



January 25, 2022

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Brenda Wilson
Subject: Item 7.d: Central Lane MPO Governance Structure

Action Recommended: None, information and discussion only

Issue Statement

At its December 2021 meeting MPC requested a report on the governance structure of the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (CLMPO).

Discussion

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) exist for all urbanized areas with a population of 50,000 or more. MPOs are designated by the Governor of each state. On April 8, 1974 Governor Tom McCall designated the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) as the MPO for the Eugene-Springfield urbanized area. That designation remains in effect to this day. LCOG is governed by a Board of Directors, with certain authority delegated to the LCOG Executive Director.

In 1987 the Cities of Eugene and Springfield and Lane County formed the current Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC). The MPC was created to meet two major objectives: 1) to achieve consolidation of a number of existing intergovernmental policy committees involving elected officials; and 2) to establish an intergovernmental policy-level committee in the metropolitan region which can provide the forum and focus for addressing intergovernmental issues, problems, and disputes. All three governing bodies adopted a joint resolution implementing the policy committee consolidation and forming MPC. Specifically, the MPC consolidated the:

- “Old” Metropolitan Policy Committee. The former MPC, which dealt with the Metropolitan Area General Plan and intergovernmental land use issues, was dissolved.
- Metropolitan Area Transportation Committee (MATC). This former committee operated under the LCOG Board, and dealt with limited MPO functions.
- Urban Services Policy Committee (USPC). Any remaining urban services transition process responsibilities transferred to the new MPC.
- Metropolitan Cable Television Commission (MCTC). The authority of the MCTC as the Cable Commission transferred to the new MPC.

From the outset of the new MPC staffing for both the MPC and the “senior level staff [advisory] committee” was provided through LCOG.

Shortly after MPC was formed the LCOG Board of Directors delegated certain MPO responsibilities to MPC, specifically:

- The responsibility for providing policy guidance related to the conduct of the transportation planning process, for adoption of the annual Transportation Improvement Program, and for advising the Board on ... other transportation issues.

The LCOG Board retained the responsibility for adoption of the MPO’s transportation plan (RTP), including any amendments, the adoption of the MPO’s annual work program (UPWP), and other duties.

In 2002 the LCOG Board of Directors expanded on the delegation of responsibilities to MPC, specifically stating those responsibilities as:

- Providing policy guidance related to the conduct of the transportation planning process
- Adoption of the Regional Transportation Aplan meeting federal requirements
- Adoption of the annual Unified Planning Work Program
- Adoption of the Transportation Improvement Program meeting federal requirements
- Conducting the Air Quality Conformity determination
- Adoption of a Congestion Management Plan
- Other responsibilities of a Metropolitan Planning Organization/Transportation Management Area as set forth by federal or State statute or rule

As part of the 2002 delegation, the LCOG Board required MPC to report to the Board at least annually on its performance of the MPO duties. The delegation may be reversed by either party.

Over the ensuing years MPC has carried out the majority of the MPO duties, but recent conversations have made it clear that the full structure of the MPO is not clearly understood. In addition to this memo, staff will present information at the February 2022 MPC meeting, engage in discussion with MPC members, and request direction with the aim of clarifying the MPO structure and responsibilities. As part of moving toward greater understanding, we will also ask the LCOG Board to clarify the delegation of MPO policy functions to the MPC.