

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
March 14, 2016**

Members

Ted Tosterud
Tim Clark
Doug Daoust
Dianne McKeel
Susie Lahsene

Representing

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

EMCTC Staff

Katherine Kelly
Chris Strong
Scott Sloan
Aszita Mansor
Jessica Berry
Sean Files
Stephanie Millar
Jamie Snook
Phil Healy

Representing

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

Guests

Shirley Craddick	Metro
Ted Leybold	Metro
Rich Watanabe	ODOT
Juan Carlos Ocana-Chiu	Metro
Scotty Ellis	Metro

Meeting start: Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner McKeel called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm

Chair's Comments

Commissioner McKeel introduced Aszita Mansor, Multnomah County Transportation Engineer.

Opportunity for Public Comment

None

Review and Adoption of January 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes- All

Action Item

- Councilor Tim Clark moved, Mayor Doug Daoust seconded. Minutes adopted.

Metro strategic plan to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion– Juan Carlos Ocana-Chiu

Informational/Discussion

Councilor Shirley Craddick introduced Juan Carlos and Scotty Ellis who gave a presentation on Metro's efforts to improve equity. They highlighted Metro's efforts to measure and address inequity in the region. They presented the strategic plan document, which is focused on Metro's programs and improving access and equity within them.

Councilor Craddick asked how the presentation went at Washington County Coordinating Committee. Juan Carlos noted that they were very interested in the discussion. He also noted some of the cities were already taking steps to look at racial equity. Stephanie Millar noted that the Wood Village TSP and Town Center Planning effort has included live translating at the workshop. Councilor Clark noted that the presentation was translated as well. Councilor Craddick noted that when you create opportunities like that, people will participate.

Juan Carlos also suggested people go to the website and take the survey.

JPACT Updates –Jamie Snook and Shirley Craddick, Metro

Information/Discussion

Jamie Snook noted the major items on the JPACT Agenda which includes both the RFFA/MTIP discussion and the RTP update. She presented information on the RTP update. She noted that the first Regional Leadership Forum is coming up on April 22nd at the Oregon Convention Center. Jamie also noted that JPACT will be discussing whether to send a letter to the Governor's Transportation Vision Panel (noting that the Panel meets tonight at the airport).

MTIP/RFFA Policy –Ted Leybold

Information/Discussion

Ted presented more information on the RFFA/MTIP. He noted that right now they're in the policy making stage. The policy decision making happens before the applications are developed and before any funding gets distributed. This policy making stage has been going on for several months and they're hoping to take action on the policies in April. He outlined some of the funding priorities that have come forward through the discussion: Safe Routes to School, a new Federal grant called "FAST Lane" for freight projects, the 75/25 split of (freight/active transportation). He outlined the survey results (7,600 responses). He said they're still evaluating some of the input they've received. He then outlined some of the options for funding policies that will be presented at JPACT.

Commissioner McKeel noted that she had previously been unaware that the Federal Safe Routes to School program had gone away and that now it is distributed by the MPO – instead of going to the State for discretionary program. Susie Lahsene pointed out that there is more funding available with the new FAST Act, both at the region and at the State level, so this is important to note. She noted that having projects ready to go nationally is in our long term best interest. Ted concurred that we've been very good at leveraging other funds. Katherine Kelly noted that we've had a lot of discussion about 75/25 and that the public seems to want to maintain that split. She noted that apportioning some of that to leverage bigger projects is a good way to go. Commissioner McKeel asked if some of the East Metro Connections Plan projects would be good for that funding. Katherine agreed. Ted noted the timeframe for these projects, and that the conversation about what to fund should start soon. He noted that agencies should know what they want to apply for by summer. Susie also asked to clarify if Katherine Kelly's suggestion would be taking some of the 25% available to freight going to project development. She noted that she isn't in support of that. Katherine noted that we need to understand the STIP priorities for freight. Ted clarified that staff had proposed it be coming not off the top but to compete in the 25%. He noted some other options as well.

Gorge Transit Study– Stephanie Millar

Informational/Discussion

Stephanie Millar presented on the current status of the Gorge Transit Study. This project is underway due to many concerns/congestion, compounded by the upcoming centennial this summer. She noted they had an online survey and received 2700 responses and one of the things they learned is that Gateway Transit Center is the preferred starting location for the shuttle and that Hood River is an important destination. She said they'll be initiating a pilot project that will start this summer and operate for a year, from Friday-Sunday from 9 am – 6 pm, between Gateway Transit Center and Multnomah Falls. Mayor Daoust asked how large the buses will be. Stephanie is looking into it. He believes it will be very popular and will have more people wanting to use it than can fit on the bus. She noted that they're looking to fund with FLAP funds and will be looking for longer term funding solutions in the future. She noted there will be more upcoming outreach efforts. Commissioner McKeel noted there is also an Oregon Regional Solutions project and that these projects are working in concert with one another. Mayor Daoust also noted that Gray Line Tours is also starting this summer, offering an on/off service between downtown Portland and Multnomah Falls – stopping in Troutdale, Edgefield, and various waterfalls along the way.

Project Updates - Staff

- Powell-Division: Discussion regarding some changes in approach because of the travel time savings. Other options include different routes as well as looking at two separate projects (outer division and another project west of 82nd). Steering committee continues to review and discuss. Design team is reviewing options. Councilor Craddick noted that this is our first Bus Rapid Transit project in the region and that there is a learning curve.
- Safe Routes to School: no update, but it was discussed as part of the RFFA/MTIP discussion.
- East Metro Connections Plan: the online map for this project is in review and will be presented on at an upcoming meeting. Councilor Craddick noted that the Sandy to Springwater trail is about to kick off.
- ODOT Region 1 ACT: Stephanie noted that the 150% enhance list and with the new STIP Enhance funding, there is some discussion about possibly including more projects from the 150% list getting onto the 100% list. She also noted that Region 1 Act will meet and discuss Connect Oregon projects.
- Halsey Street Corridor: no additional info. IGA is in process now.
- ODOT Gorge Transit Study: Was presented on by Stephanie Millar, previous item.

Other Business - All

Jessica Berry noted that Multnomah County is working on the TSP for the unincorporated areas of the County. She listed the dates and times of the upcoming workshops and explained the topic areas that would be covered.

Councilor Craddick asked for an update on Arata Road. Commissioner McKeel noted that there have been several delays. They'll be providing an update at the Wood Village City Council meeting soon. Councilor Craddick asked that the County provide a presentation on that at EMCTC. It will be added to the agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Next EMCTC Meeting: April 18, 2016