



March 20, 2023

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Daniel Callister
Subject: MPC 6.a – Draft 2024-2027 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and Air Quality Conformity Determination (AQCD)

Action Recommended: Conduct public hearing; provide feedback

Issue Statement

The draft MTIP for federal fiscal years 2024 through 2027 along with its associated AQCD is presented to MPC for review. These documents are currently open for a 30-day public comment period.

Discussion

The Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (CLMPO) is required to develop a Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP aka TIP) that is updated at least every four years. The TIP shows how federal transportation funds will be spent in the MPO area over the next four years. It can be thought of as the implementation of the MPO's Regional Transportation Plan (2045 RTP) and includes a list of various types of funded projects, from surface transportation infrastructure projects to bus purchases to Safe Routes to School walking and biking programs, and includes funding for the MPO's planning work program.

Projects are identified and funded through a variety of processes. Included in this MTIP are projects prioritized and selected by the MPO through its project solicitations, projects identified by ODOT through their funding processes, projects identified by Lane Transit District (LTD) to utilize their federal transit and other funding, and projects identified locally and funded through federal or other grant opportunities outside of MPO solicitations.

The draft 2024-2027 MTIP presents a comprehensive picture of the transportation work planned and underway in the MPO over the next four years. It is fully consistent with the 2045 RTP, is fiscally constrained, makes progress toward achieving the MPO's adopted federal performance targets, and demonstrates conformity to air quality standards. Documentation of how the MPO satisfies the federal requirements for development and content of the TIP are described in the draft MTIP and the AQCD (attached).

Funding Decisions (none)

It is often the case that the adoption of an MTIP includes approval of funding decisions. The MTIP development process often accompanies an MPO's call for projects for use of the MPO's discretionary funds over the MTIP time period. However, the CLMPO proactively identified projects to utilize the MPO's discretionary funds through a separate process completed in the Summer of 2022 prior to the development of this MTIP update. As such, there are no funding decisions being made as part of the approval of this MTIP update. The full 2024-2027 project list is included in the draft MTIP along with two maps identifying those projects with specific site locations.

Approval Matrix

The draft 2024-2027 MTIP reflects an updated format from the current 2021-2024 MTIP. The MPO's processes, which are also documented in the MTIP, remain unchanged from the current MTIP with the exception of the MPO TIP Approval Matrix. Project information in the MTIP must be kept current to maintain fiscal constraint. Corrections, adjustments, and amendments to MTIP projects are often necessary. The MPO TIP Approval Matrix specifies which MPO body has the authority to approve requested TIP changes, depending on the nature of those changes. The updated matrix includes one substantive change.

Currently MPC must approve initial programming of any MPO discretionary funding. The updated matrix would allow TPC to approve initial programming of "off-cycle" funds to projects or scopes already in the TIP. Off-cycle refers to mostly unanticipated federal funds that come to the MPO either as federal redistribution or by other means. These reflect much smaller amounts than the annual allocations and will sometimes need to be programmed and obligated within a matter of weeks due to the nature of the funds. While it is anticipated that MPC would still be the default body to approve, by allowing TPC the authority to approve programming these types of funds as long as they are going to support existing MTIP projects (i.e. projects already approved by MPC for inclusion in the MTIP), it provides the MPO with options for programming when limited time is available and funds may otherwise be lost. Under all circumstances, the MPO would adhere to the federal requirements for public engagement (minimum public comment period of 14 days) and subject all funding requests to the scrutiny of the approved primary funding considerations from the 2045 RTP.

Air Quality Conformity Determination

The AQCD documents the conformity of the MTIP to the requirements of the Clean Air Act and Amendments (CAAA). The Eugene-Springfield area has been a limited maintenance area for coarse particulate (PM10) emissions for the last 10 years. The AQCD was created cooperatively by the MPO, LRAPA, ODOT, FHWA, FTA, Oregon DEQ, and US-EPA. Through interagency consultation and review, all projects in the draft TIP were found to be either exempt from the requirements for conformity or not projects of local air quality concern. The most recent data suggests that transportation is not a significant factor contributing to PM10 emissions in the Eugene-Springfield

area and that PM10 emissions here remain below the national ambient air quality standards (correcting for wildfire events).

LTD's Program of Projects

The public involvement process for the MTIP also satisfies the FTA Program of Projects (POP) review for the federally funded MTIP transit projects. LTD's POP is included in the draft 24-27 MTIP and identifies the projects to utilize LTD's federal FTA funding allocations through the TIP period.

Public Involvement

A 30-day public comment period is open March 17 through April 16. Outreach is undertaken during this time via the MPO's Facebook and Twitter, with special notices sent to the MPO's distribution lists. Following the public hearing at MPC on April 6, TPC will make a final recommendation to MPC at their April 20 public meeting. Approval of is anticipated at the April 6 MPC meeting.

Action Recommended: Conduct public hearing; provide feedback

Attachments:

- 1 – Draft 2024-2027 MTIP
- 2 – Draft AQCD for the 2024-2027 MTIP