



600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
oregonmetro.gov

JOINT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION (JPACT)

Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2021

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

MEMBERS PRESENT

Shirley Craddick (Chair)
Juan Carlos González
Christine Lewis
Jessica Vega Pederson
Nafisa Fai
Paul Savas
Jo Ann Hardesty
Travis Stovall
Steve Callaway
Kathy Hyzy
Rian Windsheimer
Curtis Robinhold
Nina DeConcini
Carley Francis
Anne McEnerny-Ogle
Temple Lentz

AFFILIATION

Metro Council
Metro Council
Metro Council
Multnomah County
Washington County
Clackamas County
City of Portland
Cities of Multnomah County
Cities of Washington County
Cities of Clackamas County
Oregon Department of Transportation
Port of Portland
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Washington State Department of Transportation
City of Vancouver
Clark County

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Sam Desue

AFFILIATION

TriMet

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Chris Ford
Emerald Bogue
JC Vannatta
Jef Dalin

AFFILIATION

Oregon Department of Transportation
Port of Portland
TriMet
Cities of Washington County

OTHERS PRESENT: Adriana Antelo, Allison Boyd, Anne Debbaut, Aurora Jackson, Bob Kellet, Brenda Bartlett, Brendan Finn, Brian Monberg, Chris Deffebach, Chris Fick, Chris Smith, Chris Warner, Cody Field, Colin Cooper, Dave Roth, Don Odermott, Dwight Brashear, Eric Hesse, Erin Doyle, Garet Prior, Gavin Oien, Glen Bolen, Grace Cho, Harpeschein Williams, Jaime Lorenzini, Jamie Snook, Jeff Owen, John Goodhouse, Kari Schlosshauer, Katherine Kelly, Kim McMillan, Mandy Putney, Mark Gamba, Mark Ottenad, Mark Shull, Mary Baumgardner, Matt Ransom, Matthew Hampton, Jules

Walters, Monica Tellez-Fowler, Paul Comery, Sarah Iannarone, Scott Langer, Shawn Donaghy, Jamie Stasny, Stephen Roberts, Steve W, Thomas Craig, Tom Markgraf, Ty Stober

STAFF: Andre Bealer, Andy Shaw, Anneliese Koehler, Caleb Winter, Craig Beebe, Dan Kaempff, Eryn Kehe, John Mermin, Kai Oishi, Ken Lobeck, Lisa Hunrichs, Michelle Bellia, Ted Leybold, Tom Kloster, Ramona Perrault, Victor Sin, Margi Bradway, Carrie MacLaren, Connor Ayers, and Jaye Cromwell

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

JPACT Chair Shirley Craddick (she/her) called the virtual zoom meeting to order at 7:30 am.

Chair Craddick provided instructions on how to properly participate in the virtual meeting and called the role.

2. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Jules Walters (she/her) of the City of West Linn gave testimony on Agenda Item 5.2 I-205 Tolling. She spoke to how the tolling program would affect her community. She discussed the needed investments in roads and transit facilities and how congestion and diversion already has major impacts on the community. She urged members to use federal funds to invest in orphan highways.

Chris Smith (he/him) of No More Freeways expressed opposition to projects that increase vehicle miles traveled, automobile mode share, and greenhouse gases, including the I-205 tolling project. He emphasized that congestion pricing can be a tool to reduce greenhouse gases in the region. He also expressed opposition the Regional Mobility Pricing Project and expanding the number of lanes on the Boone Bridge.

Sarah Iannarone (she/her) of The Street Trust discussed the letter to be sent to the Oregon Transportation Commission as part of Agenda Item 5.1 Federal Agenda Update. She expressed support for jurisdictional transfer for urban arterials. She noted that the Vision Zero goals for the region are failing. She emphasized the need to make sure that congestion pricing funds go towards biking, walking, and riding transit infrastructure. She suggested adding to the letter a request that federal money goes towards projects that can't be funded through the Highway Trust Fund and a request for climate and equity lens be applied to all investments.

3. **UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR**

Chair Craddick asked Metro Staff Margi Bradway (she/her) to read the names of those that have died in traffic accidents in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties.

Margi shared the names and ages of victims during the month of November:

Neri Ramirez-Mendoza, 20, Robert Joseph Leon, 45, Keith O. Poppert, 61, Jose Romero-Ramirez, 52, Daniel Lucero, 33, Carrie Lynn Simmons, 37, Tosha Leann Anders, 27, Tralee Ariel McClain, 31, Anton Vladimir Yudintsev, 33, and two unknown persons.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION: Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson (she/her) moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty (she/her) seconded the motion.

ACTION: With all in favor, the motion passed.

5. **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5.1 Federal Agenda Update

Chair Craddick introduced Metro Staff Tyler Frisbee (she/her) and ODOT Staff Travis Brouwer (he/him).

Key elements of the presentation included:

Tyler gave an overview of how much investment from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law/Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act would go towards water, broadband, energy, environmental remediation, western water infrastructure, resiliency, and transportation. She emphasized that the bill is the most significant investment in infrastructure in recent history. She explained where transportation investments are going nationally and formula funds coming to ODOT. She discussed the investment in competitive grant transportation funds at the federal level. She emphasized the need to work together as a region to win these funds and how it can work together. She noted that the infrastructure bill is an opportunity for the interstate bridge replacement project.

Travis presented on the implications of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for

Oregon. He commented that this is the first time in a long time that there is a large number of federal competitive grants for transportation. He discussed how the region can position projects to receive federal funds. He noted that though the IJJA is historic, HB 2017 is about two and a half times larger annually. He reviewed how the additional funding coming to Oregon is divided between different areas. About 32% of the \$1.2 billion is flexible funds. He gave an overview of the local programs that are available to cities, counties, and MPOs. He shared a timeline and public engagement approach for spending the money. He informed members how to keep up with updates during the State Transportation Improvement Program update and how to provide feedback. He shared the Strategic Action Plan Priorities of equity, a modern transportation system, and sufficient and reliable funding.

Tyler reviewed the draft OTC letter at a high level and asked for feedback from JPACT members.

Member discussion included:

In the chat Curtis Robinhold (he/him) commented that it seems strange to highlight federal priorities without mentioning the I-5 Interstate Bridge Replacement project. He asked if there are any thoughts as to how federal formula funds might impact financing for the project.

Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle (she/her) expressed appreciation for the letter and commented that the I-5 Bridge is the most important project in the region. She suggested specifically mentioning the project in the letter.

Tyler agreed that the project is important and noted that they were not sure at the staff level whether or not they wanted to mention specific projects. She noted that the finance plan is still being worked on, and they wanted to see what it would look like before.

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle reiterated the need to emphasize to the OTC the importance of the IBR project. She commented that she could not support the letter unless the IBR was specifically mentioned.

Rian Windsheimer (he/him) agreed about the need to mention the IBR project and discussed the need for investment in safety. He suggested that Metro and JPACT use incoming funds to create a regional safety program.

Councilor Christine Lewis (she/her) asked Travis for clarification on the amount of

funds provided by HB 2017 compared to the recent IJJA, and if anticipated funds from bonding and tolling had been included for HB 2017. She also commented that the Abernathy Bridge is another top concern for the region.

Travis clarified that the chart shows just tax revenue in year of collection for HB 2017, and does not include any bond or tolling revenue. He offered to share the specific numbers.

Commissioner Vega Pederson spoke to the need for safety improvements on ODOT owned arterials in the region, and whether funds for those improvements would come from ODOT or federal sources.

Travis answered that many safety funds would come from federal flexible funds. He commented that funding safety improvements for ODOT owned arterials is very challenging because funds come from many different sources. He acknowledged the need for a more comprehensive approach to urban arterials.

Commissioner Vega Pederson suggested combining points one and two of the letter. She asked for more detail on point three.

Tyler clarified that there is a distinction between ODOT owned urban arterials and other urban arterials. She noted that many urban arterials are included in the federal system but are not owned by ODOT. They are often owned by local jurisdictions but are eligible for federal funds. She explained that the arterials that are part of the federal system do not need the same level of investment as ODOT owned arterials but they are still asking for consideration in funding safety measures. She added that point three tries to emphasize the need to line up funding timelines and have tolling begin in the region all at the same time.

In the chat Councilor Kathy Hyzy (she/her) asked how the carbon reduction program would work.

Travis responded that the program is still under development and shared a link to a webinar with more information about it: <https://youtu.be/OR5cTIGqINs>.

In the chat Rian commented that JPACT may want to be more specific about increasing the All Roads Transportation Safety allocation or be clearer about what the safety program should do differently.

Commissioner Vega Pederson added that another important project is the Burnside

Bridge.

Commissioner Hardesty disagreed about calling out specific projects in the letter because it might take away from the primary purpose of safety improvements on neglected arterials. She expressed support for the letter.

Commissioner Paul Savas (he/him) agreed with Commissioner Hardesty about keeping the letter high level. He spoke to the need for major improvements in the I-205 corridor and expressed hope for making those safety improvements before implementing tolling.

Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez (he/him) agreed with keeping the letter high level and not calling out specific projects.

Tyler commented that she is generally hearing a desire to avoid putting a project list in the letter. She noted that bridges are called out in general in the letter.

Margi added that the conversation around federal funds will continue at JPACT, so there will be further opportunities to weigh in.

Tyler suggested having ODOT staff come to JPACT to discuss their thinking around bridges in the region in the light of federal funds.

Commissioner Hardesty expressed concern for not being able to take advantage of other federal transportation funds. She emphasized that transportation projects should improve communities and suggested communicating more with public transit agencies like TriMet.

Tyler discussed having the letter say what it says and having staff talk to ODOT staff to make clear that.

JPACT members gave the letter an informal thumbs up. Nina DeConcini (she/her) and Rian Windsheimer abstained. Mayor McEnerny-Ogle opposed.

5.2 I-205 Tolling

5.2.1 Ordinance No. 21-1467 I-205 RTP Discussion of public comments and proposed RTP amendment/legislation

Chair Craddick introduced Metro Staff Tom Kloster (he/him) and ODOT Staff

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Mandy Putney (she/her), Garet Prior (he/him), and Brendan Finn (he/him).

Key elements of the presentation included:

Tom gave an overview of the Regional Transportation Plan, which is a long range plan for the region's transportation system. It is updated every five years. He explained that the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program is where funds for major projects are programmed. Projects must be added first to the RTP, and then to the MTIP. He explained the process for amending both the RTP and MTIP and shared the timeline.

Brendan gave an overview of the regional congestion management and mobility projects in the region. He emphasized that the project will use a variable pricing system. He acknowledged the need for investment in other modes of transportation. He reviewed the foundational statements of the project and timelines for I-205 and the Regional Mobility Pricing Project.

Mandy discussed what the Preliminary Engineering phase of the project will accomplish and the questions it will answer. She went over the timeline of the environmental assessment. She explained how they are studying potential impacts of diversion. She acknowledged that transportation options in the area are limited and discussed the projects transit and multimodal strategy. She explained why they are bringing the RTP and MTIP amendments forward now and what the amendments would fund.

Garet gave an overview of the public comments that had been received for the RTP, most of which were against tolling. He shared edits that had been made to the proposed amendment as a result of the public comments. He emphasized that when they ask for approval of the amendment in January, it is not a full endorsement of tolling, but allows ODOT to move forward to research questions around tolling.

Member discussion included:

Commissioner Savas expressed support for safety improvements and addressing the bottleneck, but commented that it would be beneficial to toll the region at the same time instead of starting with just I-205. He noted that the Clackamas County Coordinating Committee had sent a letter asking the OTC to use IIJA funds to start the project in order to delay tolling on I-205.

Councilor Lewis expressed concern that the project will not implement congestion

pricing in the region in the best way in order to prioritize construction. She emphasized the need to get congestion pricing right. She suggested decoupling the implementation of tolling and construction timeline on I-205.

Councilor Hyzy commented that local jurisdictions need more time to build the relationship with ODOT and to provide community input. She discussed the need and challenge around mitigating diversion. She noted that congestion pricing is a major tool for addressing climate change and that it's important to get it right.

Councilor Gonzalez expressed support for a variable pricing system and expressed concern that funds from tolling would go towards highway projects. He requested a breakdown of how funds would be used and what projects they would go towards.

Commissioner Hardesty expressed concern that the variable tolling would only reduce and not eliminate costs for low-income people. She commented that the impact of tolling would also be major for residents of Clackamas County. She agreed that it's important to get congestion pricing right for the region and that it's an important tool to address climate change.

Mayor McEnery-Ogle asked what it would take to slow down the construction timeline and what the impacts would be. She added that receiving an answer after the meeting would be fine.

Brendan agreed that it's important to get the tolling program right, and it's the first time that the state has done something like it. He promised to follow up on members' comments after the meeting. He expressed appreciation for the feedback.

Commissioner Savas suggested making a motion to push back the January vote on the RTP amendment until members can get more information from the OTC.

Margi clarified that the RTP amendment is not being voted on today, and is scheduled to come before JPACT in January 2022.

Metro Staff Carrie MacLaren (she/her) added that Commissioner Savas could ask staff for the vote to be delayed but technically a motion cannot be made at this meeting because the resolution is not on the table. He could make a motion to defer the vote in January.

In the chat Mayor Steve Callaway (he/him) agreed with the idea of exploring the use of IIJA funds to allow uniform rollout of congestion pricing.

Curtis added in the chat that it is important to get moving on congestion pricing. He expressed concern that debating timing and funds will perpetually delay the project.

In the chat Commissioner Hardesty stated that they need more information about the financial expenditure plans.

5.2.2 Resolution No. 22-5234, For the Purpose of Amending the 2021-2026 Metropolitan Improvement Program (MTIP) to Add the Preliminary Engineering Phase for ODOT's I-205 Tolling Project Allowing NEPA and Design Activities to Begin (JA22-06-JAN1)

Chair Craddick introduced Metro Staff Ted Leybold (he/him) to present on the resolution.

Margi commented that items 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 are linked and for the same project, just that one is for the RTP and one is for the MTIP.

Ted explained that the MTIP amendment will add the I-205 toll project to the MTIP in order to begin the preliminary engineering phase. He added that the amendment has its own public comment period that will be open until January 5.

Brendan emphasized that the PE phase is needed to understand all of the questions that go into the project.

Garet added that the funds from the amendment would allow ODOT to complete their environmental analysis, which is planned to come out in late spring 2022.

6. UPDATES FROM JPACT MEMBERS

In the chat Rian informed members that construction is beginning on OR 217 and shared a link with more information: www.hwy217.org.

7. **ADJOURN**

Chair Craddick adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connor Ayers

Connor Ayers

Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2021

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
2.0	Testimony	12/16/21	Testimony from Chris Smith	121621j-01
2.0	Testimony	12/16/21	Testimony from Sarah Iannarone	121621j-02
2.0	Testimony	12/16/21	Testimony from Sharon Nasset	121621j-03
3.0	Presentation	12/16/21	November Traffic Fatalities	121621j-04
5.1	Memo	12/16/21	JPACT OTC Letter and Memo	121621j-05
5.1	Presentation	12/16/21	Federal Agenda Update Presentation	121621j-06
5.2	Presentation	12/16/21	I-205 Tolling Presentation	121621j-07

