

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 5/6/13

Members

Doug Daoust
Susie Lahsene

Representing

City of Troutdale
Port of Portland

EMCTC Staff

Craig Ward
Katherine Kelly
Rachel Ferdaszewski
Joanna Valencia
John Mermin
Mark Gunter
Phil Healy

Representing

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

Guests

Shirley Craddick	Metro
Rich Allen	City of Troutdale
Neil McFarlane	TriMet
Steve Kautz	TriMet
Travis Stovall	EMEA and TriMet Board Member
Eric Chambers	City of Gresham
Kim Ellis	Metro

Welcome and Chair's Comments

EMCTC Vice Chair, Susie Lahsene called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM with introductions. A quorum was not present.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Review and Approval of April 1, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the April 1, 2013 meeting were emailed to the group prior to the meeting and also available at the meeting. Due to the lack of quorum, approval of the meeting minutes was postponed to next month.

TriMet Presentation- Budget Challenges

Neil McFarlane and Steve Kautz from TriMet were present. Neil started off the presentation. He noted that TriMet is currently working three themes. The first one is working on TriMet's business model and the cost structure that deals with its legacy health care benefits. The second one deals with investing in what TriMet already has and continuing to invest in the service that they are currently providing and in looking at what needs to be done to meet the needs of its regional partners. There are no service cuts and fare increases projected as part of this year's TriMet budget. They will also be working on accelerating their bus replacement program. They will also be continuing their non-profit fare program for low income riders. TriMet will also be directing capital budget for the rehab of tracks and stations on the Blue Max line. The third item is working on a Service

Enhancement Plans for the region. Steve Kautz will be leading up the effort to develop a Service Enhancement Plan for east Portland and east Multnomah County. The effort is expected to kick-off in the near future and will involve outreach to East County stakeholders. Neil also noted the upcoming work that will occur as part of the Powell-Division BRT corridor study.

Travis Stovall, TriMet Board member spoke on the importance of system dependability that includes on-time service. He also spoke about the importance of having a sustainable system. Travis also spoke about the tie-in of transit with the East Metro Connections Plan (EMCP) especially in regards to north-south connections and tie-in with the BRT project. Travis also noted the feedback he's heard about connection to FedEx and providing service to the employment areas.

Mayor Daoust commented on the good news received regarding retaining the service levels. He also commented on the usefulness of the online TriMet tools and Trip Planner. Neil added that they are constantly working on getting better info to customers.

Susie acknowledged the challenge of serving industrial areas and providing service for changing shifts. Susie noted that the TRIP industrial area is a key area that needs service and offered up a need to collaborate with the Port and TriMet on how to address the gaps in service. Neil responded that there are some areas that TriMet is looking at for ideas and as models for serving employment areas, including looking at expanding shuttle service opportunities in some areas. He noted that there are funding challenges to supporting shuttles, but there are models in Tualatin and Forest Grove that they are working on. Neil also mentioned that he is working with equity groups to address service gaps and needs.

Travis added that access to bus service is a challenge and tying in with needs of employment areas, especially with shift operations of businesses, such as working with Boeing and ON Semiconductor.

Mayor Daoust inquired about Express Service to and from East County. Neil responded that it is worth looking at and there isn't one now. He spoke of a past express bus service to East County that ended when the Max line came in. There was also a similar express service to the West side that was also ended when Max came in. Neil noted some express services to Oregon City, Tualatin and Sherwood.

Susie asked Steve if he will be coming back to talk to EMCTC once the Service Enhancement Planning project kicks-off for East Portland and East County. Steve responded that he does anticipate coming back to update the group. He will also be working with the EMCTC TAC group.

Climate Smart Communities Update

Councilor Craddick introduced the project and Kim. Councilor Craddick added that they are asking for support of moving forward from EMCTC. Kim Ellis from Metro started off by showing a video developed for the project and gave a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of the project and the work done so far with the next steps. The next steps of Phase 2 include moving forward with the evaluation work this summer. This follows up on the Phase 1 work completed so far. Kim shared the findings of Phase 1. MPAC and JPACT will be asked for direction on moving forward with the evaluation. Kim distributed documents on Phase 2. The process has been designed to be collaborative, and the effort has been focused to address all issues raised in the video. The work is expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

The first phase evaluated different strategies to reduce green house gas emissions. Phase 1 took a look at how choices should be evaluated. Around 144 strategies were looked at. Phase 2 will look at 3 of the scenarios and will evaluate these scenarios over the summer. The scenarios and evaluation results will be reviewed by the region in the Fall. Kim went over the case studies developed so far that highlight the kinds of strategies being looked at for reducing green house gas. Eight case studies will be completed by the summer.

Kim went over the scenarios that will be explored. The three scenarios will look the following options: 1) how much investment can be done with the existing resources; 2) what would happen with increased gas tax of \$.01/gallon; and 3) look at new plans and policies that could affect reducing emissions. The scenarios will be evaluated using different categories as described in the handouts. Measures include costs and what it would take to make the scenario happen. Next steps will be to bring it before MPAC and JPACT for approval of moving forward with Phase 2, with their recommendation going before Metro Council.

Susie asked if there was anything specific that Metro is looking for from EMCTC. Councilor Craddick responded stating that they are looking for EMCTC support of moving forward and are also asking for any comments that the committee might have on the project as it moves forward with Phase 2. Kim added that they would especially like feedback on the evaluation criteria to make sure that they are looking at the right things. Susie summarized that Metro would like to folks to look at the three scenarios and the evaluation criteria.

Kim went over the scenarios in more detail. Katherine added that discussions so far are leading to not just one scenario, but more likely that Phase 2 will find that a combination or parts of certain scenarios will lead to and develop in to the ideal scenario. Susie inquired about pricing and the carbon fee versus the vehicle miles travelled. Kim went over the equivalents for the two fees. Councilor Allen asked for clarification on the types of vehicles. Kim responded that the vehicles looked at are light duty vehicles. All vehicles would be paying including electric vehicles. Councilor Allen asked about the role of EPA and their policies and grants. Kim responded that this would be looked at as part of the implementation discussion. Councilor Allen asked about placement of charging stations and funding. Kim replied that there is available funding that has been sought for the region by local jurisdictions. Phil added that Cascade Sierra is an organization that helps with grants and loan programs.

Mayor Daoust asked about air quality and taking into account other emissions from other sources. Kim responded that the study will take a look at emissions from vehicles only and not point sources industrial type emissions. Mayor Daoust asked about evaluation of the success rate. Kim added that monitoring will occur as part of the RTP process. He added that the evaluation criteria look pretty thorough, but added that consideration might be added for looking at the tree canopy. Kim replied that this is something that she can look into for consideration. Susie commented on the weight-mile concept for the pricing concept.

Councilor asked EMCTC if they were comfortable moving forward with Phase 2. Mayor Daoust responded that the approach seems responsible. Kim went over the next steps and anticipates coming back to EMCTC after the completion of Phase 2 sometime in the Fall.

East Metro Connections Plan Progress Report

This item was postponed to the June EMCTC meeting.

Regional Travel Options Grant Award Update

Joanna informed the group that the Greater Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce RTO project was fully awarded as part of the RTO grant process. In addition to the EMCTC allocation, they received the remaining amount from the competitive RTO funding pot. The West Columbia Gorge Consortium project was not funded as part of this round.

JPACT Agenda

John Mermin went over the agenda. The consent agenda includes approval of the Unified Work Plan. JPACT members will be sharing lessons learned from a recent Atlanta Best Practices trip. John went over the RTP amendments. Both MPAC and TPAC approved the amendments. The RTP amendments include portions of the East Metro Connections Plan (EMCP) for NE 238th and policy changes to the RTP system map, and 12 other projects from the region. JPACT will be reviewing the scenarios Kim presented. The last item is in regards to regional support for TIGER V projects.

Mayor Daoust asked for clarification on the RTP amendment regarding the 242nd connector. John responded that as part of the EMCP the dashed line with the Right-Of-Way will be removed.

Susie asked if any folks are considering submitting a TIGER V application, adding that the Port was submitting an application. No other jurisdictions indicated that they were submitting an application. Phil went over the Port's project in the Rivergate District that includes grade separation at Rivergate Blvd. The project aims to remove blockages for the area by providing the grade separation. Partnerships are still being discussed. Katherine added that ODOT is considering a trail project in the Gorge. Susie added that Portland is also considering a project. Councilor Craddick asked about minimum requirements for the TIGER V process. Katherine responded that the projects should be shovel-ready and have a high match. Councilor Craddick asked about how projects could be set-up to be ready. Susie responded that it really all depends on what we could expect for the next federal transportation bill. Katherine added that discussions are exploring strategies to address this.

Councilor Craddick asked the committee members if everyone was comfortable with the RTP amendments being proposed for the East Metro Connections Plan.

MTIP (Regional Flex Funds and REOF) Process

Joanna distributed a proposed schedule for the MTIP EMCTC process. She indicated that the process is similar to the last Regional Flex Funds process. Joanna went over the proposed projects. The schedule was put together to tie-in with the existing EMCTC meeting schedule with a change to the July 29th meeting. The July 29th meeting will include an Open House and Public Meeting that will be held after the regular EMCTC meeting. The TAC will be putting together a staff recommendation after evaluating the projects. The final 100% list is due to Metro in September.

Other Business

Councilor Allen asked about bike camping and the Gorge Trail. Joanna responded that she will ask Kristen at ODOT about the possibility of bike camping along the trail. Councilor Craddick added that the Policy Makers Bike Tour on August 2nd is being organized and will be on the Columbia Gorge Trail.

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.