



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

METRO POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)

Meeting Minutes
December 08, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Susheela Jayapal
Gerritt Rosenthal
Christine Lewis
Gordon Hovies

Peter Truax
Steve Callaway
Vince Jones-Dixon
Ed Gronke
Luis Nava
Thomas Kim
Kirstin Greene
Terri Preeg Riggsby

Temple Lentz
Pam Treece
Rachel Lyles Smith
Martha Schrader
Kathy Hyzy
Mark Watson

AFFILIATION

Multnomah County
Metro Council
Metro Council
Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Special Districts in
Washington County
City of Forest Grove, Other Cities in Washington County
City of Hillsboro, Largest City in Washington County
City of Gresham, Second Largest City in Multnomah County
Citizen of Clackamas County
Citizen of Washington County
TriMet
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, Special
Districts in Multnomah County
Clark County
Washington County
City of Oregon City, Second Largest City in Clackamas County
Clackamas County
City of Milwaukie, Cities of Clackamas County
Hillsboro School District Board of Directors, Governing Body of
a School District

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Ted Wheeler
Brian Hodson
James Fage
Brian Cooper
Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong
Lacey Beaty
Linda Glover
Carmen Rubio
Joe Buck

AFFILIATION

City of Portland
City of Canby, City in Clackamas County outside UGB
City of North Plains, City in Washington County outside UGB
City of Fairview, Other Cities in Multnomah County
Port of Portland
City of Beaverton, Second Largest City in Washington County
City of Vancouver
City of Portland
City of Lake Oswego, Largest City in Clackamas County

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Brett Sherman
Anthony Martin
Randy Lauer

AFFILIATION

City of Happy Valley, Other Cities in Clackamas County
City of Hillsboro, Largest City in Washington County
City of Troutdale, Other Cities in Multnomah County

OTHERS PRESENT: Adam Barber, Amy Ruiz, Anne Debbaut, Chris Deffebach, Colin Cooper, David Berniker, Eli Kelly, Erin Doyle, Jaimie Lorenzini, Jamie Stasny, Jean Senechal Biggs, Jeannine Rustad, Jeff Gudman, Laura Kelly, Megan McKibben, MJ Jackson, Monique Smiley, Tom Armstrong, Tom Markgraf, Mandy Putney, Brendan Finn

STAFF: Andy Shaw, Anne Buzzini, Elliot Rose, Margi Bradway, Ramona Perrault, Roger Alfred, Ted Reid, Elissa Gertler, Connor Ayers, Jaye Cromwell, Carrie MacLaren, Kim Ellis

1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Steve Callaway (he/him) called the virtual meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chris Smith (he/him) of No More Freeways testified on Agenda Item 6.1. He commented that it is bad policy to use the funds to pay for freeway expansions.

Joe Cortright (he/him) gave testimony on Agenda Item 6.1 and 6.2. He agreed with Chris' remarks on tolling. He emphasized the need to understand how tolling will affect demand on I-205 before starting the project. He commented that tolling can be used to reduce congestion, while widening a freeway creates induced demand. He added that he had submitted a list of trends that MPAC members should consider as they discuss emerging trends in the region.

Adah Crandall, Taylor Walker, Orelia, Naomi, Kate, Kiera, Austin, Lucia, and Yukiah asked that tolling revenue be put towards funding alternative modes of transportation.

3. COUNCIL UPDATE

Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal (he/him) gave the Council Update. He shared that Newell Creek Canyon Park is now open and Chehalem Ridge Nature Park will be opening soon. He noted that February 22 is the deadline for applying to the trails program. He announced that Metro has completed its redistricting process and opened nominations for District 6. He shared that the RID patrol has been expanded and reduced clean up times.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Callaway congratulated Thomas Kim (he/him) on becoming a naturalized citizen. He noted that this is his last meeting as chair and thanked staff for their support over the last year.

Mayor Peter Truax (he/him) noted that yesterday was the 80th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. He also expressed concern that those who gave testimony did not fully identify themselves or sign up in the usual way.

Kirstin Greene (she/her) announced that the Department of Land Conservation and Development is looking for their next director. The position description will be posted on the website and closes on January 15.

Councilor Rosenthal thanked Chair Callaway for his time chairing MPAC on behalf of President Peterson and the Metro Council.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION: Mayor Truax motioned to accept the consent agenda. Director Terri Preeg Riggsby (she/her) seconded.

ACTION: With all in favor, the motion passed.

6. **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

6.1 Discussion of public comments and proposed RTP amendment for I-205 Toll Project (PE Phase)

Chair Callaway commented that this is purely an informational item to learn about feedback that has been received and an opportunity to ask questions. He introduced Metro Staff Kim Ellis (she/her) and ODOT Staff Mandy Putney (she/her) and Brendan Finn (he/him).

Key points of the presentation included:

Kim gave an overview of the progress that has been made since the last time MPAC discussed the I-205 Toll Project. She stated that this presentation would share comments that had been received on the project and proposed changes to the Regional Transportation Plan and Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program amendments resulting from public comments. She shared that the Metro Technical Advisory Committee would also be receiving information about the project and voting on it in January.

Brendan shared the guiding pillars of the Urban Mobility Office which included equity, climate change, congestion, safety, and reliable funding. He gave an overview of congestion management and mobility projects in the region. He noted that there is an Equity and Mobility Advisory Committee that guides the Oregon Transportation Commission and shared their foundational statements. He shared plans to create an income based tolling system to address low income impacts.

Mandy reviewed concerns that they are considering which included diversion, noise, air quality, access to local businesses, and seniors, youth, and people living with a disability. She discussed diversion and how they are studying it. She acknowledged that transportation options are more limited in the area and noted that they are developing a transit and multimodal strategy. She explained what the preliminary engineering phase is and the questions it will answer. She shared why they are bringing the proposed amendments forward now and the different committees they will go through. She gave an overview of the comments that had been received and proposed edits to the RTP and MTIP amendments.

Member Discussion Included:

Ed Gronke (he/him) commented that it is not clear that the purpose of tolling is to raise funds for construction on I-205. He added that tolling will move traffic onto roads surrounding the highway.

Mandy commented that they are trying to make clear that tolling is meant to both raise revenue and to manage congestion. She noted that they will try to make it more clear in their communications.

Councilor Kathy Hyzy (she/her) commented that the C4 group would ask OTC to consider investing federal funds in the I-205 bridge project. She noted that a major concern for Clackamas County is that they will be tolled before the rest of the region gets tolling, which felt unfair. She suggested aligning the implementation of congestion pricing with the rest of the region.

Mandy noted that the OTC is just starting to consider investments with the federal infrastructure package. She noted that tolling is currently scheduled to start in Clackamas County at the end of 2024 and for the rest of the region a year later.

Commissioner Susheela Jayapal (she/her) asked for clarification on the primary purpose of the tolling and how that shapes the model that is used. She noted that the term “congestion pricing” conveys the idea that the primary purpose is to manage congestion.

Mandy answered that both raising revenue and managing congestion have both been parts of the project, and that prioritizing one over the other would not change the analysis. She noted that the toll will vary during peak commute hours and will integrate fully with the regional congestion pricing program.

Brendan commented that the project is a learning process for the state which they hope to receive help from local partners with. He emphasized the need for gathering data and learning more.

Commissioner Jayapal asked how tolling would affect the design of the construction project that funds would be used for.

Mandy explained that there is a seven mile section of I-205 that does not match the design of the rest of the freeway. The project aims to complete the system by making it three lanes in both directions, make interchange improvements, and fund earthquake renovations.

Brendan added that their goal is to create a uniform system throughout the region.

Chair Callaway read Commissioner Martha Schrader's (she/her) comment that was put in the chat at the beginning of the meeting: Our Commission and our Clackamas county coordinating council are opposed to tolling and will present a letter to the group stating our opposition.

Councilor Hyzy clarified that the letter referenced by Commissioner Schrader does not contain an opposition to tolling, but requests that the Oregon Transportation Commission considers using federal infrastructure funds for the Abernathy bridge project and delay tolling.

Chair Callaway agreed that using federal funds could be a good way to make sure that tolling starts in the region at the same time and is not unbalanced.

6.2 Emerging Transportation Trends

Chair Callaway noted that the pandemic had a major impact on transportation in the region, and the Emerging Transportation Trends Study aims to understand how those impacts might continue in the future. He introduced Metro Staff Eliot Rose (he/him).

Key points of the presentation included:

Eliot reviewed the scope, time frame, and goals of the study. The study will take place over the next year. He reviewed how the timeline for the study lines up with the timeline for the Regional Transportation Plan update. He explained that changes are things that happened in the past and trends are changes that will continue to impact the region in the future. He discussed changes due to COVID-19. He shared graphs showing the difference between pre and post pandemic transportation uses and how many people are able to telework. He noted that many low-income people still rely on transit. Other major trends have included a growth in e-commerce, a rise in traffic deaths, a boom in recreational bicycling, and more people buying electric vehicles and e-bikes. He shared a list of the trends that the study will look at. He asked for feedback from MPAC members on what other trends they would like to see included in the study.

Member Discussion Included:

Councilor Hyzy asked why urban arterials do not match highways in terms of their use as drivers return to the road.

Eliot answered that one possibility is that goods continue to be moved and use transit at about the same level, and they use the highways more than arterials. This could explain why arterials did not recover as quickly as highways.

Councilor Hyzy commented that many cities in Clackamas County are focusing on transit and that the area does not have as many transit options. She expressed a desire to see more research into who is served by transit services. She expressed concern for BIPOC community members feeling unsafe on transit.

Commissioner Pam Treece (she/her) discussed the issue of safety in transportation. She encouraged staff to look into the behavioral aspect of safety.

Director Mark Watson (he/him) asked staff when they think autonomous vehicles will start to have a major impact on transportation.

Eliot acknowledged that autonomous vehicles had been included in the list of potential trends. He noted that the study is focused on the next ten years and that predictions for autonomous vehicles has been pushed back frequently.

Commissioner Jayapal agreed with Commissioner Treece about prioritizing safety. She also encouraged staff to look into the reasons behind BIPOC community members feeling less safe on public transit.

Chair Callaway asked if traffic on diversionary routes had increased at the same rate as traffic has increased in general through the pandemic.

Eliot answered that this was something that he plans to look into more closely with the help of Hillsboro staff.

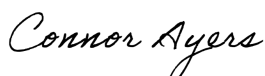
Chair Callaway asked how he sees the trends impacting the TSP.

Eliot commented that right now they are trying to determine how long and how much of an impact the trends will have. Some policy questions could be raised during the RTP update process.

7. **ADJOURN**

Chair Callaway adjourned the meeting at 6:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Connor Ayers
Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 08, 2021

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
2.0	Testimony	12/08/21	RMPP Purpose and Needs Comments	120821m-01
2.0	Testimony	12/08/21	Joe Cortright Testimony	120821m-02
6.1	Presentation	12/08/21	I-205 Toll Project Presentation	120821m-03
6.2	Presentation	12/08/21	Emerging Transportation Trends Presentation	120821m-04