



November 2, 2011

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Paul Thompson
Subject: Item 5.b: Draft 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Action Recommended: Provide feedback to staff.

Background

The Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was last adopted in November, 2007. The RTP provides the policy and planning framework for long-term regional transportation planning and contains the financially-constrained long-term transportation priorities over a twenty-plus-year planning horizon. Under Federal law, the RTP must be updated at least every four years, and must contain at least a 20-year planning horizon.

The current update of the RTP extends the planning horizon to 2035, updating the Roadway, Transit and Bicycle/Pedestrian project lists, financial forecasts and other elements.

The MPC has reviewed elements of this plan over the last year, with a full Draft of the Plan provided at the September, 2011 meeting.

At the October, 2011 MPC meeting, staff noted that the full update of the Environmental Coordination maps contained in Appendix F had been completed, and the web posting of the Draft RTP had been updated to reflect the revised maps. Staff also discussed public involvement and comments to date.

Public Involvement

The public comment period for the RTP Update began on September 2nd and was originally scheduled to end on November 7th. Attachment 1 presents documentation of the RTP Public Involvement to date.

TSI Bicycle Policy #1 Policy Definition/Intent Language

During the CAC's review of the Draft RTP at their September meeting, the CAC approved a recommendation to the MPC that the following language be added to the second paragraph of TSI Bicycle Policy #1, Policy Definition/Intent, Chapter 2, Page 30

of the draft Central Lane MPO Regional Transportation Plan: "It is preferable that bicycles and pedestrians be physically separated from the flow of traffic."

At the October MPC meeting, after extensive discussion of the CAC recommendation, the MPC directed staff to draft alternative language for potential inclusion in the Policy Definition/Intent portion of TSI Bicycle Policy #1.

At the October CAC meeting, considerable discussion ensued about the purpose and intent of the language contained in the original CAC recommendation, and how that proposed language could be improved. Please see the draft October 2011 CAC minutes included with agenda item 5.a for further information. The CAC moved, by a vote of 11:1, to recommend the following language:

In order to encourage bicycling trips by those not currently using that mode and an overall increase in bike trips and safety, it is preferable, when practical, that bicycles and pedestrians be as physically separated as possible from the flow of motorized traffic.

At the October staff Transportation Planning Committee (TPC) meeting, the TPC considered the CAC recommendation. TPC unanimously supported the CAC recommendation, with minor clarifying modifications to the language (shown below), and recommends that the MPC add the following language to the second paragraph of the Policy Definition/Intent language in TSI Bicycle Policy #1:

In order to encourage walking and bicycling trips by those not currently using ~~those~~ at modes and an overall increase in ~~bike~~ trips and safety for those modes, it is preferable, when practical, that bicycles and pedestrians be as physically separated as possible from the flow of motorized traffic.

RTP Adoption

At the October CAC meeting, the CAC discussed the readiness of the RTP for adoption. The central concern of the CAC was the still-incomplete nature of the draft RTP, with the Performance Measure data and certain other trend data still not available for review. (Please see Agenda Item 5.a (Cover Memo and Attachment 2) in this packet for further information.) Ultimately, the CAC voted 6:3:3 to "Recommend that the MPC adopt the Regional Transportation Plan with the understanding that statistical data would be available and not significantly different" than the data contained in the RTP adopted in 2007.

Following the October CAC meeting, and prior to the October TPC meeting, MPO staff discussed the CAC's concerns, including an additional element not specifically mentioned during the CAC discussion – that the proposed TSI Bicycle Policy #1 Policy Definition/Intent Language discussed above has also not had sufficient time for public review.

At the October TPC meeting, MPO staff recommended extending the public comment period on the draft 2035 RTP until December 5, and scheduling adoption of the RTP for the December 8, 2011 MPC meeting. Following feedback and direction provided to staff by MPC at the upcoming November 10 MPC meeting, MPO staff would also renew public notice of the public comment period on the draft RTP, and call specific attention to those elements of the draft RTP that have been updated since September, 2011. TPC concurred with these recommendations.

Action Requested

- Provide feedback to staff

Attachments:

Attachment 1: RTP Public Involvement Documentation

Attachment 2: Updated Draft BRT Map