



October 5, 2011

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Paul Thompson
Subject: Item 5.b: Draft 2035 Regional Transportation Plan

Action Recommended: Provide Feedback to Staff.

Background

The Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was last adopted in November, 2007. The RTP provides the policy and planning framework for long-term regional transportation planning and contains the financially-constrained long-term transportation priorities over a twenty-plus-year planning horizon. Under Federal law, the RTP must be updated at least every four years, and must contain at least a 20-year planning horizon.

The current update of the RTP extends the planning horizon to 2035, updating the Roadway, Transit and Bicycle/Pedestrian project lists, financial forecasts and other elements.

The MPC has reviewed elements of this plan over the last year, with a full Draft of the Plan provided at the September, 2011 meeting.

Since the MPC reviewed the Draft RTP at the September, 2011 meeting, the Environmental Coordination maps contained in Appendix F have been fully updated, and the web posting of the Draft RTP has been updated to reflect the revised maps.

Public Involvement

The Central Lane MPO Public Participation Plan calls for a public comment period, a public hearing, CAC review, notice to interested parties, web notice, an open house, interior bus posters, and a newspaper display ad for RTP Updates.

In addition, the CAC recommended the following additional public outreach strategies:

- A Speaker's Bureau series;
- Use of the MPO website for easy public input; and
- Posting of notices at community organizations.

The public hearing for the RTP Update occurred at the September 8th meeting. There was no one who wished to provide public testimony at the meeting.

The public comment period for the RTP Update began on September 2nd and is scheduled to end on November 7th. As of this date, four additional public comments have been received since the September MPC meeting and are included as Attachment 1 for your review. The following is a brief summary of the comments received:

- Sarah Strand. Requests that MPC consider a connector from Green Acres over to Santa Clara with a new bridge.

Staff Response: Lane County's Project #512 on the Illustrative Roadway list shows potential construction of a new bridge with up to 4 lanes over the Willamette River from Beaver Street to Delta Highway.

- Richard Beers. Comments that bike paths should start contributing to infrastructure costs.
- Karl Poehleman. Requests that a crosswalk be put in at Highway 99, where the bike path terminates at Jerry's Home Improvement. Also requests that a bike lane be installed on Beaver St./ Hunsaker Ln., and/or alternatively down Division Street.

Staff Response: Lane County's Project #527 on the Bicycle Constrained list shows installation of a striped lane on Hunsaker Lane/Beaver Street from River Road to Division Avenue.

- James 1. Comments that policies and regulations should address the need for maintenance of facilities such as sidewalks.

Staff Response: The RTP contains objectives and policies that address the need for maintenance of the existing system. In addition, as part of its role in distributing federal funding that the region receives, the MPC has established priorities for funding, one of which is maintenance and preservation of the existing system.

Two Open Houses have been scheduled: October 6th at the Springfield Public Library and October 13th at the Eugene Public Library. A speakers' bureau has visited community groups. Noticing and website design as recommended by the CAC and required by the Public Participation Plan has been completed.

The CAC also reviewed the Draft RTP at their September meeting. The CAC approved a recommendation to the MPC that the following language be added to the second paragraph of TSI Bicycle Policy #1, Policy Definition/Intent, Chapter 2, Page 30 of the draft Central Lane MPO Regional Transportation Plan: "It is preferable that bicycles and pedestrians be physically separated from the flow of traffic." The CAC will continue its review of the draft RTP at its October meeting.

Action Requested

- Provide Feedback to Staff

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Public Comments received on RTP Update

- a. Correspondence from James 1 (e-mail) dated September 11, 2011
- b. Correspondence from Karl Poehleman dated September 11, 2011
- c. Correspondence from Richard Beers dated September 26, 2011
- d. Correspondence from Sarah Strand dated September 23, 2011, together with staff response