



June 30, 2010

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) went on a field trip in lieu of their regular meeting on May 20, 2010, with 11 voting members and the MPC liaison present. Also taking the tour were Coburg City Councilor Brian Pech, staff from all the MPO partners, and MPO staff. In all, about 25 people were on the tour. The CAC usually takes a field trip annually, the highlights of this one were stops at: Walnut Station, Glenwood, the Martin Luther King/Hayden Bridge Roundabout, Coburg, and the West Bank Bike Path/Underpass. There were two main focus areas for the field trip. One was to give CAC members a sense of the MPO area--a feel for the array of communities and modes. The second was to visit sites which may come to the CAC in some way for review or recommendation.

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the many that helped organize the trip and made presentations—there were a lot of pieces to bring together and it took a team to do it. Those who helped organize included: CAC members Diana Alldredge, Dave Jacobson, and Sarah Strand; and MPO partner staff Mark Bernard, Connie Bloom-Williams, David Reesor, and Kurt Yeiter. A special thanks to LTD for transporting us in style via EmX and special bus, and to Connie Bloom-Williams, manager of point2point solutions, for handling the stop logistics—a 41 passenger bus can't pull over just anywhere!

We all boarded the EmX at the Eugene Station for the first leg of the trip to the first stop at Walnut Station. Kurt Yeiter, City of Eugene, talked with the group about the plan for the area, including concerns and issues such as transition to the nearby established residential neighborhood, street design, and providing improvements for bike and pedestrian traffic. The rest of the trip was via a special bus, with our second stop in Glenwood to envision the multi-way boulevard planned for the area. The group shared the excitement conveyed by presenter Tom Boyatt, City of Springfield, when he talked about the concept for the area.

After a short stop at the Springfield Station (what is that tall thing that looks like a funnel?) to snap a group photo, we were back on the bus headed north to the Roundabout. Engineer Brian Barnett, City of Springfield, met us on site to talk about the many benefits of a roundabout, and also the problems and solutions. Our route from there was along Pioneer Parkway, to see firsthand the ongoing construction for the next EmX line and learn the details from Andy Vobora, LTD. Philip Farrington, CAC member and Director of Land Use & Planning for PeaceHealth, narrated as we looped through RiverBend Drive by the new hospital. There were lots of questions about how the new EmX would serve the hospital.

The fourth stop was in Coburg, where we were met by Coburg Planning Director Petra Schuetz. Petra briefed us on two projects. The first project was the Coburg Loop which is a multiuse path that will connect the school, downtown, parks, and employment centers. The second project was the first phase of the Coburg/I-5 interchange which will provide multimodal improvements to the adjacent local intersection. This project includes better safety/turn movements for the freight traffic, a segment of the Coburg Loop path, and context sensitive design including bioswales and “green street” drainage. This project will provide a vast improvement to the gateway of Coburg.

At the fifth and final stop, we had to satisfy ourselves with the view from the bus as there was no safe place for a bus and 25 people along the side of the road. Kurt Yeiter, City of Eugene, talked about the connection for the West Bank Bike Path. Savannah Crawford, Oregon Department of Transportation, talked about the Beltline alternatives.

The group was enthusiastic, full of questions, and appreciative of the work that went into the tour.