



June 2, 2010

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Andrea Riner
Subject: Item 5.d: Regional Policy Discussion: Public Involvement

Action Recommended: Review and provide feedback to staff.

Issue Statement

The MPC engaged in a discussion about the existing RTP goals and objectives at their May meeting. Committee members discussed some potential weaknesses in the current policy set, the relationship of local and regional plans, and the role of public involvement. This agenda item provides a follow-up to the May meeting by describing the multiple public involvement programs anticipated over the next 12-18 months, and efforts underway to coordinate and integrate these programs.

Background

Goals and Objectives established through the development and adoption of TransPlan are provided as Attachment 1. This policy set was developed for both regional and local transportation planning through extensive engagement with the general public, policy-makers and agency staff. These are adopted regional and local goals, and are intended to serve as a starting point for the following current transportation planning projects:

- Coburg Transportation System Plan (TSP);
- Eugene Transportation System Plan (TSP);
- Springfield Transportation System Plan (TSP);
- Regional Transportation Options Plan (RTOP);
- Long Range Transit Plan;
- Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

A timeline for initiating and completing these plans and the Regional TSP is provided as Attachment 2: Regional Transportation Work and GHG Planning.

Multi-Jurisdictional Public Involvement

Each of the plans listed above has an accompanying public involvement program, all of which are illustrated in Attachment 3. A variety of public involvement tools will be employed, including interactive websites, stakeholder interviews, citizen advisory groups, public workshops, and web polls and surveys. When appropriate, both local

and regionally relevant topics will be discussed and the feedback collected and disseminated as necessary.

The interagency team charged with implementing the 5-year Regional Transportation Work Plan is currently working to develop strategies to integrate these efforts to meet several important objectives:

- Providing policy-makers and constituents with a ***clear understanding of the purpose and goals of each plan***, and the differences and the commonalities between the various local and regional planning projects;
- Facilitating ***efficient identification, notification, and engagement of a range of stakeholders*** and stakeholder groups;
- ***Maximizing the value of public participation*** by developing tools to share input amongst jurisdictions, and that allow information to be sorted according to:
 - Specific travel modes (rail, transit, bike/ped, auto);
 - Specific geographic areas (corridors, neighborhoods, communities);
 - Issues (greenhouse gas emissions, economic development, safety); and
 - Agencies (MPO, Cities, County, ODOT, LTD or point2point Solutions).
- Coordinating ***key messages and maintaining a common language*** in communications to the public and decision-makers.

RTP Public Involvement Approach

At the bottom of attachment 3 describes a three-part approach for public involvement proposed for the next RTP Update:

- 1) Capitalize on the array of public involvement activities planned for the next several months by:
 - *Incorporating questions about regional goals and objectives into web surveys and/or stakeholder interviews;*
 - *Addressing topics of regional interest into public workshops;*
 - *Ensuring involvement of MPO staff, MPC members, and MPO CAC members in each jurisdiction's public involvement program; and*
 - *Providing links between local and regional project websites, with shared calendars, mapping tools, and stakeholder input methods.*
- 2) Utilize the MPO Citizen Advisory Committee as an ongoing review and advisory group for regional topics and issues and providing ongoing updates to the MPC as needed; and
- 3) Engage a large task force of informed stakeholders in a series of virtual on-line forums at key junctures in the RTP process. Participants would be drawn from throughout the region, representing a variety of issues, interests, and transportation modes.

Additional Information

For further information about each jurisdiction’s transportation plans and public involvement programs, please contact:

Planning Project	Project Manager	Email Address
Coburg TSP	Petra Schuetz	pschuetz@lcog.org
Eugene TSP	Kurt Yeiter	Kurt.m.yeiter@ci.eugene.or.us
Springfield TSP	David Reesor	dreesor@ci.springfield.or.us
Regional TO Plan (RTOP)	Petra Schuetz	pschuetz@lcog.org
Long Range Transit Plan	Tom Schwetz	Tom.schwetz@ltd.org

A system of websites is being developed for all of these plans as part of the regional integrated public involvement and outreach program. Web addresses will be provided as soon as they are available.

CAC Involvement

This same overview of the coordinated public involvement efforts in the region will be presented to the MPO Citizens Advisory Committee at their July meeting.

Next Steps

MPC Chair Alan Zelenka identified participants for an MPC Subcommittee to review the language of the current RTP Goals and Objectives and to discuss possible additions or modifications. In addition, this subcommittee may wish to develop a recommendation to the MPC for an iterative regional/local process to refine and confirm a regional policy set. Subcommittee participants include Springfield City Manager Gino Grimaldi, Chair Zelenka, George Kloeppe and Andrea Riner, LCOG and MPO staff, and Dave Jacobson, MPO CAC Chair. Staff are working with Chair Zelenka to identify additional agency representation and to set up a workable meeting date, time and location. An update will be provided to the MPC at the June 10th meeting.

Recommendation

Review and provide feedback to staff.

Attachments

1. Regional Goals and Objectives
2. Regional Transportation Work Plan Timeline
3. Public Involvement Coordination