



March 28, 2011

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Andrea G. Riner

Subject: MPC 5.c Draft FY2012/2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Actions Recommended: Review the FY2012/FY2013 UPWP and provide feedback to staff

UPWP Background

Each year, the partner agencies of the MPO work with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration to update and adopt a unified work program for transportation planning. The UPWP covers Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013 and contains the following:

- Planning tasks in seven core program areas to be conducted by the MPO and the MPO member agencies;
- Federally funded transportation studies as well as all relevant state and locally planning activities conducted without federal funds;
- Funding sources for each program area; and
- The agency or agencies responsible for each task or study.

Core UPWP Program Areas

The UPWP contains seven core program areas, as follows: Regional Transportation Plan and Long Range Planning, Programming and Implementation, Public Participation, Air Quality Planning, Transportation System Modeling and Data Maintenance, Transportation Options, and Intergovernmental Coordination. For each program area or work element, the UPWP describes the objective, action items, and ongoing core activities of the MPO and the partner agencies, including the Cities of Coburg, Eugene, and Springfield, Lane County, Lane Transit District (LTD), point2point Solutions, and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Tasks and products are detailed for either Year 1, Year 2 or both years of the UPWP.

Priorities for FY2012/2013 UPWP

The following outlines some of the key priorities in the FY2012 and 2013 UPWP:

2011-2035 Regional Transportation Plan

The MPO anticipates the adoption of a 2011-2035 RTP in November 2011. Initiation of the 2015-2039 RTP will begin soon thereafter in anticipation of a major plan update

incorporating the completed Transportation System Plans for Coburg, Eugene, and Springfield.

Regional Transportation Work Plan

The years 2011 and 2012 mark the third and fourth years of the five year work plan approved by the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development in Fall 2008. The MPO will continue with technical support for the related TSPs, development of the Regional TSP (due at the end of 2013), and coordination of public information and public involvement programs.

Greenhouse Gas Planning

The MPO is working with ODOT to secure adequate funding to conduct greenhouse gas emission reduction planning under the 2009 Oregon Jobs and Transportation Act (House Bill 2001) and the 2010 Oregon Sustainable Transportation Initiative (Senate Bill 1059). These efforts will include data collection, the development of modeling tools and other capabilities to support scenario planning, the creation of evaluation metrics, public outreach tools, and performance measures. Ongoing MPO participation in the Oregon Sustainable Transportation Initiative is also expected to continue.

Lane Livability Consortium

The Central Lane MPO is one of more than ten local agencies participating in the Lane Livability Consortium work to develop more sustainable planning and decision-making processes that link affordable housing, transportation choices, and economic development. The project is funded by HUD through their Sustainable Communities program.

Least Cost Planning

The Oregon Legislature defined least cost planning for Oregon and directed ODOT to work with stakeholders to develop least cost planning for transportation decision-making. Work on this project is ongoing at ODOT and it is anticipated that least cost planning tools will be available to implement in FY 2013 for use as a decision-making tool in the development of plans and projects.

Federal Transportation Authorization

The MPO will be monitoring the reauthorization of a new federal transportation act closely, and will liaison with the FHWA and FTA to better understand the implications of this reauthorization on the MPO planning and operations. Transportation funding at the federal level is currently provided through legislation passed in 2003 under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

High Speed Rail

The MPO will continue efforts to lay the groundwork for a high-speed intercity passenger rail network within Oregon and serving the Eugene-Springfield region.

On-going Operations

The MPO will continue its on-going work activities in the areas of programming, public participation, and intergovernmental coordination.

Developing the UPWP

Staff and the partner agencies have been developing the UPWP over the past few months. This work combined the results of ongoing MPO activities and discussions with partner agencies.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Oregon Department of Transportation staff provided their annual review of the draft UPWP on March 1st at a meeting attended by local transportation planning staff. From the comments received at this review, staff prepared the attached Draft UPWP, which is included as Attachment 1.

The MPC-approved Public Participation Plan recommends the following public involvement tools be utilized for the Unified Planning Work Program:

- A 30-day public comment period
- Notice to interested parties
- Web notice; and
- Citizen Advisory Committee review.

A 30-day public comment period for the Draft UPWP will begin on Friday April 8 and run until Sunday, May 8 at 5:00 pm. As with all MPC packet material, a large number of transportation stakeholders have been included in the public notification. The Draft UPWP will be posted on the MPO's website and will also be available as a link from the MPC meeting page on the LCOG website.

In addition to these required efforts, staff provided an overview of the draft UPWP to the CAC at their March meeting. Members of the CAC were particularly interested in the RTP and RTSP planning efforts that are currently underway and how those will integrate with greenhouse gas scenario planning. A more complete summary of their discussion is available as part of the Report from the MPO Citizen Advisory Committee contained in Agenda Item 5.a.

Funding

An adequately scoped and funded UPWP is critical to continued federal approval of all transportation funds, including surface transportation, transit, and other funds, and approval of planning and environmental processes involving all elements of the transportation system. All financial figures shown in the Funding section and Table 1 of the draft UPWP reflect the best available information at this time. A total funding amount of \$1,457,215 for the UPWP FY2012 is based on the assumption that funding levels will remain consistent with FY2011 levels. This funding is a combination of FTA funds, planning funds from FHWA, STP-U funds and local match, as well as funding for the HUD Sustainable Communities Grant. Additional transportation planning funding is possible as part of the state's Transportation Growth Management (TGM) grant process. A number of local agencies have submitted applications during the current grant cycle.

Requested Actions

Staff is requesting the MPC to review and discuss the FY2012/FY2013 UPWP and provide feedback to staff.

As stated above, the public comment period for the UPWP will remain open through May 8, 2011. Staff anticipate requesting MPC adoption of the Final 2012/2013 UPWP at the May 14th MPC Meeting.

Attachments

Attachment 1 Central Lane MPO Draft Unified Planning Work Program
FY 2012 and 2013