



June 1, 2011

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Paul Thompson
Subject: Item 5.f: MPO Interaction with Lane Area Commission on
Transportation (LaneACT)

Action Recommended: Information and discussion; provide feedback to staff and direction to MPO representative to LaneACT.

Issue Statement

The Bylaws for the Lane Area Commission on Transportation state that the LaneACT mission includes the following:

Communicate and coordinate regional recommendations, priorities and activities, and collaborate with other organizations and interests, including as applicable the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (CLMPO), other ACTs, the OTC, ODOT advisory committees, the Governor's Regional Solutions Team, regional partnerships and investment boards, state legislators, Oregon's congressional delegation, and other agencies and stakeholders

The LaneACT work program includes ongoing coordination with the MPO, including the opportunity to discuss early on how that coordination will take place. This agenda item is on the proposed model for interaction between the Central Lane MPO and the LaneACT.

Background

Prior to the formation of the LaneACT, the MPO had a long-standing history and protocol for interacting with the Lane County Board of Commissioners (Commissioners) when that body was essentially fulfilling the obligations of an ACT for Lane County. The new LaneACT Bylaws and work program address the desire of the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to have ACTs coordinate with MPOs within their boundary.

This memo serves to lay out, as a starting point for discussion, the protocols which the MPO and the Commissioners used in the past to coordinate input prior to the formation of the LaneACT.

Discussion

MPOs in Oregon are almost always called upon to provide input on the same topics as ACTs. Thus, the Central Lane MPO and the LaneACT will often be called on to simultaneously provide input on a variety of topics to the OTC, to ODOT, or to another

body. Due to the overlapping geography (and membership) of the two bodies, it is essential that there be a common understanding of how the two bodies will communicate and coordinate when each body, separately, is developing a recommendation on the same topic.

In the past, when the County Commissioners provided input to ODOT in lieu of an ACT, the MPO and the Board established a simple set of protocols. When the timeline allowed, the MPO was scheduled to develop a recommendation on a given topic before the Board's final action on the same topic. The MPO would develop a recommendation, a set of priorities, or other input for the Central Lane MPO urbanized area (essentially the Eugene-Springfield-Coburg metropolitan area). The Commissioners would then consider that input in the development of a recommendation for the County as a whole.

In situations where the recommendation included a ranked set of priorities, the Commissioners would blend, or meld, the MPO's ranked priorities with other priorities in the county outside of the MPO area, without re-ordering the MPO priorities. This blended set of priorities would then be considered the County-wide (ACT) recommendation.

When the MPO develops a recommendation or set of priorities on a topic also under consideration by the ACT, the MPO forwards its recommendation to the ACT, and also submits it directly to the body that requested input. This protocol maintains the MPO's priorities as the LaneACT combines them with other priorities throughout the County, and ensures consistent input to the body receiving the recommendations. Attachment 1 diagrams these current protocols using the draft 2012-2015 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) as an example.

Public Involvement

This item does not require public involvement.

Recommendation

Develop guidance for MPO member on LaneACT to convey to LaneACT membership regarding recommended process and protocols for communication and coordination. MPO staff recommend continuing protocols as described above.

Attachments

1. Central Lane MPO/LaneACT Coordination Diagram