

December 2, 2004

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee  
From: Tom Schwetz  
Subject: Item 4f(1)(i): Annual MPO Report to LCOG Board

In October 2002, the LCOG Board, through Resolution 2002-08, delegated responsibilities associated with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) process to the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC). As part of that resolution, the Board included a provision that:

*“the Metropolitan Policy Committee shall provide a report to the Board of Directors at least annually on performance of its Metropolitan Planning Organization duties, including the results of any federal certification review;”*

At its December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, Eugene Councilor Bonny Bettman, as Chair of the MPC, will provide the LCOG Board with a review of MPO activities since November 2003. Her presentation will include the topics summarized in the attached memo distributed to the Board.

**Action Requested:** Information only.

**Attachments:** LCOG Board Memo regarding Annual Report on MPO Activities



## Agenda Item Number

7.

### Annual Report on MPO Activities

**Action Recommended:** None. Information Only.

#### **Issue Summary:**

At its December, 2002 meeting, MPC formally accepted delegation from the LCOG Board of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) policy making responsibilities. This action, together with the MPO's redesignation to Transportation Management Area status, creates a locally controlled partnership more effective and efficient in meeting federal requirements and guiding the region toward achieving its transportation goals.

As part of that resolution, the LCOG Board included a provision that:

*"the Metropolitan Policy Committee shall provide a report to the Board of Directors at least annually on performance of its Metropolitan Planning Organization duties, including the results of any federal certification review;"*

As requested by the Board, this memo provides a summary of the MPO's accomplishments Since November 2003.

#### **Accomplishments over the Past Year (Since November 2003)**

The accomplishments listed below have been completed by MPC since its last report to the LCOG Board (November 2003) . A description of each of these accomplishments is provided following the list.

1. Update of Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) (scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup>)
2. Responded to State proposals for additional freight route designations
3. Participated in meetings of Oregon's MPOs
4. Amended Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) periodically to allow various projects to proceed
5. Created Citizen Advisory Committee
6. Approved Air Quality Conformity Determinations for RTP and MTIP amendments
7. Approved development of SIP Limited Maintenance Plan
8. Provided Endorsements
  - a. Transportation Enhancement Grants
  - b. United Front Transportation Reauthorization Earmark Requests

- c. West Coast Corridor Coalition
- 9. Facilitated Regional Coordination of Project Scheduling
- 10. Heard and Discussed Reports on:
  - a. Congestion Management System Baseline Report
  - b. Oregon Transportation Improvement Act (OTIA) III briefing
  - c. Environmental Justice Baseline Analysis
  - d. Road User Fee Task Force Pilot Project
  - e. Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Plan
- 11. Facilitated Walkable Communities Workshops
- 12. Adopted and Amended Unified Planning Work Program
- 13. Established Project Priorities for the FY06-09 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Oregon Transportation Improvement Act (OTIA III) Projects

1. Update of Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) (scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup>) - a minor update of the Regional Transportation Plan is scheduled for adoption at MPC's December 9 meeting. The purpose of this update is to meet federal requirements. The scope of the update is limited to three primary elements:
  - o extension of the planning horizon from 2021 to 2025;
  - o expansion of the RTP study area to reflect the expansion of the MPO boundary as defined by federal regulations as a result of the 2000 census (most significantly, this expansion resulted in the inclusion of the city of Coburg within the MPO).
  - o Updating the financial constraint analysis, including adjusting project lists to delete projects that have been completed or are no longer planned, to include projects that have arisen since the last adoption of the RTP or are planned within the newly expanded planning rising years, updating cost estimates for all projects, and updating revenue forecasts.
2. Responded to State proposals for additional freight route designations - ODOT's Freight Route Analysis Project resulted in a proposal for the addition of a freight route designation to several state facilities within the MPO area. As part of the outreach for the project, MPC provided comment requesting an extension of the public review period. As a result of MPC's comments and those of other agencies, ODOT extended the review period and the amount of time before OTC would be scheduled to take action on the proposal.
3. Participated in meetings of Oregon MPOs - While the MPOs in the state have been meeting and coordinating at the staff level for many years, there has not been involvement of MPO policy board members in such meetings. To address this, the state's six MPO's agreed to meet and discuss issues of mutual concern. In particular, the policy officials discussed development of both a legislative and administrative agenda. Two 'MPO Summits' have been held to date, one in Portland and one in Eugene. A third Summit is scheduled for February in Salem.

4. Amended Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) periodically to allow various projects to proceed - in order to keep the MTIP current, MPC adopted periodic amendments to allow various projects to proceed through project development and on to construction.
5. Created Citizen Advisory Committee - MPC approved the creation of a Citizen Advisory Committee, and has adopted bylaws for the committee and formed a subcommittee for the purposes of recruiting and recommending CAC members. It is anticipated that the MPC subcommittee will make recommendations to the full MPC at its December 9 meeting. The CAC would be expected to start meeting sometime in January or February of 2005.
6. Approved Air Quality Conformity Determinations for RTP and MTIP amendments - updates and amendments to either the regional transportation plan or the Metropolitan transportation improvement program must be shown to meet national air quality standards. MPC approved several air quality conformity determinations in conjunction with its approval of various updates and amendments to the plan and improvement program.
7. Approved development of State Implementation Plan (SIP) Limited Maintenance Plan - the MPO's State Implementation Plan lays out the process and requirements related to attaining national air quality standards. Given that the MPO has significantly reduced the carbon monoxide emissions associated with auto use in the region over the last 20 years, and forecasts show that emissions will remain well below the national air quality standards, the region is eligible to operate under reduced air quality conformity requirements. The federal process for this is called a Limited Maintenance Plan. MPC approved the development of a limited maintenance plan scheduled for completion at the end of 2005.
8. Provided Endorsements - MPC provided MPO endorsement for several activities including:
  - a. Transportation Enhancement Grants - the cities of Eugene and Springfield both applied for these federally funded grants, the grants being for bicycle path projects. As part of the grant application process, an endorsement from the MPO was required.
  - b. United Front Transportation Reauthorization Earmark Requests - MPC provided endorsement for several transportation reauthorization earmark requests as part of the United Front process.
  - c. West Coast Corridor Coalition - the West Coast Corridor Coalition is a multistate effort involving state DOT's, port authorities, and regional planning agency's in California, Oregon, and Washington. Its purpose is to provide a stronger voice for west coast transportation needs at the federal level. MPC approved a resolution endorsing this effort.
9. Facilitated Regional Coordination of Project Scheduling - the region is expected to see several transportation improvements made over the next three years. In

particular, the construction of improvements programmed for Interstate-105 is expected to have a significant impact on regional travel during the period of construction. In order to minimize the impacts of multiple projects on regional travel, MPC directed staff to coordinate the improvements so that improvements on facilities that might serve as alternate routes to the I-105 project would proceed in a manner that did not conflict with periods when portions of I-105 were closed to traffic.

**10. Heard and Discussed Reports on:**

- a. Congestion Management System Baseline Report
- b. Oregon Transportation Improvement Act (OTIA) III briefing
- c. Environmental Justice Baseline Analysis
- d. Road User Fee Task Force Pilot Project
- e. Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Plan

**11. Facilitated Walkable Communities Workshops** - the MPO successfully applied for a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation which provided training to staff and the participation of national experts in a series of for community workshops. The workshops were conducted in various parts of the region and were well attended. The workshops focused on helping residents and businesses adjacent to a specific street identify barriers and other issues associated with the use of the street by bicyclists and pedestrians. The workshops also helped participants identify possible solutions to those barriers and issues.

**12. Adopted and Amended Unified Planning Work Program** - as required, MPC adopted the MPO's work program for FY 05 at its March 2004 meeting.

**13. Established Project Priorities for the FY06-09 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Oregon Transportation Improvement Act (OTIA III) Projects** - on behalf of the MPO, MPC is required to establish the region's project priorities for the State Transportation Improvement Program. MPC established priorities for the FY 06-09 STIP. MPC also provided ODOT with the MPO's priorities for the expenditure of OTIA III funds.

### **Upcoming Work Activities**

In addition to the ongoing tasks (amendments to the MTIP, adoption of the Unified Planning Work Program, etc.) it is anticipated that the MPO's work over the next year will focus on the following:

- o Completion of the development of alternative mobility standards for state facilities
- o An update to the RTP adding additional years to the planning horizon
- o An update to the MTIP to incorporate results of the Transportation Reauthorization process at the federal level. This would include MPC's allocation of STP-Urban funds which come to the region.

- Orientation and Facilitation of Citizen Advisory Committee
- Development of Public Involvement Plan
- Participation in future MPO Summits
- Completion of the air quality Limited Maintenance Plan

*LCOG: T:\MPO\COMMITTEES\MPC\FY05\DEC 04\MPC\_4F-1-I-CY04\_ANNUAL\_REPORT\_ON\_MPO.DOC  
Last Saved: December 2, 2004*