



## ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LCOG BOARD OF DIRECTORS December 2010

### INTRODUCTION

In the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area, planning our highway, rail, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian transportation system is a coordinated effort between a number of local, regional, state, and federal agencies, including the Cities of Eugene, Springfield, and Coburg, Lane County, Lane Transit District, and Oregon Department of Transportation. The Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) works with these agencies to provide *continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive* transportation planning within the metropolitan area.

The primary activities of the MPO consist of developing, maintaining and implementing five core transportation planning products adopted and amended by the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC), including the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP); Air Quality Conformity Determinations; Public Participation Plan; and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Timely development and adoption of these products ensures that federal and state funds continue to flow to projects vital to the region's economic development and quality of life.

### MPO and the LCOG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 2002, LCOG Board designated all of the region's MPO policy making responsibilities to the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC). For over a decade, the MPC had performed some of these tasks on behalf of the LCOG Board. As part of its resolution, the LCOG Board included a provision that the Metropolitan Policy Committee provide an annual report to the Board of Directors describing their performance of Metropolitan Planning Organization duties.

The MPC met 12 times in the 2010 calendar year. This report provides a summary of the MPO's accomplishments since January 2010, including policy activities of the MPC and ongoing operational tasks of the MPO staff.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF 2010

The past year saw continued growth of regional collaborative forums for discussion of transportation issues, with the Central Lane MPO providing a key coordinating role. The MPO has been busy laying the groundwork for a number of upcoming transportation and planning initiatives at the local and regional levels and has provided leadership in statewide greenhouse gas reduction

planning. The information on the following pages provides highlights of MPO activities between January and December 2010.

## FUNDING

- Adopted the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) for Federal Fiscal Years 2010- 2013. The MTIP is a major product of the MPO and undergoes a full update every other year. The FFY2010-2013 MTIP identifies more than \$270M of federally funded or otherwise regionally significant transportation and transit projects to enhance, maintain, and operate roads, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and public transit in the Central Lane MPO area.
- Approved \$3.07 million to projects and programs funded by Surface Transportation Program - Urban (STP-U) during Federal Fiscal Year 2010. STP-U funds planning activities, transportation demand management activities, and preservation and modernization.
- Member of the SMART Communities Project, which received \$1.45 Million from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development to promote smarter, more sustainable planning for transportation, housing, equity, and jobs and economic growth in Lane County.



## COLLABORATION

- Interagency coordination on a number of simultaneous transportation planning projects, including the following:
  - ❖ Coburg, Eugene, and Springfield Transportation System Plans (TSP);
  - ❖ Regional Transportation Options Plan (RTOP);
  - ❖ Lane Transit District Long Range Transit Plan;
  - ❖ Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); and
  - ❖ Regional System Plan (RTSP).

The intent of this effort is:

- ❖ Providing policy-makers and constituents with a clear understanding of the purpose and goals of each plan, and the differences and the commonalities between the various local and regional planning projects;
- ❖ Facilitating efficient identification, notification, and engagement of a range of stakeholders and stakeholder groups;
- ❖ Maximizing the value of public participation by developing tools to share input amongst jurisdictions; and

- ❖ Coordinating key messages and maintaining a common language in communications to the public and decision-makers.

- An update of the existing goals and objectives language in the current Regional Transportation Plan to address a number of emerging issues, including:

- |                                       |                            |                          |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ❖ Sustainability                      | ❖ Public Health            | ❖ Rail                   |
| ❖ Safety                              | ❖ Healthy Economies        | ❖ Transit                |
| ❖ Equity                              | ❖ Peak Oil                 | ❖ Transportation Options |
| ❖ Transportation/Land Use Integration | ❖ Greenhouse Gas Emissions |                          |

- Participation in the formation of the Lane County Area Commission on Transportation.
- Collaboration between regional partners on grant projects, including a TIGER II funding request for the Franklin Corridor.

**LEADERSHIP**

- Eugene Mayor and MPC Member Kitty Piercy has served as the Chair of the Oregon Metropolitan Planning Organization Consortium (OMPOC) and is chairing one of the rail subcommittees statewide.
- Eugene Councilor and MPC Chair Alan Zelenka has served on several statewide committees addressing greenhouse gas reduction planning.

**INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

- Completed construction on and prepared to launch the extended EmX service to the Gateway area in January 2011. LTD is also adding three EmX stations in downtown Eugene to improve EmX service and travel time.



- Completed construction of the Delta Ponds Bike Path and Bridge which will complete a missing link in connecting Eugene



neighborhoods to the Riverfront Path System.

- Continued work on the I-5/Willamette River Bridge Replacement in the Eugene/Springfield Metropolitan area. The project will help improve safety and maintain connectivity and mobility for all users of I-5.
- Continued work on the I-5 Beltline Interchange Project improvements. The project will help improve safety, ease congestion and improve traffic flow at this key interchange.
- Continued work on the first phase of the planned four-mile Middle Fork Loop Path connecting Clearwater Park and Dorris Ranch Living History Farm. The first phase included a 2.5 mile pathway from Clearwater Park in southeastern Springfield going west to the base of Quarry Butte.



- Completed construction of improvements to Beltline Highway at the Coburg Road Interchange.
- Completed numerous roadway preservation projects throughout the region.

## **Special Projects**

### Greenhouse Gas Reduction Planning

- The 2009 Oregon Legislature passed two bills aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in the transportation sector. LCOG staff and MPC members have been participating with the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Department of Land Conservation and Development and other Oregon communities to respond to this legislation, and to develop affordable yet effective strategies to meet GHG planning requirements.
- Completed a community greenhouse gas inventory to better understand the sources and emissions levels of different activities within the region and to set the context for GHG reduction strategies.

### Oregon Household Activity Survey

- Central Lane MPO is engaged in a statewide effort to administer the Oregon Household Activity Survey (OHAS). Data collection in the Central Lane MPO area is now complete, with 1,786 households participated and provided demographic and socioeconomic data and detailed travel information for each person within the household. The data will be used to update key assumptions and model parameters, and will also be used in later specification and estimation of more advanced tour-based models.

### Rail Planning

The MPC has expressed renewed interest in planning for rail in the region and members have participated in a number of events over the last year, including the Northwest Rail Summit, held in Eugene, to begin a conversation and develop an understanding of the mechanisms needed to implement higher speed rail.

### **REGIONAL COORDINATION**

The MPO provides a forum for cooperative transportation decision making with the Cities of Coburg, Eugene, and Springfield, Lane County, Lane Transit District, and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). The following highlights some of the key coordination activities over the last year in which the MPO has participated:

#### ***City of Eugene***

- Started work on the update of Eugene's Transportation System Plan.
- Multiway Boulevard planning associated with the Walnut Station Mixed Use Center plan.
- Transportation planning associated with the Razor Park Mixed Use Center Concept Plan.
- Coordinated with regional partners and ODOT on transportation planning for Beltline Highway Facility Plan.



#### ***City of Springfield***

- Started work on the update of Springfield's Transportation System Plan.
- Work on Franklin Boulevard Planning and Design.
- Participating in OR 126 (Main Street) Pedestrian Safety Study.



#### ***City of Coburg***

- Started work on the update of Coburg's Transportation System Plan.
- Completed the Diamond Locust Street Urban Standards project, the first City street improvement project in over five years.

#### ***point2point Solutions***

- Initiated work on the Regional Transportation Options Plan to broaden and focus the definition and application of the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) elements of local and regional transportation plans. The Plan will create new Transportation Demand Management (TDM) policies and strategies which will be integrated into local and regional transportation plans.
- point2point Solutions continues to offer a range of TDM programs.



### ***Lane Transit District***

- Lane Transit District completed the West Eugene EmX Extension Alternatives Analysis Report, in preparation for the upcoming analysis and selection of a locally preferred alternative.
- Began work on LTD's Long Range Transit Plan that will guide transit investments over



the next twenty to thirty years.

### ***Lane County***

- Worked with partner agencies to update the Regional Transportation System Plan.
- Provided support and worked with ODOT and other partner agencies on a number of regional transportation programs.

### ***Oregon Department of Transportation***

- The Beltline Highway: River Road to Coburg Road Facility Plan is currently underway and scheduled for completion in late 2010, early 2011. This planning effort has identified long-term facility needs for safety and operations over a 20 year planning horizon.

### **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

- Conducted recruitment and appointed four new members to the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC).
- CAC members and staff, along with other MPO partners, staffed a Eugene Celebration booth sponsored by point2point Solutions.

### **OTHER MPO ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Oregon Department of Transportation Office of Civil Rights Title VI Program (OCR) performed an audit of the MPO's Title VI Plan found that the MPO is meeting basic requirements and, in many areas, is exceeding program requirements.

Additional MPO activities and accomplishments for 2010 include the following.

### ***KEY PRODUCTS***

- The ***Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)*** is required by the federal government for all metropolitan areas with populations over 50,000. It is a 20-year planning document identifying both long- and short-range policies, strategies, and actions that will inform federal and state requests for funding. It includes a list

of all regionally significant projects and is updated every four years. The current Eugene-Springfield RTP was adopted by the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) in November 2007 and must be updated by November 2011. Work is ongoing on the RTP update, include a review of the goals and objectives and RTP Project list, which includes Rea list of transportation projects that detail the anticipated transportation investments that will be required over the 20+ year horizon of the Plan to serve the transportation need of the existing community plus anticipated growth.

- The ***Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)*** describes transportation projects which are scheduled to occur within the Central Lane MPO area over a four-year time period. The MTIP primarily lists projects for which application of certain federal funds will be made or projects requiring USDOT approval to proceed. All MTIP projects are determined by the needs identified in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). In 2010, a new MTIP was adopted covering investments occurring in Federal Fiscal Years 2010 through 2013. In addition, approximately 50 amendments to the MTIP were approved to adjust timing and funding of projects.
- MPC adopted an update to the MPO's 2010-2011 ***Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)***. The UPWP details the work elements to be accomplished in a given fiscal year. These activities allow the MPO to maintain compliance with federal regulations related to the core functions.

### ***INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION***

Over the past year, MPO staff have continued to provide technical assistance, project coordination, and input to partner agencies relating to a number of regional projects, including the Transportation System Plans (TSPs) under development in the various partner agencies, Beltline Study, West Eugene EmX, and 126 West Expressway Management Plan. In addition, MPO staff participated in regional and statewide coordination committees, including the Oregon Metropolitan Planning Organization Consortium, Transportation Options Advisory Committee, Oregon Freight Advisory Committee, the Oregon Modeling Steering Committee, and on committees that have been established to assist ODOT and DLCDC in meeting the greenhouse gas reduction planning requirements established by recent legislation.

## ***PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT***

A critical component of regional transportation planning is the involvement of stakeholders in the decision-making process. Key public participation activities last year included:

- ❖ Conducting a CAC Recruitment to fill vacant seats on the CAC and include involvement of traditionally underrepresented groups.
- ❖ Providing recommendations to the MPC on STP-U funding allocations, the MTIP, and the RTP Project List.
- ❖ Conducting 12 CAC meetings.
- ❖ Evaluating the West Eugene EmX Alternatives Analysis and providing recommendations on a locally preferred alternative.
- ❖ Evaluating the PPP implementation, including developing recommendations to MPC.

## ***ADVOCACY***

The MPC provides advocacy and support for transportation projects conducted by the MPO and our partner agencies. Over the past year, MPC approved letters of support for the following:

- Willamette River Bridge ITS project.
- I-5/Beltline Alternative Financing Plan.
- Regional Transportation Options Plan (RTOP) Grant Application.
- ConnectOregon III applications.
- Franklin Corridor Partnership: Complete Neighborhoods, Complete Streets Tiger II/Community Challenge Planning Grant application.
- Territorial Highway Tiger II Rural Planning Grant to fund safety, bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Territorial Highway.
- Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant to help fund a regional consortium of agencies, including the Cities of Springfield and Eugene, Lane Transit District, Lane County, and the Central Lane MPO, to fund sustainable planning efforts.
- Transportation Enhancement Grant Applications for the City of Coburg (Coburg Loop Path), City of Eugene Transportation (Blair and Van Buren Streetscape and Active Transportation Corridor; Jessen Shared Use Path and Lighting project; and the Westmoreland Path and Lighting project) as well as Willamalane's Phase 2 of the Middle Fork Willamette River Path.
- ODOT Flexible Fund Program Funding Applications.