

# MINUTES

Metropolitan Policy Committee  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

September 14, 2022  
9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Randy Groves, Chair; Lucy Vinis (City of Eugene); Steve Moe (City of Springfield); Heather Buch, Joe Berney (Lane County); Ray Smith (City of Coburg); Caitlin Vargas, Don Nordin (Lane Transit District), Vidal Francis (Oregon Department of Transportation), members.

Brenda Wilson, (Lane Council of Governments); Rob Inerfeld, Trisha Sharma (City of Eugene); Becky Taylor (Lane County).

## WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Groves convened the meeting of the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) and a quorum was established.

## METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) ISSUES

### Letter of Support for City of Eugene Grant Application

Ms. Buch pointed out that Lane County would be submitting its own grant application and it was important that the language in Eugene's application clarify that there was no overlap between jurisdictions and geography. She said with that assurance, Lane County could support Eugene's application.

Mr. Inerfeld said staff would coordinate to assure there was no overlap.

Mr. Berney emphasized that it was critical that staff coordinate the applications to assure there was no confusion and both could be considered for funding.

Ms. Vinis asked about the nature of the Lane County application.

Mr. Moe cited a sentence in the Eugene application that referred to River Road. Mr. Inerfeld indicated that the letter had been revised.

Ms. Taylor explained that the Lane County application would be for planning funding to develop a comprehensive update to the County's transportation safety action plan. She said the application instructions cautioned about overlap of applications within the same geography as it was likely the applications submitted would exceed available funding. The Lane County application was very specific about its rural focus outside the Eugene-Springfield metro area. She agreed that removal of a reference in Eugene's application submission would reduce any concerns about overlap.

Mr. Groves asked if the MPC should consider a funding letter for each of the applications. Mr. Thompson said that could raise the same concern if the MPC was perceived as supporting two applications. Ms. Taylor added that Lane County had received a letter of support from the LaneACT (Area Commission on Transportation) and one from the MPC was not required, although she appreciated the consideration.

Mr. Thompson noted that the revised letter of support was in the MPC agenda packet online and the references to Lane County and River Road statistics had been removed.

Ms. Sharma provided an overview of the Safe Streets and Roads for All initiative that would make \$5 billion in federal funds available over the next five years. She said eligible entities for grants were MPOs, political subdivisions of the state, and multi-jurisdictional entities including tribal governments; state agencies were not available. Eugene was applying for an implementation grant because it already had a Vision Zero action plan. She said the grant proposed the following safety enhancements:

- on-street protected bike lanes for River Road
- enhanced crossings
- infilling street lighting where there were gaps and upgrading existing lights to LED

Ms. Sharma said the Oregon Department of Transportation expected grant amounts to be between \$5 million and \$30 million, with a local match requirement of 20 percent. Eugene would be requesting about \$6.5 million for the enhancements and providing a \$1.6 million match.

Mr. Inerfeld explained that the City had received feedback from residents that the "stutter flash" devices on River Road crossings resulted in some drivers stopping but other continuing to move forward. The enhancements would replace those devices with full pedestrian signals with a red light. Several new crossings would also be added along River Road. The enhancements would be made from the beginning of River Road at Northwest Expressway to Court Drive. He said the project was separate from the MovingAhead project, but was compatible with future MovingAhead improvements and could be counted as match towards a future EmX project on River Road.

Mr. Groves asked if the pedestrian crossings would include safety islands in the middle of the roadway. Mr. Inerfeld said there would be islands in the middle.

Ms. Vinis, seconded by Mr. Moe, moved to support the City of Eugene's request for a letter of support for its grant application. The motion passed unanimously, 9:0.

Mr. Groves thanked committee members for being available for the meeting. He adjourned the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

(Recorded by Lynn Taylor)