

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, September 12, 2016, 3:00pm-5:00pm

Gresham City Hall, 1333 Northwest Eastman Parkway, Room 2A/2B

Members

Ted Tosterud
Phil Healy
Diane McKeel
Tim Clark
Jerry Hinton

Representing

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

EMCTC Staff

Katherine Kelly
Scott Sloan
Jamie Snook
Joanna Valencia
Sean Files
Vanessa Vissar
Rich Watanabe

Representing

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

Guests

Shirley Craddick
Elizabeth Mros-O'Hara
Craig Beebe
Greg Olsen
Ernest Hayes
Kelly Betteridge

Metro
Metro
Metro
Gresham Transportation Committee/ Multco Bike/Ped Committee
Metro
TriMet

1. Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner McKeel called the meeting to order at 3:00

2. Chair's Comments

None

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

None

4. Review and Adoption of July 18 and August 15, 2016 Meeting Minutes - All

Action Item

Corrections were noted to correct the spelling of Mayor Tosterud and Commissioner McKeel's names. Motion was made by Phil Healy, seconded by Mayor Tosterud. Minutes approved

5. JPACT Updates – Shirley Craddick and Jamie Snook, Metro

Informational/Discussion

Councilor Craddick noted the upcoming Regional Leadership Forum scheduled for September 23rd. This is the continued conversation in preparation for the Regional Transportation Planning work. Councilor Craddick thanked folks for their participation in writing letters concerning the CMAQ fund allocation. The Region 1 Act is meeting tonight.

Jaime went over the rest of the agenda noting that ODOT will be coming to talk about the bottlenecks in the region. There will also be a conversation regarding developing the active transportation project list for the bond ask and getting the projects started on project development. A committee will be meeting to work on identifying the list of active transportation projects. Sean asked about the money identified for the Safe Routes to School program. Jaime responded that this will all be part of the conversation.

6. Powell-Division Transit Project Update – Elizabeth Mros-O'Hara and Noelle Dobson, Metro

Informational/Discussion

Elizabeth Mros-O'Hara from Metro and Kelly Betteridge from TriMet gave a presentation on the project. There were some questions regarding some of the operations of BRT including fare collection and the queue jump system. Elizabeth went over the budget constraints and challenges. This challenge includes the possibility of eliminating the service to Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC). Councilor Hinton asked for clarification on what the FTA is looking for in regards to ridership. Elizabeth clarified.

Kelly went over the cost challenges and the terminus options. She presented information on current routes serving Mt. Hood Community, including line 20, 25, 80 and 81. She went over survey results conducted. Kelly also went over potential options to improve access to MHCC. They presented information on pros and cons of the different lines. Frequency of the line 20 was discussed, including improvements on the line that is going to be occurring in 2017. Kelly noted that the budget constraints make it challenging to have BRT go to MHCC and wanted to share options that they've been exploring for the project.

Commissioner McKeel agreed that this is going to be a difficult conversation, noting the change to not go to MHCC is a big concern considering that this was envisioned to go from PSU to MHCC. There are a number of concerns since past conversations have included always serving MHCC. Commissioner McKeel asked TriMet and Metro to provide more information on why the change to not serving MHCC. Elizabeth provided additional information on the cost estimate development and the findings. Commissioner McKeel shared that MHCC was also donating land.

Katherine asked Elizabeth and Kelly to clarify costs on the route and the stations and other capital needed. Kelly went over the numbers, but shared that she didn't have the cost breakdowns of the capital. Katherine went over rough numbers that have been shared with staff to set the context of the \$24M cost savings. Elizabeth also went over the local contribution.

Phil asked about the segment from 82nd and Downtown and the impact on the freight traffic due to the addition of the BRT. Elizabeth responded that the segment is challenging and treatments being looked at include fewer stops, and many doors allowing for quicker boarding to help with efficient movement. They are predicting a 15% improvement in travel time.

Commissioner McKeel noted that the Powell Division and the Service Enhancement Planning are different projects. She asked about the wait times of the local service improvements in order to ensure that the purpose is still being met. Councilor Hinton asked if they would look at “pro-forma” estimate of the full BRT and the reduced service. Kelly noted it. Councilor Clark asked about thinking big even if there is no money and work towards the full BRT. Elizabeth responded that there are a lot of needs and a need to address the issue of providing service along the busy route. Councilor Craddick noted that the budget gap is big. Councilor Hinton asked about a phased approach. Councilor Clark asked about cutting stations. Elizabeth noted that they are continuing to explore cost savings, including looking at serving MHCC eventually within the constraints of the FTA. Councilor Clark shared his concern regarding cutting the service now and eventually losing the original purpose of serving MHCC. Councilor Craddick added that they are at a point of the project where cuts need to be made due to the funding constraints. She added that in addition to MHCC, Powell service has been cut as well. Kelly added that it has been a learning process with this first BRT and the challenges of bridging such a large gap.

Councilor Clark raised his concern about east county always getting cut. Councilor Craddick responded that the east part of the region is also not providing funding, which is challenging. She noted that as part of the RTP there is a regional transit strategy being developed that can address phase 2 potential.

Commissioner McKeel asked the group for direction with the change just happening. She asked for clarification on the cost estimates and to get the full detail. Commissioner McKeel noted that east county has supported the regional matching bond at the JPACT table for funding. She added that expectations were set of the project, and agrees that east county always seems to be getting cut. Committee members agreed and share the same concerns with cutting service to MHCC.

7. TriMet Service Enhancement Plan – Staff

Informational/Discussion

Joanna kicked off the conversation sharing the staff recommendation for the following three lines. Joanna added that these three lines were prioritized prior to staff knowing about the changes to the Powell Division project as they heard at the meeting this afternoon. EMCTC will want to consider this information as they discuss SEP priorities. She went over the three priority lines of: Line 87, Line E and Line 25. She noted that the aim today is to come to an agreement on east county priorities to forward to TriMet. Kelly provided information on the SEP process and the amount of service hours available for the region. Katherine asked Kelly to clarify with the 800 hours available means. Kelly clarified, noting that for comparison the line 4 has 1400 service hours. Conversation continued on the service hours available because of the BRT and its relation to SEP. Local access to MHCC was also discussed. Commissioner McKeel noted that with the BRT conversation and the SEP priorities occurring, she would like to explore options to taking action today on SEP priorities. Joanna went over the options and it was decided by the Committee to delay the conversation in light of the BRT and get an update at the October EMCTC meeting.

Councilor Tosterud raised concerns regarding serving the Townsend, and 223rd housing and employment area. Joanna replied that staff will look more into this before the next EMCTC meeting. Katherine added that another idea that could be explored is to look at funding via the bond to serve MHCC, but this is still being fleshed out and is still largely an idea.

8. Policy Maker’s Ride– Staff

Informational/Discussion

Joanna quickly updated the committee on organizing a ride. She noted that an email will be sent out to poll the group on their availability in October to participate. More information will be sent out once the date is finalized.

9. Regional Travel Options (RTO) Grant Proposals – Staff

Informational/Discussion

Joanna provided an update on the RTO grant proposals being considered. She noted that Multnomah County and

the City of Gresham are working on a joint application to continue to develop the East Count Safe Routes to School program. She noted that she hadn't heard from others in East County about any other potential RTO projects. East County does get a \$100,000 sub-allocation for their priority projects.

10. Project Updates, Staff

- a. Powell-Division Transit and Development Project Update – on agenda
- b. Safe Routes to School Update - no update
- c. East Metro Connections Plan Update - none
- d. ODOT Region1 ACT Update – meeting tonight
- e. Halsey Street Corridor – Mayor Tosterud noted that there is an upcoming technical and advisory committee meeting
- f. ODOT Gorge Transit Study – Rich provided an update noting that the service has been used over the summer and funding has been secured for further service. A report will be released in October on the service. Commissioner McKeel noted that the Regional Solutions Team will be discussing this further at an upcoming meeting in October as well.

11. Other Business- none reported

12. Next EMCTC Meeting: October 17, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 4:43 pm