



## ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LCOG BOARD OF DIRECTORS December 2011



### Introduction

In the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area, planning our highway, rail, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian transportation system is a coordinated effort between a number of local, regional, state, and federal agencies, including the Cities of Eugene, Springfield, and Coburg, Lane County, Lane Transit District, and Oregon Department of Transportation. The Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) works with these agencies to provide **continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive** transportation planning within the metropolitan area.



The primary activities of the MPO consist of developing, maintaining and implementing five core transportation planning products adopted and amended by the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC), including the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP); Air Quality Conformity Determinations; Public Participation Plan; and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Timely development and adoption of these products ensures that federal and state funds continue to flow to projects vital to the region's economic development and quality of life.

### MPO and the LCOG Board of Directors

In 2002, LCOG Board designated all of the region's MPO policy making responsibilities to the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC). For over a decade, the MPC had performed some of these tasks on behalf of the LCOG Board. As part of its resolution, the LCOG Board included a provision that the Metropolitan Policy Committee provide an annual report to the Board of Directors describing their performance of Metropolitan Planning Organization duties.

## Highlights of 2011

### ***Long Range Transportation Planning***

The MPO's primary planning document, the **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)**, is anticipated to be approved at the MPC's December 2011 meeting. The RTP is the metropolitan area's 20-year plan for all modes of transportation and is required to be updated every four years.

### ***Transit System Planning***

In April 2011 the MPC voted to approved the selection of the West 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Avenue alignment as the preferred alternative for the **West Eugene EmX Extension** project, incorporating mitigation measures to be identified through subsequent analysis, and with the following conditions: LTD would move forward on the environmental assessment; after completion of the environmental assessment, the proposal would go back to the full bodies of the Eugene City Council, the LTD Board of Directors, and if needed, the MPC.

### ***Federal Funding***

In July the MPC approved \$1.58 million in Supplemental FY11 **Surface Transportation Program—Urban Funding** for the following projects: Coburg Loop Path (\$400,000); Eugene North Bank bike path improvements (\$670,000); Lane County 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. pavement preservation (\$20,000); point2point Solutions Bike program study (\$90,000); Springfield Franklin Boulevard NEPA work (\$400,000).

### ***Federal Certification***

The MPO successfully completed the **Quadrennial Federal Certification** review, which included significant presentation and documentation to FHWA and FTA, a public input meeting, and a meeting with interested policy board members. The MPO received significant positive feedback regarding improvements within public involvement programs, intergovernmental coordination, completion of the Title VI plan and Congestion Management Process, and website and technology advances. The certification review did not cite any required corrective actions.

## Detailed Report

The MPC met 12 times in the 2011 calendar year. This report provides a calendar and text summaries of their accomplishments since January 2011 within the following work programs:

- Updating the 2011-2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP);
- Completing Key MPO Products;
- Programming transportation funds for project implementation;
- Providing advocacy and project support for regional transportation priorities; and
- Participating in the selection of a Preferred Alternative for the West Eugene EmX Extension.

## Metropolitan Policy Committee

<b>MPC Members</b>		
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Name, Title</b>	<b>Committee Responsibilities</b>
City of Coburg	John Fox, City Councilor	
City of Eugene	Kitty Piercy, Mayor Alan Zelenka, City Councilor	Representative to and Chair of OMPOC
City of Springfield	Christine Lundberg, Mayor Hillary Wylie, City Councilor	MPC Chair
Lane County	Jay Bozievich, Commissioner Sid Leiken, Commissioner	MPC Vice Chair
Lane Transit District	Greg Evans, LTD Board Member Mike Eyster, LTD Board Member	Representative to OMPOC (Alternate)
ODOT	Lisa Nell, Interim Area 5 Manager	
<b>MPC Ex officio Members</b>		
City of Coburg	Don Schuessler, City Administrator	
City of Eugene	Jon Ruiz, City Manager	
City of Springfield	Gino Grimaldi, City Manager	
Lane County	Liane Richardson, County Administrator	
Lane Transit District	Ron Kilcoyne, General Manager	MPC Liaison to Citizen Advisory Comm.
<b>Other Committee Assignments</b>		
LTD Joint Locally Preferred Alternative Committee (JLPAC)	Sid Leiken Sonny Chickering	
MPO Citizen Advisory Committee	Co-Chairs: Sarah Strand and Edward Winter	
LTD Joint Locally Preferred Alternative Committee (JLPAC)	Sid Leiken and Sonny Chickering	
MPC Representative to the Lane ACT	LCOG Executive Director or his designee	
MPO CAC representative to the Lane ACT	Dave Jacobson Eleanor Mulder (Alternate)	
Transportation Planning Committee (TPC)	Chair: David Reesor, City of Springfield Vice Chair: Savannah Crawford, ODOT	

## 2011-2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

January	Conducted Initial Project List Review
March	Reviewed RTP Project List Development
April	Reviewed RTP Congestion Management Process
May	Provided feedback on draft RTP Goals and Objectives Approved the Congestion Management Process
July	Continued review of draft RTP Goals and Objectives, reviewed project timeline, including public participation program featuring speakers bureau. Reviewed RTP financial constraint analysis.
August	Discussed Preliminary Draft 2035 Regional Transportation Plan Provided additional comments on RTP Goals and Objectives
September	Held Public Hearing for Draft RTP
	Discussed preliminary input from MPO CAC
November	Discussed public comments provided to date, extended comment period.
December	Approval of 2011-2035 RTP (Scheduled)

## Key MPO Products

January	Approved adjustment to FFY10-13 Air Quality Conformity Determination for both the 2031 RTP and the FFY2010-2013 MTIP Received an update on Regional Transportation Work Plan Status Received the MTIP Annual Report
April	Reviewed the Draft FY12/FY13 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
May	Approved the FY12/FY13 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
June	MPO Certification Review conducted, including public meeting and meeting with elected officials, as well as 3-day review of MPO operations. Received Annual Review of Title VI Plan
July	Conducted Public Hearing regarding Draft FY12-15 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
November	Conducted Public Hearing regarding Draft FY12-15 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)
December	MPO Certification Review Final Report

## Programming and Implementation

January	Approved STP-U funding for Regional Transportation Options Plan. Held Public Hearing regarding STP-U Funding Request for MPO Support of Local and Regional TSPs
February	Approved STP-U Funding Request for MPO Work in Support of Local and Regional TSPs
May	Discussed programming of \$1.5 million additional MPO Surface Transportation—Urban (STP-U) for FY 11
June	Approved amendment to FY10-13 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) for the Lane County Hyacinth Road sidewalk project Conducted Public Hearing regarding Supplemental FY11 Surface Transportation Program – Urban (STP-U) Funding
July	Approved \$1.58 million in Supplemental FY11 Surface Transportation Program—Urban Funding for the following projects: Coburg Loop Path (\$400,000); Eugene North Bank bike path improvements (\$670,000); Lane County 30 <sup>th</sup> Ave. pavement preservation (\$20,000); point2point Solutions Bike program study (\$90,000); Springfield Franklin Boulevard NEPA work (\$400,000).
	Conducted Public Hearing and approved amendment to FY10-13 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement (MTIP) to reprogram funds for the Willamalane Middle Fork Willamette River path project in the amount of \$320,000
<b>November</b>	MTIP Amendment 2011-40 – Eugene 4J Safe Routes to Schools

## Advocacy and Project Support

January	Approved Letter of Support for Safe Routes to School Funding request by the City of Eugene for funding to improve traffic safety near several Eugene area schools.
February	Discussed Oregon MPO Consortium (OMPOC) 2011 Legislative Priorities
March	Endorsed naming the I-5 bridge over the Willamette the Whilamut Passage Bridge.
May	Approved letter of endorsement requested by the City of Springfield for a Federal Transportation Community and System Preservation (TCSP) Grant application to fund a NEPA study and preliminary design work for the Franklin corridor project. The project includes a multi-way boulevard for all modes of transportation, including bicycle, pedestrian, and dedicated lanes for LTD's EmX.
June	Approved a letter of support for the Federal Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP) program to fund the Blair Boulevard Active Transportation Corridor project as requested by the City of Eugene
October	Approved nine letters of Support for ODOT Flexible Funds Program Funding Applications.
November	Approved letter of support regarding funding for Student Transit Pass Program

### ***Higher Speed Rail***

February	Ms. Piercy reported facilitators had been conducting stakeholder interviews leading up to formation of a committee to review the preferred alignment between Portland and Eugene.
March	Ms. Piercy reported that interviews for the committee on the Eugene to Portland rail alignment were still going on and that the Governor had chosen Lynn Peterson as his Sustainable Communities and Transportation Policy advisor.
April	Ms. Piercy reported the committee for the rail line was not yet up and running.
May	Ms. Piercy reported Governor Kitzhaber announced his commitment to rapid passenger rail. He supported the two committee idea developed by ODOT, which was chaired by Bill Wyatt from the Port of Portland to find ways to finance rail. Ms. Piercy is co-chairing a committee on the preferred alignment between Portland and Eugene with John Russell from Portland. Eugene was awarded \$1.5 million for NEPA and engineering work on the layover track at the depot.
June	Ms. Piercy reported she met with ODOT staff and staff from the Governor's office to review the work done with stakeholders around the state in establishing the rail committee and identifying key issues.
August	Ms. Piercy reported invitations would soon be sent asking people to participate on the committee.
September	Ms. Piercy reported that the committee would begin meeting in the near future. The NEPA process would most likely be addressed at the first meeting.
October	Ms. Wylie announced she had been appointed to the High Speed Rail Commission. Ms. Piercy said the first rail alignment committee was scheduled to meet October 21, 2011. The committee expected to meet for two years to develop a plan.

## LTD West Eugene EmX Extension

January	Received an update on progress in preparation for the MPC's consideration of the West Eugene EmX Extension (WEEE) Locally Preferred Alternative. The Joint Locally Preferred Alternative Committee was developing a recommendation that would go to the MPC, the LTD Board, and the Eugene City Council for review. The JLPAC would meet on January 31, 2011 to develop a preliminary LPA selection, which would then go out to the public for workshops and a joint public hearing. A recommendation would be forward to the three bodies in February.
February	Conducted a Joint Public Hearing with the Lane Transit District Board of Directors and the Eugene City Council at the Eugene Hilton on February 8, 2011. Discussed results of public hearing and other information relative to the selection of a Locally Preferred Alternatives (LPA)Mr. Thompson said the MPC, as one of three decision making bodies for the LTD EmX Locally Preferred Alternatives, was scheduled to make a decision on March 10, 2010.
March	Heard public comments regarding the WEEE project. Received recommendations from the CAC and the Transportation Planning Committee (TPC) supporting the selection of the West 13th/11th Avenue mitigated alternative as the locally preferred alternative. The Joint Locally Preferred Alternative Committee (JLPAC) had met for the last time on February 14. The Eugene City Council had acted on the preceding day to move forward with the 6th/7th Avenue alternative. Determined that a second public hearing prior to the April MPC meeting was needed. Conducted MPC Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 5 at the Lane County Fairgrounds
April	Heard public comments regarding the WEEE project. Approved the selection of the West 6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue EmX alignment as the preferred alternative incorporating mitigation measures to be identified through subsequent analysis, with the following conditions: LTD would move forward on the environmental assessment; after completion of the environmental assessment, the proposal would go back to the full bodies of the Eugene City Council, the LTD Board of Directors, and if needed, the MPC.

## Greenhouse Gas Planning

January	Received GHG Update from Councilor Zelenka and Andrea Riner. Mr. Zelenka reported that the target rule making process would go through June 2011. Ms. Riner reported that the finance report was in process and was scheduled to go to the transportation subcommittees in February. The public information program was being developed.
February	Received GHG Update from DLCD staff and LCDC Chair John VanLandingham. DLCD stated that the Target Rulemaking was being guided by one of four committees established as a result of House Bill (HB) 2001 and Senate Bill (SB) 1059, passed by the 2009 and 2010 Oregon Legislatures, which resulted in formation of the Oregon Sustainable Transportation Initiative (OSTI).
April	Received GHG Update from Andrea Riner. Ms. Riner offered a status report on the development of GHG Target Rules for each of Oregon's six MPOs as part of the statewide effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the Transportation Sector. The proposal sets a target of a 21 percent for reduction of GHG emissions between 2005 and 2035 for the Central Lane MPO area.
June	Received GHG Update from Andrea Riner. Ms. Riner reported that the 20 percent per capita GHG reduction target by 2035 had been adopted by LCDC.
September	Received GHG Update from Amanda Pietz, Interim Planning and Implementation Unit Manager from ODOT regarding the development of the Statewide Transportation Strategy.
October	Received GHG Update from Andrea Riner. Ms. Riner reported the draft scenario planning guidelines were out for review by the technical advisory committee. Meetings were underway whereby ODOT was developing the agreement to fund Lane County's work in this area.
November	GHG Planning Update. Overview of HB 2001 requirements provided by Byron Vanderpool, Alex Cuyler, IGR Manager for Lane County, and Brenda Wilson, IGR Manager for the City of Eugene.

### ***Lane Act Participation***

February	Lane Area Commission on Transportation (Lane ACT) Meetings begin
June	Initiated discussion of MPO Interaction with LaneACT
July	Continued discussion of MPO Interaction with LaneACT

### ***General Information Presentations***

July	point2point Solutions Annual Report
	Lane Transit District Student Transit Pass Program
August	point2point Solutions Followup Report
September	Application of TriMet's Business Assistance Program to LTD's EmX Corridor Development Ann Becklund, TriMet Director of Community Affairs