet at grocery stores during the after-work rush, and more!

The recurring issues of a too-packed agenda and low attendance came up. The committee officers and staff will continue to work together to deal with both issues. Regarding the agenda, the officers and staff are working on a 1-year schedule for the

CAC to help assess and program the work to be done. We also will look for ways to squeeze more effective time out of the meeting, such as encouraging members to arrive on time and limiting discussion on information-only presentations where materials have been provided in the packet.

Staff will work with the officers on several points to address the issue of low attendance. One point will be to seek resignation and replacement of nonattending members. Another will involve amending the CAC bylaws to change the quorum from 2/3 to a simple majority of the members. A third point will be to add committee members up to the full 15 that the bylaws allow. The committee will forward recommendations to MPC to request amendments to the bylaws and the appointment of additional members.

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