

**JOINT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION (JPACT)****Meeting Minutes****April 20, 2023****Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber****MEMBERS PRESENT**

Christine Lewis  
Travis Stovall  
Paul Savas  
Nafisa Fai  
Carley Francis  
Anne McEnerny-Ogle  
Mingus Mapps  
Ali Mirzakhali  
Joe Buck  
Susheela Jayapal  
Shawn Donaghy

**AFFILIATION**

Metro Council  
Cities of Multnomah County  
Clackamas County  
Washington County  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
City of Vancouver  
City of Portland  
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
Cities of Clackamas County  
Multnomah County  
C-Tran

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Juan Carlos González  
Sam Desue  
Steve Callaway  
Curtis Robinhold  
Rian Windsheimer  
Ashton Simpson

**AFFILIATION**

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

**ALTERNATES PRESENT**

Emerald Bogue  
Jef Dalin  
Brett Sherman  
Duncan Hwang  
JC Vannatta  
Ty Stober  
John Miner  
Brendan Finn  
Chris Ford

**AFFILIATION**

Port of Portland  
Cities of Washington County  
Cities of Clackamas County  
Metro Council  
TriMet  
City of Vancouver  
Cities of Multnomah County  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
Oregon Department of Transportation

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Christina Deffebach, Katherine Kelly, Michelle Bellia, Mike Bezner, Scott Langer, Nick Gross, Tom Markgraf, Jean Senechal Biggs, Alan Lehto, Leilani Garcia, Mike McCarthy, Steve Witter, Mark Ottenad, Matt Ransom, Mark Dorn, Gerik Kransky, Eric Hesse, Dyami Valentine, Jeff Gudman, John Serra, Sara Paulus, Karen Buehrig, Matchu Williams, Stephen Roberts, Tara O'Brien, Jess Zdeb, Brenda Bartlett, Laurie Lebowsky-Young, Allison Boyd, Jamie Stasny, Matthew Grumm, Matthew Hall, Shoshana Cohen, Will Farley, Sarah Iannarone, Jeff Owen, Katie Selin, Glen Bolen, Jessica Pelz, Vanessa Vissar, Jonathan Maus, Dave Roth, Sara Ryan, Cody Field, Casey Gillespie

STAFF: Kim Ellis, Grace Cho, Ted Leybold, Margi Bradway, Carrie MacLaren, John Mermin, Eliot Rose, Jeff Kain, Ally Holmqvist, Marielle Bossio, Ken Lobeck, Kate Hawkins, Andy Shaw, Eryn Kehe, Matthew Hampton, Ramona Perrault, Monica Krueger, Lisa Hunrichs, Lake McTighe, Malu Wilkinson, Victor Sin, Tom Kloster, Anneliese Koehler, Cindy Peterson, Matt Bihn, Anne Buzzini, Dan Kaempff, Caleb Winter, Jaye Cromwell

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

JPACT Vice Chair Christine Lewis (she/her) called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

Vice Chair Lewis called the role and declared a quorum.

**2. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION ON AGENDA ITEMS**

No members of the public chose to provide testimony.

**3. UPDATES FROM THE VICE CHAIR**

Metro staff Margi Bradway (she/her) shared the names and ages of traffic victims during the month of March:

Christopher Niiranen, 55, Tawnya Fawn Gavin, 38, Gorgonio Reyes Barrera, 31, Jason Clark, and four unidentified victims.

Vice Chair Lewis stated that the 2024 MTIP draft is completed and entering the public comment period. She then announced that there will be a joint Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) workshop between the Metro Council and the JPACT Committee occurring on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, Vice Chair Lewis discussed the JPACT trip to Washington D.C., occurring from June 5<sup>th</sup> to June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

Vice Chair Lewis noted that there are two items on the consent agenda, Resolution No. 23-5325 For the Purpose of Amending the 2021-24 MTIP to Add Three New Projects to the MTIP Allowing Them to Initiate Preliminary Engineering and Meet Future Federal Delivery Requirements, and Consideration of the March 16, 2023 JPACT Minutes.

**MOTION:** City of Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle moved to approve the consent agenda seconded by City of Gresham Mayor Travis Stovall.

**ACTION:** With all in favor, consent agenda passed.

Oregon Department of Transportation Urban Mobility Office Director Brendan Finn noted a change in the minutes, correcting that the March Regional Tolling Advisory Committee (RTAC) meeting was not cancelled, but rather never scheduled.

**5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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## **5.1 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Discussion**

Vice Chair Lewis introduced Metro Staff John Mermin (he/him).

Staff provided a high-level overview of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), an annual federally-required document that ensures efficient use of federal planning funds. The document describes transportation planning tasks, relationship to other planning activities in the region, and budget summaries.

Clackamas County Commissioner Paul Savas questioned how the UPWP documents are guided by results and outcomes.

Bradway clarified that the plans included in the UPWP are derived from the RTP. Therefore, the guiding outcomes of this document are the same as those in the 2018 RTP.

Commissioner Savas acknowledged Bradway's statement, suggesting that he would like to see more direct metrics guiding this planning and more systems to hold municipalities accountable.

Bradway highlighted that the UPWP solely discusses the work being done to reach the region's target outcomes, not the outcomes themselves.

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Air Quality Administrator Ali Mirzakhilili noted that the plan requires consultation with other agencies, asking if this is done through the Transportation Planning Advisory Committee (TPAC).

Bradway stated that Metro does consultation with federal, state, tribes, and other recognized agencies through the RTP process.

## **5.2 Carbon Reduction Program**

Vice Chair Lewis introduced Metro Staff Ted Leybold (he/him) and Grace Cho (she/her).

The presentation overviewed the Carbon Reduction Program, a federal program with the objective to reduce emissions through the development of State carbon reduction strategies and fund projects designed to reduce transportation emissions. Staff remarked that this program opens up funding opportunities to implement projects in Metro's Climate Smart Strategy. Transit, active transportation, and system management and operations were identified as the three Climate Smart Strategy areas in which this funding could be most efficiently invested.

City of Portland Commissioner Mingus Mapps questioned if there are estimates on the amount of carbon that would be reduced by each of the three proposed funding packages.

Leybold stated they are relying on the analysis from the Climate Smart Strategy as a guide for the relative impact of each package, noting that this analysis is at a much higher scale.

Multnomah County Commissioner Jayapal asked for clarification on what a systems management investment would look like.

Leybold remarked that system management and operations investments serve to get more efficiency out of the existing transportation network.

Commissioner Savas, referencing the question posed by Commissioner Mapps, highlighted the importance of using an outcome-based approach. He suggested that if the federal funding does not actually result in reduced carbon emissions, then steps should be taken to increase the flexibility of the funding dollars so that change may actually occur. He asked if other options that would reduce carbon emissions were evaluated, even if they would be longer term investments.

Leybold noted that strengthening the speed and reliability of the transit system would result in larger ridership numbers for transit, and therefore lower emissions.

Commissioner Savas asked if transit signal priority would result in the slowing of traffic for fossil fuel based vehicles, in effect negating the effect of transit.

Leybold responded that the transit signal priority system would be intelligent in regards to when to hold signals.

City of Lake Oswego Mayor Joe Buck questioned how Metro plans on funding the charging infrastructure required for electric vehicles.

Bradway noted that electrification is a valid use of these funds, however, ODOT has already committed to improving the charging infrastructure of the region, and therefore these funds could be more optimally used elsewhere.

City of Cornelius Mayor Jef Dalin reported on behalf of the Washington County Coordinating Committee in suggested that the project move forward with Option E.

Mirzakhali questioned the development of bus rapid transit (BRT), asking if this system will be able to be implemented. He then asked if staff have a recommendation in regards to the options provided in the materials.

Bradway stated that several BRT lines are in the deep planning phase, particularly 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and TV Highway.

TriMet Executive Director of Public Affairs JC Vannatta confirmed that TriMet will match Metro's \$5 million dollar budget for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and TV Highway budgets.

Mirzakhilili asked if the project will be ready for implementation after the project moves through the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) process.

Bradway remarked that after moving through the NIPA process that additional federal funding will be sought. Vannatta followed up Bradway's statement by noting that it is essential to have a strong developmental framework prepared in the advent of more opportunities for federal funding.

Washington County Commissioner Nafisa Fai asked if active transportation projects, being climate smart priorities, will receive any significant upgrades given the relatively small funding pool of \$3 million dollars.

Leybold noted that an attempt to defederalize this pool of money would result in a slightly smaller investment.

Vice Chair Lewis noted that Commissioner Savas used the chat function to request the NIPA documents from TriMet.

### **5.3 2023 RTP: High Level Assessment of Draft Project List**

Vice Chair Lewis introduced Metro Staff Kim Ellis (she/her) and Eliot Rose (he/him).

Ellis began the presentation by providing context on this stage of the RTP process, noting that the purpose of this presentation is to share information, as well as discuss and receive initial feedback about the draft project list submitted by agency partners. She shared that a public survey has been launched gauging public opinion on the direction of the RTP. Rose gave context for what information this presentation shares, stating that it gives project list summaries, high-level assessment on each project's alignment with RTP goals, and a system analysis that quantifies how the RTP performs with respect to specific measures and targets. A brief quantitative analysis was provided for each key RTP goal area, displaying what percentage of RTP projects align with each goal. A timeline of the project's next steps was provided.

Finn cautioned against relying on a "bucket" approach to categorizing RTP projects, noting that most projects will serve a wide range of purposes and goals. He briefly spoke on ODOT's investments in several of the projects.

Mirzakhilili asked if separating climate goals from earthquake resiliency goals would result in a different takeaway from the analysis.

Rose responded, remarking that this suggestion has been made previously and will be incorporated into future analysis. Bradway clarified that resiliency is not being tracked as a performance measure. Ellis provided more information about efforts to improve resiliency across RTP projects.

Commissioner Jayapal expressed concerns that the equity category uses project location as a key

criteria, citing that looking at this variable alone may lead to misleading results.

Rose explained that they don't solely examine a project's location when determining its equity impact, but rather the intersection between location and investment in transit and other transportation options.

Commissioner Jayapal again cautioned about conflating investments in high equity impact areas with a positive equity impact.

Mayor Buck questioned how staff is ensuring that low-opportunity areas that are positioned near higher income areas are not overlooked in the equity analysis.

Ellis noted that the equity focused areas are granular and census based. Additionally, community engagement played a large role in the planning process, ensuring that the highest priority projects are advanced.

Mayor Buck then asked how and when will staff measures how outcomes align with the stated goals.

Ellis stated that as projects are implemented they undergo a public engagement checklist that assures that the project remains in-line with the community vision. Speaking to measuring outcomes on all goal areas, Ellis noted that this analysis will continue and be reported to leaders in the RTP updates. Rose remarked that the MTIP process provides an extra layer of accountability for projects.

Commissioner Fai shared the same concerns and Brendan Finn, cautioning that the analysis does not capture all the project's elements.

Vice Chair Lewis thanked staff for their continued efforts on the RTP.

Commissioner Fai questioned how estimated investments in the Interstate Bridge project are considered in context of conversations happening at the state level.

Bradway noted that because this is a bi-state project, high levels of coordination on the budget is required. Because the RTP is a federal process, work will continue despite wherever the Oregon State Legislature conversation lands.

Commissioner Savas expressed that we need to be careful in ensuring that RTP investments are actually resulting in the targeted outcomes laid out in the RTP's goals to assure efficient usage of funds.

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Southwest Region Administrator Carly Francis responded to Commissioner Fai's question regarding the Interstate Bridge project, noting that bicycle and pedestrian lanes are an essential component of improvement.

## **6 UPDATES FROM JPACT MEMBERS**

Vannatta thanked Bradway for her continued work at Metro and wished her luck in her new position.

Francis shared findings from operations on ramp metering and ATMS project on I-5 Southbound to the Interstate Bridge.

Finn noted that an ODOT employee was hit by a car while working the previous week. He then discussed the comment period for the I-205 Tolling project's environmental assessment.

Mayor Dalin discussed a Washington County project surrounding idling vehicles.

Commissioner Savas remarked that the JPACT committee should receive Clackamas County's comment to ODOT regarding the I-205 Tolling project's environmental assessment.

## **7 ADJORN**

Vice Chair Lewis adjourned the meeting at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Kain".

Jeffrey Kain  
Recording Secretary

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF April 20, 2023**

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
3.0	Presentation	4/20/2023	Fatal Crash Slide	042023-01
5.1	Presentation	4/20/2023	Unified Planning Work Program Presentation	042023-02
5.2	Presentation	4/20/2023	Carbon Reduction Program Presentation	042023-03
5.3	Presentation	4/20/2023	2023 RTP: High Level Assessment of Draft Project List Presentation	042023-04
	Testimony	4/20/2023	Jan Verrinder Testimony	042023-05
	Testimony	4/20/2023	Paul Edgar Testimony	042023-06
	Comment Letter	4/20/2023	Clackamas County Comments on I-205 Environmental Assessment	042023-07
	Comment Letter	4/20/2023	Wilsonville Comment Letter on I-205 Environmental Assessment	042023-08