



METROPOLITAN POLICY COMMITTEE (MPC)
ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE LCOG BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 2023



Introduction

In the Eugene-Springfield-Coburg 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 the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). The Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – the Lane Council of Governments – works with these agencies to provide **continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive** regional transportation planning within the greater metropolitan area.



While the origins of MPOs can be traced back to the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962, currently, under federal law established in the 1973 Highway Act and the Urban Mass Transit Act, organizations in urbanized areas are designated as MPOs by their Governors to perform significant planning and programming of federally funded highway and transit projects. The policy leadership, committees, professional staff, and consultants, combined with the administrative capability to support MPO planning processes, constitute the core elements of an MPO's activities. Metropolitan Planning Organizations were created to ensure local elected officials are involved in the planning and implementation of federal transportation dollars in urbanized areas with populations greater than 50,000. There are over 400 MPOs around the country, seven other MPOs fully in the state of Oregon, and three MPOs which have a portion of their geography in Oregon, but are mainly based in Washington State. Many of these operate as part of a regional council or council of governments.

The primary activities of the Central Lane MPO consist of developing, maintaining and implementing core transportation planning and programming (funding) products adopted and amended by the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC), including the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), Air Quality Conformity Determinations (AQCDs), a Public Participation Plan (PPP), a Title VI Plan, a

Transportation Safety and Security Plan, an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Plan, a Congestion Management Process, and the MPO's and region's overall Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Timely development, adoption, maintenance, and implementation 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, and that regional transportation projects are developed, planned, and prioritized in a coordinated and efficient manner.

As a larger MPO (over 200,000 population), the Central Lane MPO is designated as a federal Transportation Management Area (TMA), a designation that brings with it more responsibilities, and more local control over the use of federal discretionary transportation funds.

MPO and the LCOG Board of Directors

In 2002, the LCOG Board delegated the MPO policy making responsibilities to the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC). For over a decade prior to that, 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 LCOG Board of Directors describing their performance of the Metropolitan Planning Organization duties.

MPC Highlights

Metropolitan Policy Committee

| 2023 MPC Members | | |
|---|---|---|
| Agency | Name, Title | Committee Responsibilities |
| City of Coburg | Nancy Bell, Mayor (partial year) | |
| City of Eugene | Lucy Vinis, Mayor Randy Groves, City Councilor | |
| City of Springfield | Sean VanGordon, Mayor Steve Moe, City Councilor | 2023 MPC Chair; Representative to the Oregon MPO Consortium (OMPOC) |
| Lane County | David Loveall, Commissioner Pat Farr, Commissioner | 2023 MPC Vice Chair |
| Lane Transit District | Susan Cox, LTD Board Member Kelly Sutherland, LTD Board Member | Representative to OMPOC |
| ODOT | Vidal Francis, Area Manager | |
| MPC Ex officio Members | | |
| City of Coburg | Adam Hanks, City Administrator | |
| City of Eugene | Matt Rodrigues | |
| City of Springfield | Mary Bridget Smith | |
| Lane County | Steve Mokrohisky, County Administrator | |
| Lane Transit District | Jameson Auten, General Manager | |
| ODOT | Agency Director or Designee | |
| Other Committee Assignments | | |
| MPO/MPC Representative to the Lane ACT | LCOG Executive Director or designee | |
| Transportation Planning Committee (TPC is the Staff Advisory Committee to MPC) | 2023 Chair: Andrew Martin, LTD | |

Detailed Report

The Metropolitan Policy Committee meets monthly, however in calendar year 2023 MPC did not meet in January, August, or September. This report summarizes MPC's major month-to-month accomplishments as the MPO Policy Board from January through December 2023.

February 2, 2023

- Elected Springfield Councilor Moe as Chair and Lane County Commissioner Loveall as Vice Chair of MPC for 2023.
- Appointed Councilor Moe and LTD Board Member Susan Cox as MPC representatives to the Oregon MPO Consortium (OMPOC) for 2023.
- Heard a presentation, held a public hearing, discussed, and provided input on project proposals for MPO redistribution funding.
- Heard a presentation on, and reviewed, the MPO's annual listing of obligated projects for 2022.
- Heard a presentation on the Safe Lane Coalition.
- Heard a preview of transportation related legislation anticipated during the 2023 Oregon legislative session.

March 2, 2023

- Unanimously approved MPO redistribution funding.
- Heard a report and provided direction on OMPOC's legislative priorities for 2023.

April 6, 2023

- Heard a presentation, held a public hearing, discussed, and provided input on the draft 2024-2027 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and Air Quality Conformity Determination (AQCD).
- Heard a presentation, held a public hearing, discussed, and provided input on the MPO's draft FY24/FY25 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
- Heard an update on Oregon's 2023 legislative session.

May 4, 2023

- Unanimously approved the 2024-2027 MTIP and AQCD.
- Unanimously approved the FY24/FY25 UPWP.
- Heard a report on the implementation of the Climate Friendly Equitable Communities (CFEC) rulemaking.
- Heard a report on May is Bike Month.
- Heard a report on the MPO's Youth Council.
- Heard an update on Oregon's 2023 legislative session.

June 1, 2023

- Heard a presentation on the proposed amendments to the MPC Bylaws to incorporate Coburg into the governance structure for the CFEC scenario planning work.
- Heard an overview of the MPO's long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and a report on the upcoming update of the plan.
- Heard a report on the current update of the MPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP).

July 6, 2023

- Unanimously approved a letter of support for the MPO's Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) federal grant application.
- Unanimously approved a letter of support for the City of Eugene's Safe and Active Streets for All (SS4A) federal grant application.
- Heard an update on ODOT's budget challenges.

October 5, 2023

- Unanimously approved an amendment to the MPC Bylaws to include Coburg in the Climate Friendly Equitable Communities (CFEC) governance structure.
- Unanimously approved a letter to the U.S. Congress expressing concerns regarding the proposed Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) legislation.
- Unanimously approved a letter for support for the Eugene Connecting Communities Grant application for improvements to the River Road/Santa Clara Bicycle Bridge.
- Heard a presentation on LCOG's application for funding from the federal Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant program for the Resilient Lane project. The project will a robust, data-driven joint planning effort to understand and address the multi-modal transportation network's vulnerability to hazards.
- Heard a staff presentation on LCOG's Link Lane public transit service and the draft Link Lane Transit Development Plan.
- Heard a staff update on the regional Transportation Options (TO) Program, including the Get There Challenge, Walktober, the Coffee Shop Hop and the Be Safe/Be Seen outreach.

November 2, 2023

- Heard a report from Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and LCOG staff on the MPO's quadrennial Certification Review report.
- Heard a report and held a public hearing on proposed adjustments to the MPO boundary.

December 7, 2023

- Unanimously approved adjustments to the MPO boundary.
- Heard a staff report on the update of the MPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP).
- Heard a staff presentation on the MPO's Annual Obligation report on the use of federal funds.