



June 1, 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 April 21, 2011, with 10 voting members and the MPC liaison present. The main agenda items concerned the Regional Transportation Plan Update, the Federal Certification Review, and greenhouse gas planning. The two items about the Regional Transportation Plan Update were development of new project lists and modernized goals and objectives.

Project List Development for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update

Paul Thompson, Senior Planner, Lane Council of Governments, explained the project review process for the update and asked if the committee had any questions or concerns about the projects proposed for addition to the Regional Transportation Plan. Paul reviewed the projects and noted that fewer projects were proposed for addition to the list for this update because: the local Transportation System Plans are still in progress; there is a lack of funding for projects; and the last two updates to the Regional Transportation Plan added a lot of projects.

The committee had several questions and comments: What is the location of the Glenwood Riverfront Collector? Did any of the nine proposed new bike/pedestrian projects come from the Eugene bike/pedestrian master plan? Why is the Coburg Loop path needed and what does the Baptist church near there think about it? How long will it be until the new projects are built? There were questions about the Blair Street project and why the Alder Street project was not designated for either the constrained or the illustrative list. Comments came up about other bicycle and pedestrian facilities: the lack of lighting on the bike path through the Whilamut Natural Area; the confusion due to Alder being two-way for bikes and one way for cars; the complexities concerning the proposed conversion of one-way to two-way for Springfield's Main Streets; making a better bike connection between UO and the river; and adding a signal at Franklin and Alder.

Modernized Goals and Objectives for the RTP Update

Andrea Riner, Transportation Program Manager, Lane Council of Governments, explained that the materials in the packet for this item were the same as presented to the Metropolitan Policy Committee on May 12, 2011. Those present who had attended the Metropolitan Policy Committee meeting told the group about the discussion there. Andrea talked about what staff was trying to achieve with the proposed changes—simplifying the language while also changing it to reflect emerging trends and issues identified earlier in the process. A number of members said that they liked the new shorter goals. The committee had questions and comments, several of which were similar to those brought up by the Metropolitan Policy Committee: concerns about removing “environmentally responsible” from Goal #2; suggestions for alternate language for Goal #2; liked the inclusion of “social equity” in Goal #2; debate about whether to expand the objectives to mention each transportation mode—Why call out transit in a new objective but not other modes, such as bike, walking, etc.?

Federal Certification Review

Andrea Riner, Transportation Program Manager, Lane Council of Governments, let the committee know about the certification review—what it is, the purpose, and when they can provide comment. Discussion clarified that the review is concerned with the regional transportation planning process and how well it is working. The Title VI Plan and the Congestion Management Process are two major MPO accomplishments since the last review in 2007 (the review occurs every four years.) The committee recalled that they had formed a freight subcommittee in response to the last certification review and asked what had happened to the recommendations developed by that subcommittee.

Update on Greenhouse Gas Planning

Andrea Riner, Transportation Program Manager, Lane Council of Governments, presented another in an ongoing series of updates to the committee on greenhouse gas planning. Conversations at the staff level are exploring how greenhouse gas planning might fit in with the work being done with the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant. The Central Lane MPO may be able to use part of the greenhouse gas modeling being done by the Oregon Department of Transportation and Portland Metro. Andrea asked the committee to think about the approach of turning around our thinking about greenhouse gas reductions to something we *want* to do on a personal level. For example, think about saving 20% on transportation costs rather than having to reduce greenhouse gases by 20%. Each of us could ask ourselves: “What changes would I be willing to make to save 20% on my transportation costs?” The officers agreed to talk about this at their meeting to think about how the committee might use this approach.

Attachments

1. Minutes for the April 21, 2011, CAC Meeting