



December 2, 2009

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Andrea Riner
Subject: 5.f: MPO Involvement in Lane County ACT Development Process

Action Recommended: Determine desired level of involvement and representation on the Lane County ACT Development Task Force

Purpose

Oregon Senate Bill 944 was passed during the recent 2009 Legislative Session. The bill requires the governing body of Lane County to develop a proposed charter for the creation of an Area Commission on Transportation by September 30, 2010. Coordination with the Central Lane MPO will be a primary function of the ACT. This agenda item is to provide the MPC an opportunity to discuss the MPO's desired level of involvement in the ACT Development Task Force, and if necessary to recommend an MPO representative for the Task Force.

Background

The purpose of an ACT is to improve communication and interaction between the OTC and stakeholders at the local level, to increase opportunities for local officials to advise OTC on policy issues, and to broaden the regional transportation perspective. Coordination with the MPO, along with OTC, other ACT's, ODOT, local governments, transit and port districts and stakeholder groups is one of the primary obligations of an ACT. Communication and coordination of regional priorities with other organizations is aimed at improving decision-making and coordination of projects.

The proposed charter will describe the following characteristics of a Lane County ACT:

- Criteria that the ACT will use in prioritizing projects;
- Conflict resolution processes to ensure equitable outcomes, including prioritization of urban and rural projects; and
- A plan for communication and coordination among the adjacent area commissions and with the metropolitan planning organization.

MPO Representation

Lane County is now engaged in a three-phase process to form an ACT, including the identification of stakeholders; the creation of a task force to draft a charter for the ACT; and the ACT charter approval. At their December 15-16 meeting the Board of County Commissioners will discuss recommendations for the membership, charge and general

schedule of the Task Force. In anticipation of this discussion, the MPC may want to discuss the following:

- Should the MPO be represented on the ACT Task Force?
- Should the representative serve in a dual capacity as both a representative of a jurisdiction and the MPO?
- Should an independent MPO representative to the Task Force be requested to serve in a regional capacity?

Options

1. No MPO representation on the Task Force.
2. MPO representation through involvement of partner jurisdictions, including Eugene, Springfield, Coburg, Lane County, LTD, and ODOT).
3. Independent MPO representation by MPC member or MPO staff.

Recommendation

Support the appointment of an independent MPO representative to the Lane County ACT Task Force.

Attachments

1. ACT-MPO Coordination Protocols from the Cascades West ACT