

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, June 12, 2017, 3:00pm-5:00pm

Gresham City Hall, 1333 Northwest Eastman Parkway

Members

Lori Stegmann

Phil Healy

Tim Clark

Ted Tosterud

Rich Allen

Representing

Multnomah County

Port of Portland

City of Wood Village

City of Fairview

City of Troutdale

EMCTC Staff

Katherine Kelly

Chris Strong

Scott Sloan

Erika Palmer

Joanna Valencia

Nathan Clark

Jessica Berry

Eileen Cunningham

Mykaela Thomas

Riad Alharithi

Ae-Young Lee

Alma Pradeepan

Chris Fick

Terra Lingley

Jamie Snook

Representing

City of Gresham

City of Gresham

City of Wood Village

City of Fairview

Multnomah County

Multnomah County

Multnomah County

Multnomah County

Multnomah County

Multnomah County

Multnomah County

Multnomah County

Multnomah County

ODOT

Metro

Guests

Shirley Craddick

Ernest Hayes

Judith Gray

Tom Mills

Eric Hesse

Metro

Metro

City of Portland

TriMet

TriMet

1. Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Stegmann Called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm

2. Opportunity for Public Comment

None

3. Review and Adoption of May 17, 2017 Meeting Minutes – All

Action Item

Motion to approve was made by Ted Tosterud seconded by Tim Clark; motion passed unanimously.

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

Informational/Discussion

Jamie Snook noted that Washington State Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) will brief JPACT on the Bus on Shoulder study on SR 14. Jamie noted that it will be interesting to see how the upcoming pilot project goes and how it might be applicable to our region. She noted there will be an information item on scheduled MTIP projects and this will be an action item at the July meeting. She went on to discuss the action items which includes a letter regarding the US Army Corps of Engineers Final Disposition Study for Willamette Falls Locks. The letter is in support of the recommendation for local control. Another action item is the MTIP amendments, which is generally on the agenda every month. She noted that there will be another letter in support of the legislative package for the transportation bill. The last item is a discussion item on the project selection process if the legislative package passes and how to move forward.

5. Region 1 Area Commission on Transportation (R1ACT)– Staff

Action Item

Jessica Berry passed out a handout with a list of Region 1 ACT members and their appointment/reappointment schedule. She noted that some commission members are appointed by their Agency – Commissioner Saltzman for Portland and Commissioner Vega-Pederson for Multnomah County. The other commission members are jointly appointed. Jessica noted that there is still one open vacancy but that Commissioner Vega-Pederson recommended (based on feedback from former member Tom Chamberlain) that we see if Zack Culver from Laborers 737 would be interested in serving. We reached out to him and he is interested. He provided a short biography which is included on the handout. At this time the committee should confirm the new committee members as well as reaffirm the appointment of the other commission members who are up for reelection. Judith Gray confirmed that the City of Portland is satisfied with the candidates on the list. Shirley Craddick asked if we are looking for a candidate of the vacant position. Jessica noted yes, the City of Portland is taking the lead on identifying candidates for that vacancy.

Motion to appoint Zack Culver and reappoint Jerry Hinton and Sam Breyer to Region 1 ACT was made by Tim Clark, seconded by Ted Tosterud; motion passed unanimously.

6. East Metro Connections Plan Update/Discussion – Staff

Information/Discussion

Jessica started the item by noting we would be looking at both the adopted EMCP and the handout labeled "Draft 2017", which is a status update on several projects that are in the EMCP. She noted the project limits include the area between Gresham and the eastern urban growth boundary and between I-84 and the Multnomah County line to the south. She noted that subsequent to the completion and adoption of the EMCP, the projects were added to the 2014 RTP and each of the Cities adopted a new Transportation System Plan that included the EMCP projects. Commissioner Stegmann noted that as the new EMCTC Chair she wanted to bring this to the group and discuss/review make sure we're all still on the same page. She also noted she wanted to discuss a few projects specifically. In particular she wanted to discuss the widening of the overpass over 257th, status of the 238th project, the Beaver Creek Culvert project, and the 40-mile loop trail. She wanted to know if they are in the plan or need to be incorporated into the plan. Shirley Craddick noted that the 40 mile loop trail is in the EMCP. Commissioner Stegmann noted that the nomenclature is problematic if we called it something different in the EMCP vs. what we call it in its current phase. Commissioner Stegmann asked if it should still be in the plan given the recent concern around the trail planning effort. Councilor Craddick noted that it is in the plan now, Metro doesn't have any funding for it currently. Commissioner Stegmann asked the group if it should remain in the plan. Members agreed that it remain as a long-term item in the plan.

Joanna Valencia noted that the Beaver Creek Culvert replacement on Stark Street is in the County's Capital Improvement Plan and program (which identifies many culverts in need of upgrades and/or replacements). It is not identified in the EMCP because it was already progressing at the time of the EMCP creation. She did note that staff has added it to the 2017 status update so people know it is going to be constructed. Joanna also noted that 257th project is unique in that due to impending development in the Troutdale Reynolds Industrial Park, there has been a TIA completed that indicates a new lane is needed on 257th under I-84. She noted that ODOT, Troutdale, Multnomah County, and Amazon are looking at how to fund that improvement with the goal being to add it to the existing ODOT project. Katherine Kelly noted that the EMCP was for areas south of I-84 and she advocates for bringing a discussion of what is happening north of I-84 back to EMCTC in the future. Joanna noted that we should also be looking at growth pressures to the south of the EMCP area.

Councilor Craddick asked how the 257th project might be reflected in the plan. Joanna noted she could add it to the 2017 update much like the Beaver Creek Culvert replacement on Stark Street has been added.

Commissioner Stegmann noted that the County has been doing a lot of outreach about our projects in east County lately and she said it would be nice if there was an easy way to show the public that these projects have been vetted by the County and by EMCTC. Joanna noted that the plan can always be relied on to provide that background information. She noted to the group that the County has recently been working on the engineering of 238th and has had to remind the public about the history of this project and its importance. She noted that it is important for EMCTC to work together to continue to reiterate the importance of this plan and the projects in it.

Mayor Tim Clark noted that education might not help when people are just mad. Joanna noted that some people were caught off guard and didn't realize the history of the project. Commissioner Stegmann said it is really important for people to be heard. We still want to move forward with the project, but we need to listen to concerns. She noted the County is trying to think outside the box about how to ameliorate concerns of the public while the work is being done.

Councilor Craddick noted that we really need to capture the history of this plan and the decisions that were made. She noted that on page 2 it talks about "how we're going to work together". She noted that the plan says we will distribute the benefits and the burdens of the transportation system. This is important because the history of the plan is that it was initiated to figure out where to put a new Highway 217 type project. None of the East County cities wanted a highway so everyone agreed to take on some of the burden of improving the grid network. If somehow that could be captured and made available to share with the cities and the members of the public, that would be useful. That story needs to be shared.

Joanna then provided some discussion of the 2017 update handout. Ernest Hayes noted that Metro is starting to think about and discuss how projects that are loosely defined in the EMCP become actual projects in planning or engineering documents and they're started to think about how closely the project needs to resemble the project in the plan. He gave the example of the Main Streets on Halsey study, however the EMCP doesn't exactly define what the Halsey projects are in the plan. Metro is of the mind that since Halsey is a project in the EMCP that is information enough to be able to add the Halsey projects to grant applications, etc.

Joanna advocates for flexibility. The EMCP is a plan document, the development of specific projects that come later from the plan often undergo name and scope changes to some extent.

Councilor Craddick asks how do we make sure each city and their council understand this and know about this plan? Ernest asked if elected officials update their councils about what happens at EMCTC. All committee members confirmed they do. Katherine Kelly noted that not only does Jerry Hinton report back to council, she does also. Commissioner Stegmann noted that small jurisdictions that don't have the staffing can rely on County staff to go to the Councils and provide info on the EMCTC and projects. Mayor Ted Tosterud suggested County staff come to a work session in September to provide info. Jessica noted that the EMCP website could be built up to include info about the EMCP projects. Councilor Craddick suggested Brian Monberg could provide info. He was the project manager of the EMCP. Joanna noted that this document brought all the East County jurisdictions together.

Commissioner Stegmann suggested staff update the 2017 EMCP update and draft a letter that Commissioner Stegmann and Councilor Craddick can send out to the rest of the committee members.

7. Regional Transportation Plan Projects review and update – Staff

Informational/Discussion

Jessica introduced the item by noting the handouts include a funding forecast from Metro, a schedule with the important deadlines (which is the same as one they received last month), and a spreadsheet with projects on it. She noted that we are officially in the project solicitation phase. She noted that staff met and we reviewed all the projects on the 2014 RTP list and have made a draft list of which projects we think should be in the constrained list and strategic lists of the RTP. She noted that the funding forecast is much smaller than the 2014 RTP, so we tried to really focus on projects that we anticipate seeking funding in the next 4 years. She proceeded to explain what the projects are on the list. She noted that staff will come back in July and ask for EMCTC approval on the list. So, it is important for committee members to talk to their staff about priorities before the July meeting. She then introduced TriMet staff who came to discuss their draft list of RTP projects.

Eric Hesse proceeded to explain TriMet's project list as well as the Red Line, which is a newer project. He also noted that this list doesn't include service enhancements. This is specifically large capital projects. Service enhancements will be in the RTP, but not shown in the capital project list. Eric then summarized the projects on the list and their significance.

Jessica asked about the City of Portland's Enhanced Transit Corridor Plan which is currently underway in Portland. She asked if there are going to be any recommendations coming out of the plan that would influence transit projects in East County and if we will be expected to put funding toward those in the RTP project list. Eric said that the study is specific to Portland but that there will be a methodology to define enhanced transit corridors in the RTP and those could be in East County. He noted EMCTC can start thinking about where there are congestion issues that slow down transit performance and where EMCTC wants to see better transit service.

Jessica suggested that committee members talk with staff prior to the EMCTC TAC meeting on June 28th so that staff can finalize the list to bring back to EMCTC on July 17th. Rich Allen asked when we want the information. Jessica said committee members should provide updates directly to staff and staff should bring them to the June 28th meeting.

Councilor Craddick asked if projects are in priority order. Jessica said they're in "buckets" they are not in any priority order other than that some are constrained in the first timeframe, some in the second timeframe, and some in the strategic timeframe.

Ernest asked if Multnomah County is the lead agency for the smaller cities. Jessica said yes. Joanna said she's going to look into whether or not the Troutdale-lead projects qualify for funding or if they're local.

Jessica noted that we'll be bringing a clean list of projects next month.

8. TriMet Low Income Fares Task Force (LIFT) Legislative Activity – Commissioner Stegmann

Informational/Discussion

Commissioner Stegmann asked if the group would be supportive of lobbying on behalf of the low-income fares discussion and that she would also like to see if the individual cities' councils would be willing to write a support letter.

Ernest provided some background on the project. Ernest noted that the task force has reached out to include low-income fare subsidy as part of the legislative package. Tom Mills noted that the new HOP pass which is debuting this summer and the low-income fare subsidy will fit easily into this pass program. Councilor Craddick noted that it is a wonderful benefit to people who need the fare subsidy but it also works to meet our goal of reducing congestion and improving air quality to the region.

Discussion ensued regarding whether or not to have councils draft letters. Ernest said he would send out a summary to committee members to gauge their interest in drafting a letter to the legislature.

9. All Jurisdictions Summer Construction projects – Staff

Informational/Discussion

Riad Alharithi provided a map showing upcoming summer construction projects. He described each of the projects on the map, what they are and when they'll be worked on during the summer. Chris Strong noted that they'll be doing a lot of local road improvements, ADA improvements and an improvement on 181st and Division. He also noted some bike lanes and school crosswalk flashers.

Commissioner Stegmann noted that with so many projects going on this summer she wants to be able to let people know what is going on in the East County collectively.

10. Project Updates, Staff

- a. Powell-Division Transit and Development Project Update –Joanna noted there is a meeting on some inner Division segments.
- b. Safe Routes to School Update – no additional discussion
- c. East Metro Connections Plan Update – no additional discussion
- d. ODOT Region1 ACT Update – no additional discussion
- e. Main Streets on Halsey plan – Erika noted that the Main Streets on Halsey plan is nearly complete.

11. Other Business

Councilor Craddick noted that there are no “new starts” projects for the Army Corps of Engineers so the Levy work on the Levy Ready Columbia project is unknown at this time. Ernest Hayes noted there is an upcoming meeting.

12. Next EMCTC Meeting: July 17, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 5:04 pm