



March 3, 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 February 17, 2011, with 14 voting members and the MPC liaison present. The main agenda items were a check-in on the Annual Review for the Public Participation Plan, updates on key transportation planning projects, and primer on least cost planning.

### **Annual Review for the Public Participation Plan**

Kathi Wiederhold, Planner, Lane Council of Governments, checked in with the committee on the approach and timeline for the 2011 Annual Review of the MPO Public Participation Program. The committee received a brief review of the approach and findings from the three previous annual reviews. The committee decided on a more cursory review this year, to follow the in-depth review conducted in 2010. They also decided to keep the review broad, to include the MPO public participation program (in addition to the Public Participation Plan) and the Title VI Plan. The agreed-upon timeline is as follows: appointment of an ad hoc subcommittee in March; subcommittee work in April; and presentation of subcommittee recommendations to the full committee in May. The committee anticipates taking action in May and forwarding recommendations on the annual review to the Metropolitan Policy Committee for action in June or July 2011.

### **Updates on Key Transportation Projects**

This agenda item is part of a series to keep the Citizen Advisory Committee informed on the coordinated regional transportation projects and other key local transportation planning projects currently underway by the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) partners. The CAC has received, and will continue to receive, regular updates on the Regional Transportation Plan, the Regional Transportation Options Plan, the West Eugene EmX Extension, and the coordinated public

involvement being done for all of these projects over the next 12-18 months. This agenda item provided updates from staff working on six of the projects.

### **Coburg Transportation System Plan**

Presenter: Petra Schuetz, Planning Director, City of Coburg

### **Eugene Transportation System Plan**

Presenter: Kurt Yeiter, Transportation Senior Planner, City of Eugene

### **Springfield Transportation System Plan**

Presenter: David Reesor, Senior Transportation Planner, City of Springfield

### **Eugene Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan**

Presenter: David Roth, Associate Transportation Planner, City of Eugene

### **Long Range Transit Plan**

Presenter: Mary Archer, Transit Development Planner, Lane Transit District

### **West Eugene EmX Extension**

Presenter: Tom Schwetz, Director of Planning and Development, Lane Transit District

The CAC had a number of questions and suggestions for each of the presenters. The CAC expressed interest in the comments that were being received by the agencies as part of the on-line survey and mapping tool that is scheduled to run through mid-March.

### **Primer on Least Cost Planning**

Paul Thompson, Senior Planner, Lane Council of Governments, provided an overview of the Least Cost Planning efforts occurring at ODOT. Paul provided some background on least cost planning, indicating that it was an initiative approved by the State legislature under HB 2001 in order to provide tools to assist in quantifying, and then identifying, the most cost-effective investments. Least cost planning (LCP) is a form of cost-benefit analyses, which are traditionally designed to take into account the benefits and costs of plans or projects and monetize these features in order to allow for an evaluation of overall value. Where least cost planning differs is in the recognition that all costs and benefits cannot be fully monetized – LCP instead allows for a more qualitative review of those issues that cannot be monetized. Least cost planning provides a framework for planners to bring all of the issues to bear in reviewing the bottom line of a plan or project. It has been used in a number of different situations in other areas, mostly in evaluating specific construction projects, but also as a planning and project selection tool.

Paul overviewed the progress that ODOT and the STIP Stakeholder Committee (SSC) has been making in developing the LCP methodology. ODOT and SSC are currently in Phase 1 of a 3-phase project schedule. Phase 1 is scheduled to run through July, 2011 and will culminate in a set of final indicators that will be used in the LCP tool. It is anticipated that the LCP tool will be ready to implement in 2013.

It is anticipated that the MPO will be required to implement the LCP in its Regional Transportation Plan and Regional Transportation System Plan planning processes. Paul indicated that the Central Lane MPO is currently investigating whether it will prototype this tool as part of the RTSP update process, which is due in 2013.

Much of the discussion concerned the preliminary list of indicators that is being evaluated for use in the LCP tool.

### **Attachments**

1: Minutes for the January 20, 2011, CAC Meeting