

MINUTES

Citizen Advisory Committee
of the
Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization
Eugene Public Library – Bascom-Tykeson Room
100 West 10th - Eugene, Oregon

April 21, 2011
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Edward Winter, Co-chair; Sarah Strand, Co-chair; Dave Jacobson, Wendy Butler-Boyesen, Eleanor Mulder, Bill Morganti, Diana Alldredge, Jennifer Smith, Phil Farrington, Richard Beers, Gary Gillespie, Paul Adkins, members; Sonny Chickering, MPC liaison; Paul Thompson, Kathi Wiederhold, Andrea Riner, George Kloeppel, Lane Council of Governments; David Reesor, City of Springfield; Wade Hicks, LCOG Minutes Recorder.

ABSENT: Phillip Carroll, Alexandre Lockfeld, Rosalia Marquez, members.

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Mr. Winter called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Mr. Winter reminded the Committee members to assist the support staff by responding promptly to the quorum check.

Mr. Winter asked the Committee members to refer to a revised draft of minutes of the previous CAC meeting that had recently been distributed.

Mr. Winter asked those present to introduce themselves.

Ms. Mulder arrived to the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Mr. Winter confirmed there were no additions or adjustments to the meeting agenda.

2. Comments From the Audience

Mr. Winter confirmed there were no members of the public present who wished to offer comments or testimony.

3. Approve March 17, 2011 Minutes

Mr. Winter noted that the minutes had recently been revised by staff to reflect the Committee's discussion of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) in greater detail.

Mr. Winter, noting no objections from Committee members, confirmed that approval of the March 17 minutes would be postponed to the next CAC meeting.

4. Six-Year Celebration/Getting to Know You Exercise

LCOG Executive Director George Kloeppele thanked the CAC members for their service to the community over the past six years. He commended the work of the LCOG staff in supporting the work of the CAC. He noted that the CAC had not only sustained the interest of the community and its leaders, but had also contributed an enormous amount of positive feedback and suggestions.

Mr. Winter led the CAC meeting in a brief exercise whereby each member related the first music they ever had bought and the first concert they had ever attended.

Ms. Wiederhold took a group photo of the MPO CAC members.

Mr. Thompson arrived to the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

5. Update on Greenhouse Gas Planning

Ms. Riner briefed the CAC members on the manner in which greenhouse gas planning efforts had evolved over the last several years in relation to various land use and transportation planning work in the community.

Ms. Riner provided an overview of the statewide planning efforts that had been initiated with respect to greenhouse gas reduction. She noted that recent State legislation, House Bill 2001 and Senate Bill 1059, require metropolitan planning organizations in Oregon to develop local strategies for greenhouse gas reductions through land use and transportation planning. She further noted that the State legislation only required MPO planning to address greenhouse gas emissions generated by light vehicles weighing less than 10,000 pounds.

Ms. Riner generally discussed how the statewide greenhouse gas emission targets had been established based on various technological, economic and environmental projections.

Ms. Riner, responding to a question from Mr. Beers, noted that the State defined greenhouse gases within the GHG Target Rule as "any gas that contributes to anthropogenic global warming including, but not limited to, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride."

Ms. Riner stated that the target for the Central Lane MPO's greenhouse gas emission reductions was 20% per capita from 2005 levels by 2035.

Ms. Riner described the next steps for the statewide greenhouse gas emission planning efforts.

Mr. Beers asked if staff planned to study any economic impacts that might result from efforts to meet the Central Lane MPO's greenhouse gas emission reduction target.

Ms. Riner noted that the Central Lane MPO was only required to engage in planning strategies regarding greenhouse gas emissions and that the MPO's were currently not required to adopt any specific policies or projects to meet the GHG targets.

Ms. Riner, responding to a request for clarification from Mr. Beers, stated that the Central Lane MPO's GHG planning would include transportation and land use strategies.

Ms. Riner, responding to a question from Mr. Beers, noted that the population projections to be used in the Central Lane MPO's greenhouse gas emission would be consistent with the information used by other State agencies.

Mr. Jacobson excused himself from the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Farrington understood from Ms. Riner's presentation that the State legislation that required the greenhouse gas planning efforts prescribed guidance but did not actually provide any funding to do the modeling and analysis needed. Ms. Riner responded and noted that ODOT had already provided significant funding to the Portland Metro MPO to develop greenhouse gas reduction strategies. She stated that similar funding is being discussed with ODOT, but has not yet been provided to the Central Lane MPO.

Ms. Riner noted that staff was also working with ODOT as part of the HUD Livability Grant to incorporate some components of greenhouse gas planning and to integrate this work with other planning, such as affordable housing and economic development

Responding to a question from Mr. Farrington, Ms. Riner responded that SUV's were considered light vehicles within the target rules, and that the targets made specific assumptions about technology and policy changes that might influence the number of SUVs produced in the future.

Mr. Thompson discussed how different vehicle technologies might be addressed by local agencies as the state-level greenhouse gas planning efforts progressed.

The CAC members discussed how different vehicle technologies and related transportation trends might affect future greenhouse gas reduction planning work.

Mr. Winter called for a break at 6:42 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

6. Public Outreach Strategy for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update

Mr. Thompson briefly described how the update process surrounding the RTP had progressed and noted that both draft project lists and the draft congestion management process had already been considered.

Mr. Thompson noted that Ms. Riner would present language at the May CAC meeting that would update the goals and objectives portion of the RTP update.

Mr. Thompson described elements of the RTP that would be revised as part of the current update process and further noted that staff was seeking the CAC's input as to how an appropriate public outreach process for the RTP update over the next six months might be implemented.

Mr. Thompson, responding to a question from Mr. Winter, stated that the adoption of the RTP update would precede the release of the Transportation System Plans of Eugene and Springfield. Mr. Thompson further noted how elements of the RTP update might affect the Eugene and Springfield TSPs.

Mr. Thompson noted that the Eugene and Springfield TSPs had not been updated since 2001.

Mr. Thompson, responding to a question from Ms. Mulder, described how the separation of the Eugene and Springfield urban growth boundaries might affect the RTP update and the allocations of growth that were incorporated into the update.

Ms. Mulder noted that the City of Springfield had at one time advocated for more room for housing but did not subsequently have the population growth necessary for more housing.

Mr. Reesor responded to Ms. Mulder's comment and described how the City of Springfield had evaluated its population projections with respect to its current and future needs for both residential and commercial lands. He maintained that a greater need for commercial and employment land rather than residential land had recently been indicated.

Mr. Thompson, responding to a question from Mr. Farrington, stated that the removal of the West Eugene Parkway project had been accomplished as part of the 2007 RTP. Mr. Thompson further described how staff planned to re-constrain various elements of the RTP in order to determine which projects were the most financially and logistically feasible.

Mr. Thompson briefly discussed the process by which the removal of the West Eugene Parkway project as part of the 2007 RTP had affected the amount of resources available for other illustrative and constrained projects.

Mr. Thompson maintained that, under assumption of historic trends as directed by the federal government, it was possible that there would be less federal funding available for transportation projects in the future.

Mr. Wiederhold asked the CAC members to discuss how the public outreach in the Public Participation Plan for the Central Lane MPO should be refined or expanded to get the word out about the RTP update. She described the public outreach used for the 2004 and 2007 RTPs.

Ms. Wiederhold commented on the public participation activities carried out by the CAC since the 2007 RTP update including annual reviews and community focus groups.

Ms. Wiederhold reviewed the CAC direction that the MPO try new techniques to be more inclusive of other groups that had not yet had the opportunity to make their voices heard regarding local transportation issues.

Ms. Wiederhold outlined the questions developed by staff to provide guidance for the CAC's outreach strategy discussions.

Ms. Wiederhold referred to the RTP update timeline shown on the calendar included in the agenda packet and described the components of the update that had been incorporated in the public outreach for the update. She noted that the CAC would be heavily involved in each component of the update.

Ms. Wiederhold commented that the same public outreach tools that were used for the 2004 and 2007 RTP updates also would be used for the 2011 RTP update in addition to other strategies recommended by the CAC.

Ms. Butler-Boyesen concurred that information about earlier public outreach strategies might be useful.

Mr. Thompson noted that Eugene and Springfield staff had advised against merging their early public involvement strategies for the TSP updates with those of the RTP out of concern that such efforts might be confusing with regard to local land use and transportation planning issues.

Mr. Thompson and Ms. Wiederhold outlined the public outreach strategies that would be carried out before the final draft was presented to the MPC in September.

Ms. Mulder, responding to a question from Ms. Wiederhold, suggested that a presentation about the RTP update be made to LTD's accessible transportation committee.

Mr. Thompson, responding to a question from Ms. Butler-Boyesen, noted that MPO staff might also present to local neighborhood associations.

Ms. Alldredge stated it was important for MPC staff and the CAC members to consider the different goals and focus areas of various neighborhood associations and social service agencies to determine the best manner in which those groups might be used as part of any CAC public outreach activities.

Mr. Thompson discussed the importance of having the CAC members relate to the public the wide variety of transportation projects that were part of the RTP.

Mr. Beers suggested it would be necessary for the MPC staff to condense the primary goals of the RTP as they engaged with the public regarding the various transportation projects included in the plan.

Ms. Alldredge suggested that the MPC staff might confer with the Eugene and Springfield Chambers of Commerce and also the local Rotary Club chapters as they progressed with the RTP public outreach activities. Mr. Thompson commented that as an example, LCOG Executive Director George Kloepfel was a Rotarian and might be able to assist in such efforts.

Mr. Gillespie noted his concern that many groups met infrequently during the summer and that such a factor might make it difficult to conduct public outreach activities.

Ms. Strand and Mr. Morganti suggested that the CAC might extend its public outreach efforts to local high schools and the University of Oregon in order to engage students in local transportation issues related to the RTP.

Ms. Wiederhold, responding to a suggestion from Ms. Strand, stated that the CAC's recent community focus group round-table sessions might provide additional contacts for public outreach activities.

Ms. Wiederhold stated that she would draft a timeline of the public outreach strategies for the next several months that were reflective of the CAC's discussions and suggestions. She further noted that an online questionnaire would be developed by MPC staff to get input on the update.

Mr. Thompson confirmed that MPC staff would begin contacting several of the groups and organizations that the CAC members had suggested.

7. Reports from CAC Representatives on Outside Committees

Mr. Winter confirmed that the reports would be postponed to a later CAC meeting.

8. Wrap-up

Ms. Smith commented she had attended a recent planning department open house provided by the City of Eugene regarding various transportation projects along the South Willamette area.

Mr. Winter asked the CAC members to submit suggestions for the destination for the next CAC field trip in June. He noted that the June field trip might be conducted in addition to the CAC's regular June meeting rather than in place of it.

Ms. Wiederhold suggested that the CAC members might visit the new bridge as part of their 2012 field trip.

Mr. Gillespie reported that he had attended a recent Eugene transportation community resource group meeting.

Mr. Winter adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

(Recorded by Wade Hicks)