

MINUTES

Metropolitan Policy Committee
Library Meeting Room—Springfield City Hall—225 Fifth Street
Springfield, Oregon

December 9, 2010
11:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Alan Zelenka, Chair; Hillary Wylie, Vice Chair; Christine Lundberg (City of Springfield), Kitty Piercy (City of Eugene); Brian Pech (City of Coburg), Mike Eyster (Lane Transit District), Sonny Chickering (Oregon Department of Transportation), members; Gino Grimaldi (City of Springfield), Mark Pangborn (Lane Transit District), Jon Ruiz (City of Eugene), Jeff Spartz (Lane County), *ex officio* members.

George Kloeppe, Byron Vanderpool, Andrea Riner, Ann Mortenson, Kathi Wiederhold, Petra Schuetz, Paula Taylor, Paul Thompson (Lane Council of Governments); Savannah Crawford (Oregon Department of Transportation), Rob Inerfeld (City of Eugene), Tom Boyatt, Greg Mott, David Reesor (City of Springfield), Shashi Bajracharya, Liane Richardson, (Lane County), John Evans, Mark Pangborn, Tom Schwetz, (Lane Transit District), Dave Jacobson, (Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizen Advisory Committee), Christian Watchie, Matt Cooper, Carleen Reilly, Mark Rabinowitz, guests.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Zelenka called the meeting of the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) to order. Those present introduced themselves.

APPROVE NOVEMBER 4, 2010, MINUTES

Deferred to a future meeting.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MPC MEMBERS

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Mr. Zelenka congratulated Christine Lundberg on her appointment as Mayor of the City of Springfield. Mayor Kitty Piercy presented Mayor Lundberg with a bouquet of flowers. Mr. Zelenka thanked Mr. Pech for his service on the committee. He thanked Jeff Spartz for his work on the committee and wished him well.

Mr. Zelenka expected Commissioner Handy and Commissioner Sorenson to participate in today's meeting via teleconference. Agenda items 2, 5.e and 5.g requiring a quorum would be addressed at that time.

Ms. Richardson left at 11:40 a.m.

Mr. Kloeppe announced this was Mr. Zelenka's last meeting as Chair.

Ms. Lundberg invited everyone to the parade in downtown Springfield on December 11.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Mark Rabinowitz said there were valid points on both sides of the Lane Transit District (LTD) bus rapid transit (BRT) argument. There was a need for better transit to reduce pollution and carbon emissions but there were design flaws in the proposal for west Eugene including cuts in routes. Land use patterns that allowed big box stores at the expense of local business and continued highway expansion were not sustainable. He supported no build. Deforestation contributed to greenhouse gases.

In response to Mr. Rabinowitz, Ms. Wylie said she served on the LTD Board of Directors when EmX and transportation planning occurred. The board had worked hard to acquire energy efficient buses, purchasing some before they were perfected. They were eventually phased out.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) ISSUES

Report from the MPO Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

Dave Jacobson, chair of the CAC, reviewed the written report. He noted that the CAC had recommended the appointment of a representative and alternate to the Lane County Area Commission on Transportation (Lane ACT), continued greenhouse gas planning and reviewed the process for the project lists in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Mr. Thompson reported he had been contacted by Phil Farrington, a member of the CAC, requesting information on projects in the Gateway area. Staff would provide information to the CAC in January 2011 on the MPC's action related to identified projects and give an opportunity to provide input on those projects.

STP-U Funding Recommendation for Regional Transportation Options Plan

Mr. Thompson reported the MPC approved an initial \$20,000 in Surface Transportation Program-Urban (STP-U) funds for the RTOP on March 11, 2010 following a 30 day public comment period and public hearing. Alternative funding sources were pursued at that time, but those efforts were unsuccessful. To continue work on the RTOP the Central Lane MPO requested \$74,000 for federal fiscal years 2011 and 2012, for a total of \$148,000. The MPO public participation plan called for a public comment period, a public hearing, notice to interested parties, web notice, an open house, and a newspaper display ad for proposed STP-U fund allocations. Staff requested that the MPC waive the requirement for an open house and newspaper display ad.

Mr. Zelenka opened the public hearing at 12 p.m.

Paul Thompson distributed and entered email correspondence received from Phillip Carroll and Bill Northrup into the public record.

Mark Rabinowitz distributed and entered into the record a September 27, 2010 *Register Guard* article entitled *Eugene's energy plan fails to address Peak Oil's realities*. He said NEPA stated new circumstances such as peak oil and climate change needed to be considered for transportation projects. Oregon's source of oil, Alaska, was almost exhausted. There was not a need to expand highways. Energy and financial decline needed to be factored in to the projects. Choices needed to be made on whether to widen I-5 and build BRT or provide services to the community. The public was angered by cuts in

education and social services. Oil would soon cost \$100 a barrel which the economy could not sustain. He asserted today's public hearing had not been adequately noticed.

Ms. Piercy responded that peak oil and climate change had been raised in every conversation she had participated in at the state and local level related to transportation. There would continue to be tension between the optimal and the possible solutions. She said people would not get out of their cars tomorrow and the community depended on public officials to provide safe transportation facilities. The Beltline had been deemed the most dangerous road in the area.

Mr. Zelenka agreed with Ms. Piercy, noting that the Delta Highway and Randy Pape Beltline Highway intersection was the most dangerous intersection in Lane County. Widening Beltline and fixing the intersection would cost millions of dollars. He stated the cost for new signs was approximately \$1,500.

Ms. Crawford stated it would take 10 to 15 years to complete the Delta Highway/Beltline improvements.

Mr. Thompson said the public notice for today's public hearing was on the MPO website and included on the agenda that had been posted on the LCOG website. Additionally, the notice for the public comment period and public hearing had been emailed to the interested parties list. If an open house was scheduled a display ad would also be completed.

Mr. Zelenka closed the public hearing at 12:14 p.m.

Observing no objections, Mr. Zelenka waived the requirement for an open house and display advertisement.

Lane Transit District West Eugene EmX Extension Locally Preferred Alternatives

Mr. Eyster introduced the topic. He stated Mr. Chickering and Mr. Handy served as the MPC's representatives on the Joint Locally Preferred Alternatives (LPA) committee. The committee planned to ask the MPC to take action at the February 2011 meeting regarding the selection of a LPA.

Mr. Evans offered a PowerPoint presentation entitled *Central Lane MPO Metropolitan Policy Committee December 9, 2010, West Eugene EmX Extension* and distributed the following handouts: *West Eugene EmX Extension Alternatives Analysis: Key Results IN PROGRESS—December 7, 2010; West Eugene EmX Extension—PAST/CURRENT/FUTURE DECISION DIAGRAM, December 9, 2010; Selecting the Locally Preferred Alternative*. The purpose of the proposed West Eugene EmX Extension (WEEE) project was to implement high capacity public transportation service east-west in the West Eleventh Avenue Corridor utilizing the adopted high capacity transit mode identified in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) that was less hindered by congestion and that provided efficient, effective, dependable, and visually appealing service throughout the life of the project. The project would support local, regional, and state plans and goals for land use and transportation, and support economic development and redevelopment opportunities in the corridor. He reviewed the project timeline and actions to date.

In response to Mr. Zelenka, Mr. Pangborn said LTD had held about 100 of meetings with individuals and neighborhood groups and conducted approximately 25 scoping sessions. He said a core group of about 20 people who opposed the project typically attended all of the meetings. He stated there were approximately 11,400,000 boardings in 2010.

Ms. Piercy commended LTD for the enormous outreach effort on the project and the willingness to listen to peoples' concerns and respond to reduce the impact. She had been concerned about lessening the

impact while maintaining a viable system. She had never heard anyone say the project was being undertaken to serve the box stores. The purpose was to serve people who needed to get to the businesses and their homes.

Mr. Schwetz explained the federally regulated process currently underway had two decision points, the LPA which was discussed today and the NEPA process, which would be addressed in the future. It was important to determine what was the best build alternative through the LPA process to carry into the NEPA process.

Ms. Piercy said the MPC had been involved in the WEEE project for a long time and it was important for the MPC to reaffirm its commitment to EmX.

Ms. Lundberg said she had been involved with Gateway EmX process. The project had experienced ups and downs throughout, and the final product was a gorgeous route with art work along the route and inviting stations.

Ms. Eyster emphasized the importance of understanding EmX was more than a route, it was a regional transportation system.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Project List Review

Mr. Zelenka directed MPC members to the RTP Project List and facilitated a brief review.

Mr. Thompson distributed a handout entitled *Central Lane MPO RTP—Project for Additional Information* prepared by Mr. Handy.

Ms. Piercy expressed concern related to RTP Project #26, Bethel Drive, upgrade to 2-lane urban facility, and the potential impact on the neighborhood.

Mr. Inerfeld said the upgrade would maintain the street as a neighborhood street.

MPO Representation on Lane Area Commission on Transportation (Lane ACT)

Mr. Zelenka noted there were no concerns regarding the proposal. No action was taken due to lack of a quorum.

Annual Report to LCOG Board

Mr. Zelenka said he would present the report to the LCOG Board tonight. He commended everyone for their hard work during the past year.

Adjustment to FFY10-13 Air Quality Conformity Determination

Mr. Zelenka opined this was a housekeeping action to correct Resolution 2010-07 to include the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan (MTIP) and the RTP. No action was taken due to lack of a quorum.

MPO Planning Calendars

Mr. Zelenka directed MPC members to the calendars in the agenda packet. He noted officers would be elected at the January 2011 MPC meeting.

Ms. Riner said the MPC would hold a public hearing for the West Eugene EmX alternatives in January 2011.

Follow-up and Next Steps

- **ODOT Update**

Mr. Chickering reported the kickoff planning meeting for the ACT went well. LCOG had developed a plan in coordination with ODOT staff. The first ACT meeting would be held in February 2011, and each of the partner organizations would receive a request to designate their representatives by the end of January 2011. Jane Lee had been assigned an interim position as the head of ODOT's human resources division. Erica McCartin had been assigned an interim position as the Region II manager.

- **SB 1059 Updates**

Mr. Zelenka reported he had been appointed to the Statewide Transportation Strategy Target Rulemaking Advisory Committee charged with assisting DLCD in setting GHG targets for the MPOs. Mr. Zelenka reported that the TRAC would meet in December and January.

- **Greenhouse Gas Planning—Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory**

Several MPC members had requested information about a systems-based inventory versus a sector-based inventory of greenhouse gases. Staff researched the issue and determined the systems based inventory approach seemed to be the standard approach that was being used by a number of Oregon MPOs, and recommended that Central Lane MPO continue to use the systems-based approach.

- **Rail**

Ms. Piercy reported she had met with ODOT staff. A committee had been established to work on rail realignment between Portland and Eugene. The first meeting would occur in January 2011. She added after the November national elections, interest in rail changed from high to all over the place. Some states had decided to give rail funding back to the federal government. Governor Kulongoski and the mayors along the I-5 corridor had expressed interest in applying for that funding. The FRA allocations had been abysmally slow and it was unlikely they would be disbursed by December 31, 2010.

Mr. Kloeppe stated Ms. Piercy, as chair of the Oregon MPO Consortium, had recently presided over the successful OMPOC Climate Summit, attended by representatives of all six MPOs. Approximately 140 people had attended the event.

- **MTIP Administrative Amendments**

Mr. Zelenka directed MPC members to the Summary of Administrative Amendments to FY 10-13 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan (MTIP) in the agenda packet. Noting no objections, he deemed Amendment 2010-51—Irving Road at NW Expressway and UP Railroad Crossing and Amendment 2010-52—North Bank Path Rehabilitation approved.

- **Next Steps/Agenda Build**

The next meeting was scheduled for January 13, 2011, at the Eugene Public Library—Bascom/Tykeson Room.

Mr. Zelenka reviewed proposed agenda items: public hearing on EmX; election of MPC chair; RTP project list.

Mr. Thompson announced the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill extending the current federal transportation legislation through September 30, 2011. He opined the U.S. Senate would probably take the same action. This continued the holding pattern with funding and regulations.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

(Recorded by Linda Henry)