

# MINUTES

Metropolitan Policy Committee  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

November 2, 2023  
11:30 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Steve Moe, Chair; Sean VanGordon (City of Springfield); Lucy Vinis, Randy Groves (City of Eugene); David Loveall, Vice Chair; Pat Farr (Lane County); Nancy Bell (City of Coburg); Susan Cox (Lane Transit District); Vidal Francis (Oregon Department of Transportation), members; Tom Schwetz for Jameson Auten (Lane Transit District), Anne Heath (City of Coburg), *ex officio* member.

Brenda Wilson, Paul Thompson, Dan Callister, Kelly Clarke, Delaney Thompson, Kate Wilson (Lane Council of Governments); Rob Inerfeld, Jenifer Willer, Katherine Rohan (City of Eugene); Sandy Belson (City of Springfield); Megan Winner (City of Coburg); Bill Johnston (Oregon Department of Transportation), Sasha Vartanian (Lane County); Tom Schwetz (Lane Transit District); Neil Moyer (Metro TV), Ned Conroy (Federal Transportation Administration); Jasmine Harris (Federal Highway Administration)

## **WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Loveall called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. A quorum was established.

## **APPROVE October 5, 2023, MPC MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Farr, seconded by Ms. Vinis, moved to approve the October 5, 2023, meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously, 8:0.

## **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MPC MEMBERS**

Ms. Vinis announced that the City of Eugene and Lane Transit District (LTD) had partnered on a grant application for Safe Streets and Roads for All funding and an award had been received. It was a citywide planning grant to improve roadway and crossing safety, particularly around bus stops.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

There was no one wishing to speak.

## **METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) ISSUES**

### **Central Lane MPO Quadrennial Certification Report**

Mr. Thompson stated that under federal regulations larger MPOs, known as Transportation Management Areas (TMA) were required to undergo a certification review every four years to ensure compliance with federal regulations and requirements, as well as fulfilling its MPO responsibilities. The review was conducted in June 2023 and a draft report was issued in August and published for public comment. He introduced Ned Conroy (Federal Transportation Administration) and Jasmine Harris (Federal Highway Administration) to present their findings. Copies of the certification letter and report were included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Conroy said the focus of the review was to determine how well the recommendations and corrective

actions from the previous review had been addressed. He indicated that all corrective actions from the previous report were addressed, with nine fully resolved and three partially resolved. He commended the MPO for addressing those issues and working closely with federal agencies during the process and for the clarity and format of its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which made it easy for the community and public officials to understand. He briefly reviewed the specific corrective actions and related findings. He particularly called out the improvements in public participation during the difficult period of the COVID-19 pandemic that made it easier to reach diverse populations.

Mr. Conroy noted that the Public Participation Plan (PPP)) needed to be updated to reflect the new strategies and additional work was required on the Congestion Management Plan (CMP). He said overall it was an excellent review.

Ms. Harris spoke to the two commendations that were part of the report. The first commendation related to the very public-friendly nature of the RTP; the second related to the Lane Youth Transportation Advisory Council and the associated outreach to youth and marginalized groups. She also complimented Mr. Thompson and MPO staff for their good work. Opportunities moving forward were closing out corrective actions and considering recommendations in the report as the MPO was able to given staffing and time constraints. She mentioned that the federal land management consultation process, while identified as a corrective action, was not fully implemented by most MPOs. She said the Central Lane MPO was now certified for four years, with very few corrective actions.

Mr. Moe arrived at 11:45 a.m.

Mr. Thompson expressed his appreciation for the entire review team and thanked staff from LCOG and MPO jurisdictions for their efforts during the certification review process. He said that work had already begun to address the two corrective actions in the report.

### **Draft MPO Boundary Adjustment**

Mr. Thompson explained that after each U.S. census MPOs were required to review and adjust their boundaries. He described the process involved in the review. A map in the agenda packet displayed the current and proposed MPO boundaries. He said only two small changes were being proposed: a small amount of land southwest of Goshen and a small amount of land southeast of Walterville that should be brought within the MPO's boundary. He requested that a public hearing be held and the proposed changes would be available for public comment for 30 days, with an action item scheduled for the MPC's December meeting.

Mr. Farr asked how the proposed changes were noticed to the public. Mr. Thompson said the information would be distributed to an interested parties list and the media.

Mr. Moe asked if the inclusion of land near Goshen would help that community with future planning efforts. Mr. Thompson replied that including that area meant transportation facilities within it would be eligible for the MPO's federal funding.

Mr. Loveall opened the public hearing. There being no one wishing to speak, the hearing was closed.

### **Follow-up and Next Steps**

- **ODOT Update**—Mr. Francis reported on ODOT's reduction of service for maintenance activities and provided a brochure that identified areas of service reductions within Region 2. He said the metropolitan area would not be as affected by the reduction as most of ODOT's main arteries went through it. He described ways in which the level of service might be reduced and emphasized services would be priority-based throughout the region.

Mr. Francis said the 2027-2030 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) outreach process had begun and would continue through November. The Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) would meet in November to make some final adjustments to decisions related to the 2027-2030 STIP. He said in the past the OTC had relied on input from advisory groups and the public to inform their decisions, but would not do so for the 2027-2030 STIP because there were so few discretionary funds. ODOT would provide advice on how to best allocate funds.

Mr. Francis announced that Savannah Crawford had been selected as the new Region 2 manager. He commended Rob Inerfeld, City of Eugene staff, and Sarah Mazze, Eugene School District 4J staff, for their coordination with ODOT staff to arrange a bicycle tour for OTC members during their recent meeting in Eugene. He received excellent feedback on the tour from OTC members.

- **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project Changes**—There were no questions.
- **Next Meeting/Agenda Build**—December 7 - Virtual meeting, January 4 - Canceled.

Mr. Loveall adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

(Recorded by Lynn Taylor)