

East Multnomah County Transportation Committee

City of Fairview • City of Gresham • City of Troutdale • City of Wood Village • Multnomah County • Port of Portland

Meeting Minutes 6/9/14

Members

Diane McKeel
Tim Clark
Lisa Barton Mullins
Doug Daoust
Jerry Hinton
Susie Lahsene

Representing

Multnomah County
City of Wood Village
City of Fairview
City of Troutdale
City of Gresham
Port of Portland

EMCTC Staff

Chris Strong
Sean Files
Joanna Valencia
Rachel Ferdaszewski
Mark Gunter
Phil Healy
Rich Watanabe
Vanessa Vissar
Grace Cho
Steve Kautz

Representing

City of Gresham
Multnomah County
Multnomah County
Multnomah County
City of Wood Village
Port of Portland
ODOT
TriMet
Metro
TriMet

Guests

Shirley Craddick	Metro
Rich Allen	City of Troutdale
Steve Entenman	HHPR
Bill Peterson	Wood Village
Craig Ward	City of Troutdale
April Bertelsen	City of Portland
Greg Olson	Chair of Gresham Subcommittee on Transportation and Multnomah County Bike/Ped Committee

Welcome and Chair's Comments

EMCTC Chair, Diane McKeel, called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM and started with introductions. A quorum was present. There were no additional Chair comments.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Review and Approval of May 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the May 5th, 2014 meeting were emailed to the group prior to the meeting and also available at the meeting. Councilor Clark moved to approve the minutes. Councilor Barton Mullins seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

TriMet Updates

Steve Kautz gave a presentation on TriMet initiatives including the 2015 TriMet budget, the Renew the Blue effort, and the Eastside Service Enhancement Planning project. TriMet has plans to restore frequent service on bus and MAX, add service, and add new busses and provide more maintenance on MAX system.

The Renew the Blue effort includes investment of 2.5 million dollars a year for 5 years to stations from Hollywood to Cleveland Ave. There are a wide range of improvements identified including station and system upgrades. Grace Cho asked if service increases have been primarily adding things back or adding new service. Steve answered that it's primarily been restoring weekday times, and hoping to restore weekend service this year. TriMet is also hoping to consider service enhancements (additions) soon. Shirley Craddick asked how the service enhancement plan will effect service restorations. Steve answered they are separate issues. Frequent bus and MAX are only a portion of the system. Councilor Craddick asked if TriMet planned on adding more fare inspectors. Steve answered TriMet may be adding more as part of the Orange line project, and that two or so years ago, TriMet ratcheted up the number of personnel/ fare inspectors. Greg Olson asked about safety enhancements; especially the gate crossing at 202nd. Steve said they would make a note of it and look into that crossing.

The goal of the Eastside Service Enhancement Plan is to make it easier and safer to use transit. This project is intended to be a broad look at enhancements and improvements. TriMet divided the service area into 5 sections, each with its own Service Enhancement Plan. The Westside was the first area to develop a Service Enhancement Plan. TriMet is getting started with the SW with a focus on the Orange line. The Final area (all in the City of Portland) is called North Central and planning will be starting in 2015.

For the Eastside Service Enhancement Plan, TriMet is currently working on understanding the community vision. The Goal is to have a shared vision at the end of the process. Steve reviewed an extensive public engagement process that will take place in 2014 and 2015. Vanessa Vissar added TriMet has partnered with Latino network and has met with other neighborhood agencies. She will also be meeting with the Vice Principal of Reynolds middle school and key area employers. They will be continuing to look for more outreach opportunities and will be reaching out to EMCTC for leads/ideas. Mayor Doug Daoust mentioned the importance of Mount Hood Community College as a regional destination. Councilor Jerry Hinton asked about the useful life of a bus. Susie Lahsene pointed out there is little service to the industrial corridor.

ODOT Funding Update

Rich Wantanabe passed out an Oregon Department of Transportation letter to the Area Commissions on Transportation (ACTs) dated May 28, 2014 about delaying the STIP. He said that ODOT is in the final stages of getting the 2015-18 STIP through and normally it would be almost time to start again to plan for the next STIP. The OTC wants to postpone/delay the STIP giving 2 years instead of 3 to prepare the next STIP. Councilor Craddick expressed her concern regarding the state of the funding and the pending expiration of MAP-21. Commissioner McKeel distributed MAP 21 Handouts. Councilor Craddick said the burden of funding is shifting to local governments. There was a discussion of local funding options. Joanna Valencia asked if this will affect MTIP. Grace Cho said Metro may follow suit in delaying.

Councilor Craddick mentioned Metro has joined Transportation for America along with several other jurisdictions. Commissioner McKeel requested a presentation on Transportation for America at a future EMCTC agenda.

Climate Smart Communities May 30th Joint Meeting Debrief

Councilor Clark said the meeting went well. Results were very similar to initial Straw Poll results. Joanna Valencia distributed a table that compared results between the Straw Polls conducted between Metro meetings and EMCTC. There was one change between the straw poll and final poll in that it was decided to split out capital and operations for transit. Rich Allen asked for a quick explanation of parking management. Councilor Clark explained it is a way to look at the whole concept of where we want to encourage versus discourage it. It's not just a revenue source but also a way to manage flow and parking. Councilor Craddick said she was really interested in the unbundling concept. Grace Cho said that Metro is testing what areas need parking management and also to build flexibility on what local needs and solutions might be.

JPACT Agenda

Grace Cho briefly covered the agenda. The joint recommendation for Climate Smart Communities is going to council in the middle of the month, which will then move forward to staff for modeling work in the summer. Grace informed the group that the region has conformed in terms of air quality so Metro can continue to receive federal dollars as part of the RTP update. Andy Cotugno will give an update on Transportation for America at the meeting as well.

A Southwest Corridor recommendation will also be presented to JPACT, which includes a large number of alignment alternatives and various modes. A good portion screened out and only a few will move forward, with a few still needing discussion. There are recommendations to look at some additional complementary projects. There will also be more clarity on the area for various alignments. The packet goes into more detail on the different alignments.

Findings and recommendations for the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) conducted for the Climate Smart Communities will be presented at the meeting. The findings include increased physical activity resulting from active transportation improvements. The same analysis was done earlier, and the Oregon Health Authority decided to do a full HIA to investigate health benefits further.

Councilor Craddick went over the last agenda item regarding the development of a 2015 State Transportation Package. She had indicated that this was just an announcement to say that Metro is beginning the process of shaping the regional recommendation for a package. Metro will be asking how we want to focus our transportation funds and prepare a unified answer that includes regional high capacity transit plans for the region.

Project Updates

Grace Cho gave some brief updates on the Powell Division Project. The next steering committee meeting is June 23rd from 4-6 with open house after in Gresham at East Hill Church. At the meeting they will start getting into the process of organizing all the different alignment ideas for the corridor. Public input will focus on “what does better transit mean to you?” There are “talk to project staff” open houses weekly at the Division-midway alliance with staff from metro and local jurisdictions available.

Other Business

Bill Peterson from Wood Village requested an EMCTC endorsement for their Transportation Growth Management (TGM) grant application. All the streets that serve the center are county roads. He handed out a Memo requesting support from EMCTC. Commissioner McKeel confirmed EMCTC would provide an endorsement letter and suggested that Wood Village also seek endorsement from Bobbie Lee at Regional Solutions.

Rich Wantanabe passed out ODOT 2014 construction maps and mentioned there will be a Sandy River bridge opening celebration 6/10.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45