



November 9, 2008

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

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

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

Action Recommended: None. Information only.

Report

The committee held their regular meetings on August 20, September 17, and October 15, 2008, and a special meeting at Lane Transit District on August 6, 2008. In attendance at the regular meetings were eight, seven, and eight voting members, respectively. Eight voting members attended the special meeting at LTD. The total number of voting members on the committee was 11 for the August and September meetings and dropped to 10 in October.

The main agenda items were: the central clearinghouse for public involvement; primer and review and comment on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program; and a report on Commuter Solutions activity.

Central Clearinghouse for Public Involvement

The committee reported on a homework assignment, which was to inventory and assess the public involvement content of websites of MPO partner agencies to get specific ideas about what they hope to achieve by developing a web-based central clearinghouse. Several MPO partner staff came to the August 20 meeting to take part in a roundtable discussion about how to establish a central clearinghouse. The committee felt very positive about the discussion and thanked staff for joining them in a very productive roundtable: Mark Bernard, Lane County; Judy Johnduff and Tom Boyatt, City of Springfield; Savanna Crawford and Joe Harwood, Oregon Department of Transportation; Mary Archer, Lane Transit District; and David Roth, City of Eugene.

The committee discussed more specifics of a clearinghouse at the September meeting and reviewed a proposal from staff at the October meeting. They asked staff to work with MPO partner staff to refine the proposal in preparation for taking it to MPC. The committee suggested that a joint meeting between MPC and CAC would be a good way to present their clearinghouse proposal and asked staff to look into it.

Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Savannah Crawford, Area 5 Planner for the Oregon Department of Transportation, made presentations to the CAC at both the September and October meetings. First, she presented a briefing on the STIP process. This served as preparation for the CAC to attend the Open House held immediately before the October CAC meeting in the same meeting room. ODOT closed the public part of the Open House at 5:00 and reserved the last half hour for CAC members to review the materials and talk with staff.

During the October meeting, Ms Crawford provided an overview of the draft STIP and asked for comments. Although the CAC did not have any specific comments, they asked several questions about the projects and process. Both the committee and staff were pleased with how ODOT worked with the committee to first brief them on the STIP process, co-locate the Open House, and follow up with another presentation to talk about the projects and ask for comments. This 3-part process is a good model for bringing information to the committee in a way that allows for thoughtful comments.

Commuter Solutions Activity

Marcia Maffei, Employer Programs Coordinator for the Commuter Solutions Program at Lane Transit District, updated the committee on the group pass, Rideshare, and school pass programs. There were questions and discussion about the Emergency Ride Home and Group Pass Programs, possible route reductions, and the fare box recovery ratio.

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. Committee members also used this item to update fellow members. At the August, September, and October meetings, updates included:

- Upcoming public involvement activities included: the September meeting in Eugene on the recommendations from the Big Look Task Force; public comment opportunities for the proposed reductions in LTD services; and the open house for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program held immediately before the October 15, 2008 CAC meeting.
- The September 15, 2008 Joint Elected Officials on regional transportation planning resulted in the authorization of a work plan to coordinate MPO tasks, local Transportation System Plans, and the Regional Transportation System Plan into one overall coordinated work plan.
- The MPO's Campaign for Active Transportation Case Statement was one of four selected for the national campaign.

Committee Membership

Damien Gilbert and Chess Patricolo, who were appointed to the Citizen Advisory Committee in July 2007, have resigned. Damien's resignation was *de facto* after three consecutive absences. Chess regrettably resigned because she has taken a job in

Madras. With these resignations, the committee has ten voting members. The bylaws specify that the committee shall consist of ten to fifteen members. A separate agenda item at the November 13, 2008 MPC meeting requests appointment of four new members.

Special Field Trip/Meeting at the Lane Transit District

The Special Meeting held on August 6, 2008, at Lane Transit District was included in the Citizen Advisory Committee report presented at the August 14, 2008, MPC meeting. It included a tour of LTD facilities as well as staff presentations about EmX and budget issues. There also was a very brief presentation on Commuter Solutions, with a request to schedule a full presentation at a regular meeting in the near future.

Attachments

August 6, 2008 Minutes

August 20, 2008 Minutes

September 17, 2008 Minutes