

# ***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 7/29/13**

### **Members**

Lisa Barton Mullins  
Doug Daoust  
Susie Lahsene

### **Representing**

City of Fairview  
City of Troutdale  
Port of Portland

### **EMCTC Staff**

Steve Gaschler  
Katherine Kelly  
Rachel Ferdaszewski  
Joanna Valencia  
John Mermin  
Mark Gunter  
Steve Kautz  
Rich Watanabe

### **Representing**

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

### **Guests**

Shirley Craddick	Metro
Aaron Deas	TriMet
Bill Peterson	City of Wood Village
Greg Olson	Chair of Gresham Subcommittee on Transportation and Multnomah County Bike/Ped Committee
Bobby Lee	Governor's Office
Tammy Hawkins	Division Midway Alliance
Craig Ward	City of Troutdale

### **Welcome and Chair's Comments**

EMCTC Vice Chair, Susie Lahsene called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM with introductions. A quorum was not present. She reminded the group that the meeting will be followed by an Open House and Public Meeting for the Regional Flexible Funds and Regional Economic Opportunity Fund projects.

### **Opportunity for Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

### **Review and Approval of July 8, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Minutes for the July 8, 2013 meeting were emailed to the group prior to the meeting and also available at the meeting. A vote was taken, but due to a lack of quorum the minutes will have to be approved at the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Legislative Update**

Joanna started off by informing the group that Rich Watanabe from ODOT will be coming to the September meeting to give an update on ODOT legislative items. Aaron Deas with TriMet began a legislative update. He mentioned the I-5 Bridge replacement was successfully passed and took up much of the time. Connect Oregon

had pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure added. Aaron discussed TriMet's specific issues with labor and binding arbitration. This, combined with other factors, resulted in a bill instructing the Secretary of State to conduct an audit of TriMet. Aaron also went over the pilot pay-per-mile project.

Tammi Hawkins asked about time periods for bus transfers. Aaron answered that it is an issue that is being looked at. The intent of transfers is to make a one way trip not a round trip.

Susie Lahsene asked what we should expect to see in 2015. Aaron answered that there is a possibility of a September special session to discuss things that failed including adjustments to PERS. 2014 will deal with the results of TriMet's audit. With the I-5 bridge failure in Washington there are questions about what the next transportation package will consist of. The governor hired Karmen Fore to replace Lynn Peterson which most likely signals that the governor is serious about putting a transportation package together. Susie mentioned the East Metro Connections Plan is complete so East County is prepared with projects that need funding if a new package is put together.

### **East County Policy Makers Ride**

Katherine Kelly gave information on the East county policy makers Ride to take place September 20<sup>th</sup> 2013 - 2:30-5:00pm, ending at McMenasins. A map was distributed detailing the route. Katherine mentioned that at the ride a second map with details on specific projects would be distributed. The ride will focus on how to use this infrastructure to draw in bicycle tourism.

Susie Lahsene suggested that the connection to the airport should also be highlighted. Shirley Craddick asked if anything similar to Portland's Sunday Parkways has been considered in East County. Katherine Kelly answered that it has been discussed but right now the limiting factor is the cost. The cost of police support is especially high.

Shirley Craddick asked about challenges being faced with the Fairview Trail. Gresham has been supported by Metro in securing easements to continue the phase 4 and 5 sections of the 40 mile loop. RR crossing options on 201<sup>st</sup> and wetland area constraints are the main challenges right now. They are working with the BTA to help gain some momentum for these issues. Shirley Craddick asked if there will be canoe/kayak access to the Columbia slough. Katherine Kelly answered that it had not yet been discussed as a part of the trail project but it was a good idea to look into.

### **JPACT Agenda**

John Mermin went over the agenda that had one action item and the rest were informational items. The action item is to get approval for a letter to the Environmental Quality Commission in support of a transportation control measure substitution. Part of the air quality maintenance plan tracks how we are increasing transit by at least 1% annually. They are proposing a substitution to how this is calculated to better reflect our commitment to increasing transit over time. Shirley Craddick asked John to explain how this is connected to our ability to receive federal funding for transportation. John explained that we need to show how we are meeting this air quality goal to continue to receive federal funding.

One of the informational items will be on the Corridor Bottleneck Operations Study informational study presented by ODOT. The second informational item is on the Draft Active Transportation Plan and will be presented by Metro. Revisions to a resolution include identifying that opportunities for further review and refinement before it is adopted with the RTP July 2014. Lake McTighe from Metro will be at the EMCTC meeting in September to go over the plan. Shirley Craddick mentioned that the local Mayors will be sending out a letter to the Metro council about their concerns with the plan.

The last informational item is an update of the contingency fund proposal for the Transportation Alternatives Program. Eleven projects are caught in the transition of federal funding projects (Map 21). Susie Lahsene asked where the contingency funds would come from. John answered that the funds would come from projects that

come in under budget and some additional small pot of money. Part of the discussion would be where that comes from.

### **Regional Solutions Team**

Bobby Lee from the Governor's Office – Portland Regional Solutions Team gave a presentation. The idea for the Regional Solutions Team is to house many government agencies in one place. Regional Solutions Centers are located in college campuses across the state to involve education as well. The focus is on economic development. Bobby Lee discussed several specific projects around the region that are being worked on. Shirley Craddick mentioned that Metro takes tours of these projects on a regular basis and if anyone is interested she would be able to arrange that.

Aaron Deas asked about how success is measured. Bobby answered that it comes down to economic development and jobs. The first step is to certify sites and attract business. Mayor Daoust asked about how projects are initiated. Bobby answered that it is from the ground up. It is up to the community to bring projects forth. The community initiates projects.

Tammi Hawkins asked if projects are taken on at a specific time of year or do they just come floating in year round. Bobby answered that they come in year round. Shirley Craddick asked who brought forward the projects that are in the east part of the Metro region. Bobby answered that some of these projects were projects he inherited from his predecessor. Troutdale energy project was brought through DEQ. The 238<sup>th</sup> project came from Commissioner McKeel and ODOT. The TRIP project came from the Port of Portland. Mayor Daoust asked if there was a way to monitor an individual project. Bobby answered there are extensive reports available on the work done for each project. Tammi Hawkins asked how we access that information. Bobby said it is available on the website. Susie Lahsene offered to send out the link.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business. Susie Lahsene opened it up for the Open House and mentioned that a Public Meeting will follow. Joanna explained that the open house would be from 4:30-5:30 and staff would be available to answer questions on the Regional Flexible Funds and Regional Economic Opportunity Fund projects. The Public Meeting would convene at 5:30.

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.