



January 5, 2011

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Kathi Wiederhold

Subject: Item 5.a: Report from the Citizen Advisory Committee

**Action Recommended: None. Information only.**

### **Report**

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) held their regular meeting on December 16, 2010, with 13 voting members and the MPC liaison present. The main agenda item was to continue discussion of the West Eugene EmX Alternatives Analysis Report and to forward recommendations to the Metropolitan Policy Committee regarding the locally preferred alternative and mitigation. Other minor agenda items included election of officers, a funding request for the Regional Transportation Options Plan, and an update on the Regional Transportation Plan Project List Review.

An agenda item at the regular meeting on October 21, 2010, and a special meeting on December 8, 2010, provided the CAC with two other in-depth opportunities to receive information regarding the analysis of route alternatives for the West Eugene EmX Extension (WEEE) project. Both these items were to prepare the CAC for making recommendations on the West Eugene EmX at the December 16, 2010 CAC meeting. Thirteen voting members and the MPC liaison were present October meeting as well as at the special meeting.

### **West Eugene EmX**

Mark Pangborn, General Manager, and John Evans, Senior Project Manager, both from Lane Transit District, presented the item and answered questions. Andrea Riner facilitated. The purpose of the item was to finish providing the CAC with information regarding the analysis of route alternatives for the West Eugene EmX Extension (WEEE) project and ask the CAC to make recommendations to MPC regarding the locally preferred alternative and mitigation.

The presentation initially focused on the main topics and concerns identified by the CAC at their special meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>, then switched to a question/answer format to allow time for any remaining questions about the issues. Andrea reviewed the CAC's options for providing advisory comments to the Metropolitan Policy Committee regarding the selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative: recommend an alternative;

provide advisory comments regarding project components of interest to the CAC; or decline to provide advisory comments.

Four motions were proposed regarding the advisory comments. First, the CAC voted 10:2 to move that the CAC make a recommendation to the MPC on a specific preferred alternative and to include other points of view for the MPC to consider. A second motion, to recommend the No-Build option to MPC, died for lack of a second. The CAC voted 10:2 on a third motion, to recommend to MPC the West 11<sup>th</sup>-West 13<sup>th</sup> route alternative with mitigation. The CAC voted 10:2 on the fourth and final motion to recommend to MPC that the CAC wanted to recognize the value of a 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> route to the future build-out of EmX sooner rather than later.

Some of the comments that the CAC members made in support of the West 11<sup>th</sup>-West 13<sup>th</sup> route as the Locally Preferred Alternative included:

- Logistics and future system benefits outweigh opposition to the project
- Development potential at the Fairgrounds and near the Armory
- Future benefits to the system when a 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> EmX route is added
- Changes made to the route in response to community concerns
- LTD's efforts to mitigate the EmX effects on private property
- Improvements to the neighborhood as a result of reducing impacts

One of the members who voted against the West 11<sup>th</sup>/West 13<sup>th</sup> alternative favored the No-Build alternative because the EmX system cannot pay for nor support itself with the projected number of boardings insufficient to pay for the capital and ongoing costs. The other member opposing the motion expressed concerns about the effect on—including possible relocation--of those living in low income public housing on West 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, residents needing to walk two or three blocks to the EmX, and the effect on existing bus routes.

### **Election of Officers**

The CAC voted unanimously to elect Sarah Strand and Edward Winter to serve as Co-Chairs for a one-year term. The committee thanked Chair Dave Jacobson and Vice-Chair Sarah Strand for their service. Sarah and Edward will alternate chairing meetings and providing the monthly report to the MPC. Outgoing Chair Dave will introduce the new Co-Chairs at the January MPC meeting.

### **Regional Transportation Options Plan**

After a presentation by Paul Thompson, the CAC voted 11:1 to recommend that additional funds be allocated to the Regional Transportation Options Plan out of the Surface Transportation Planning-Urban money. Paul summarized the public comment that had been received to date. The CAC asked questions and commented about: clarifying the total dollar amount of the project, including previous funding; whether the project was part of an approved budget; confusion resulting from the changing name of Transportation Demand Management/Transportation Options; and public outreach, including the availability of materials in Spanish.

## **Regional Transportation Plan Project List Review**

Paul Thompson updated the CAC on the status of the Regional Transportation Plan project list review currently being conducted by MPC. Paul summarized questions raised so far by MPC members. He also related that he had been contacted by CAC member Philip Farrington with questions about some projects on the list and asked that other CAC members contact him if they had more questions and concerns. The CAC members had a number of questions and comments, including: the timing and remaining process for the review; the length of the funding period; the review process used in previous years; whether greenhouse gas emissions from the projects are considered in the review; and whether the project list is available as a map.

## **Attachments**

1: Minutes for the November 18, 2010, CAC Meeting

2: Minutes for the December 16, 2010, CAC Meeting

*Please note: Minutes for the December 8, 2010, CAC Special Meeting are not yet available.*