



November 30, 2011

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Kathi Wiederhold

Subject: Item 5.a: Report from the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

**Action Recommended: None. Information only.**

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) held their regular meeting on November 17, 2011, with 12 voting members and the MPC liaison present. The main agenda items were the nomination of officers, a report on the Regional Transportation Options Plan, an update on the Draft Regional Transportation Plan, and an update on the West Eugene EmX.

**Nomination of Officers**

The CAC tabled this item due to MPC's decision not to reappoint the five CAC members whose terms expire at the end of the calendar year. They will wait until more information is available from the next MPC meeting regarding CAC recruitment before deciding when to place the nomination of officers on a future agenda. Both co-chairs, Edward Winter and Sarah Strand, were planning to run again and both are in the group of five whose current terms are soon to expire.

The committee spent a good bit of time discussing MPC's action not to reappoint the five CAC members whose terms expire at the end of the calendar year — the two co-chairs plus Dick Beers, Gary Gillespie, and Alex Lockfeld. They also talked about MPC's concern regarding CAC members also serving on a policy board of an MPO partner. Please refer to the attached minutes from the November 17, 2011 CAC meeting for more on this discussion.

**Regional Transportation Options Plan**

Petra Schuetz, Associate Planner, Lane Council of Governments, presented a status report on the development of the Regional Transportation Options Plan. She gave an overview of the process and highlighted key products, indicating which are done and the timelines for the rest. The committee was particularly interested in the status of the policy element — the recommendations regarding the RTP policies will be set aside to be used in the next update of the RTP. Members asked whether the policy

recommendations could be used in the update of the local Transportation System Plans. A member asked the definition of an “opportunities analysis.”

### **Draft Regional Transportation Plan**

Paul Thompson, Senior Planner, Lane Council of Governments, updated the CAC on the status of the RTP. He reported that MPC had extended the public comment period and the scheduled adoption date in response to CAC concerns about the readiness of the draft RTP for adoption. The CAC asked a number of questions and comments. What had been done in response to their recommendations on the draft RTP? Has MPC received all public comments submitted to date? Where can the public review comments submitted to date? The website is difficult to navigate, please make it more user friendly before the next update. Does the model have an assumption to reflect increased transit usage when gas costs more than \$4/gallon? Does Envision Eugene incorporate these types of assumptions as well? Did you receive my comments? Is the draft RTP now complete?

The CAC moved by a vote of 10:2 to recommend to MPC approval of the draft RTP.

### **West Eugene EmX Update**

John Evans, Senior Project Manager, Lane Transit District, gave an overview of the process to date and the steps yet to come. The CAC had several questions and comments. Will the project still qualify for federal funding with the changes that have been made—is it still competitive? The MPC, CAC, and LTD Accessible Transportation Committee should take a bus tour of the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> route. How can LTD be allowed to impede traffic on a State highway by putting buses on it? The proposed EmX system does not pencil out financially. Can the public see the LTD presentation that shows the progression of how the project has evolved and improved? LTD should present the projects as rubberized light rail—people seem to like that.

### **Attachments**

1. Minutes for the November 17, 2011, CAC Meeting