

# ***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**

**Monday  
July 6, 2015**

### **Members**

Diane McKeel  
Tim Clark  
Ted Tosterud  
Jerry Hinton

### **Representing**

Multnomah County  
City of Wood Village  
City of Fairview  
City of Gresham

### **EMCTC Staff**

Mark Gunter  
Chris Strong  
Joanna Valencia  
Jessica Berry  
Sean Files  
Phil Healy  
Rich Watanabe  
Stephanie Millar  
Jamie Snook  
Vanessa Vissar

### **Representing**

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

### **Guests**

Shirley Craddick	Metro
Kim Ellis	Metro
Greg Olson	Gresham Transportation Committee, Multnomah County Bike/Ped Advisory Committee
Justin Birmingham	Reynolds School District
LeeAnne Ferguson	Bicycle Transportation Alliance
Craig Ward	City of Troutdale

### **Welcome and Introductions**

EMCTC Chair, Commissioner Diane McKeel, called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM and started with introductions. A quorum was present.

### **Chair's Comments**

None

### **Opportunity for Public Comment**

None

## **Review and Adoption of June 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes- All**

- Action Item
- Councilor Tim Clark moved Mayor Ted Tosterud seconded. Minutes approved.

## **For Every Kid Campaign-** LeeAnne Fergason, BTA and Justin Birmingham, Reynolds School Dist.

- Information/Discussion
- LeeAnne Fergason from BTA and Justin Birmingham from Reynolds School District gave a presentation on Safe Routes to School and the For Every Kid Campaign. Commissioner McKeel asked if all the schools have the needed infrastructure around them. Justin noted that, anecdotally, there are schools that don't have sidewalks leading into them and/or the traffic and volumes is an impediment to implementing a Safe Routes to School program. Justin also complimented the efforts of law enforcements but noted that there are constraints to their availability and that they can't be available 100% of the time. Councilor Jerry Hinton asked if there has been a paradigm shift toward reduced bus routes or a general shift in transportation priorities. Justin said that buses are full all the time and that families are very dependent upon transportation that the schools provide. Councilor Hinton suggested that some neighborhoods don't have a lot of children and may not need sidewalks. He would prefer not to put costly infrastructure in places where school children do not live. LeeAnne noted that sidewalks are good for aging communities as well. LeeAnne also noted that busing is usually available outside a 1 mile radius of schools (or for areas where it is hazardous to walk). Safe Routes to School programs usually focus on needs within the 1 mile radius. Mayor Ted Tosterud asked what percentage of students live within a 1 mile radius of the schools? He would also like to know if it is increasing or decreasing. Greg Olson suggested looking into how much money school districts spend on fuel for buses and comparing that to what it would cost to widen NE Halsey, so that we can compare the trade-offs. He also noted that in Portland the boulevards are filled with pedestrians and bicyclists; East County doesn't have that. He also noted that schools shouldn't be built where students can't walk or bike to get to them.

Phil Healy asked what the appropriate age is for students to walk and bike. LeaAnne said they have curriculum that focuses on 5<sup>th</sup> grade, but that they leave that decision up to the parents. Justin noted that elementary and middle school are walking and biking more regularly. LeeAnne presentation noted that schools are more successful when there is a staff person devoted to Safe Routes at the school. Leanne also noted that BTA would like to see regional funds be allocated directly to a Safe Routes to School programs. There was some discussion about this issue and whether or not SRTS should be a regional program. Councilor Craddick noted that within Metro region there are 40 school districts. Infrastructure and funding for programs are both needed. Commissioner McKeel noted that Multnomah County will have a Safe Routes to School Coordinator (AmeriCorps position) starting this fall. Kim Ellis noted that Metro will be extending the MTIP funding to September/October and that discussion about how to fund SRTS is still being developed.

## **2018 RTP Update - Councilor Shirley Craddick and Kim Ellis, Metro**

- Information/Discussion
- Councilor Craddick introduced Kim Ellis to discuss the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP is a tool that helps the region make decisions about how to ensure our transportation system works together as we grow. Kim is the project manager for this project. The RTP draws from various local city and county plans and other documents. Several pieces of the plan are new this update. Kim provided a presentation on the RTP work plan and asked the group what they would like to see included in it. Her questions to the committee included: how can update help support your community? What is most important for this update to address? How do you want to be involved in the process? Councilor Hinton noted that the presentation provided a lot

of information and that it may be difficult for the committee to provide feedback until they've thought about it a little more. He did note that citizens just want good safe roads. Councilor Tim Clark urged Metro to make sure they genuinely consider what the committee wants and that what they bring forward hasn't already been decided. Craig Ward commented that if vehicles are not moving efficiently in the future, our efforts will be viewed as failures and that funding should be structured to handle chokepoints.

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#### **JPACT Agenda – Councilor Shirley Craddick and Jamie Snook, Metro**

- Informational/Discussion
- Councilor Craddick introduced Jamie Snook who presented the JPACT agenda for July 9<sup>th</sup>. Action Items include a Powell Division update – moving from planning phase to design and then engineering. This phase will develop a locally preferred alternative and will identify funding needs for construction.
- The next agenda item is a recommendation regarding two grant awards:
  - One focused on East County: I-84 Multimodal Integrated Corridor Management Project, which is a recommendation that came out of the East Metro Connections Plan. Joanna noted that there are many (technology) systems that are used to communicate real time information about the transportation system. The goal of the I-84 ICM will be to get these systems to communicate with one another for better dissemination of information during accidents/incidents.
  - The other is Freight Demand Modeling & Data Improvement Project: Phil Healy noted that this plan will be very useful and will fine-tune the freight and commercial vehicle modeling and will include interviews with trucking and commercial firms and using Bluetooth data. Port of Portland is very excited. Joint program with US DOT, looks at all the systems and technology to work together.
- The other agenda items include an update on the State bike/ped plan and an update on the MTIP. Kim noted that the timeline for the MTIP programming is being extended and that there continues to be discussion about funding policy options are being considered.

#### **Regional Transit Strategy Overview and Coordination with TriMet Service Enhancement Plans and SMART Master Plan – Jamie Snook, Metro and Vanessa Vissar, TriMet**

- Information/Discussion
- Councilor Craddick introduced Jamie and Vanessa. SMART, Metro, and TriMet who gave a presentation.
- Vanessa Vissar noted that the TriMet Service Enhancement Plans will be used to determine bus service and enhancement needs which will inform the Regional Transit Strategy. She noted that now is the time to provide input on the service enhancement plan (5 areas). She also reiterated that while this is a 20 year plan, TriMet is also looking at implementing some improvements in the next year. She provided highlights of what they have heard from the public thus far, that includes: more north south connections; better connection to schools; complementing the alignment for the Powell-Division service. [www.trimet.org/future](http://www.trimet.org/future)
- Jamie Snook presented information about SMART; which is the South Metro Area Regional Transit master plan. SMART is operated through Wilsonville. SMART, like the TriMet plan, will also be used to inform the RTP, through the Regional Transit Strategy. Councilor Hinton suggested electric charging stations, wider roads so buses don't cause congestion. Mayor Tosterud brought up the idea of using trolleys in East County. He thought streetcars could be a way of alleviating issues for Multnomah Falls as well. He noted a need for a trolley from someplace where there is a parking lot to shuttle people out there. He also noted that in the future the Banfield freeway won't be able to handle all the traffic and that it can't be widened so we're going to have to look at alternatives. Phil Healy also affirmed the region needs to make

sure there are options. Mayor Tosterud suggested looking at a trolley system connecting the MAX and the east county cities.

**ACT Update-** Joanna Valencia, Multnomah County

- Information/Discussion
- Action Item on East County City Nominee
- Commissioner McKeel noted there have been 2 ACT meetings. She also noted that they have an opening for an East County City representative. Commissioner McKeel suggested this position be held by the JPACT representative, Mayor Daoust. Mayor Daoust was not in attendance at EMCTC. Councilor Craddick asked if the committee needed to vote today. Commissioner McKeel noted yes because July 17<sup>th</sup> is the next ACT meeting.
- **Councilor Tim Clark nominated Mayor Doug Daoust to sit as the City representative for the ACT committee, Councilor Ted Tosterud second, moved. The motion passed unanimously.**
- Joanna noted that the STIP is delayed probably until November from its original August deadline. Councilor Clark asked about how the meetings were progressing. Sean Files note that the ACT had a meeting but if focused on bylaws and appointments for active transportation and freight. Commissioner McKeel added that the meetings were going well especially with the amount of folks around the table.

**Project Updates - Staff**

- Powell-Division Transit and Development Project Update - Jamie Snook reiterated that meetings and all other activities were underway and the intent is to have a locally preferred alternative (LPA) by February 2016.
- Safe Routes to School Update - Joanna let everyone know that the County is recruiting for an AmeriCorps position. The County received six applications. She anticipates the application process will close mid July and the county hopes to have someone start in September.
- East Metro Connections Plan Update - Joanna noted that there wasn't anything new to report.

**Other Business - All**

- ODOT: Rich noted that he will send out the summer construction updates. He also noted that in August, a speaker on OReGo will come in and that in the future ODOT would provide an update on Multnomah Falls.
- Councilor Craddick informed the group that Brian Monberg is now with the City of Gresham in Urban Renewal. She noted that the new point of contact for Powell-Division has not yet been determined.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

**Next EMCTC Meeting: August 10, 2015**