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JOINT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION (JPACT)

Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2021

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

MEMBERS PRESENT

Shirley Craddick (Chair)

Juan Carlos González

Christine Lewis

Roy Rogers

Jessica Vega Pederson

Paul Savas

Temple Lentz

Jo Ann Hardesty

Anne McEnerny-Ogle

Carly Francis

Rian Windsheimer

Curtis Robinhold

Nina DeConcini

Steve Callaway

Travis Stovall

Kathy Hyzy

AFFILIATION

Metro Council

Metro Council

Metro Council

Washington County

Multnomah County

Clackamas County

Clark County

City of Portland

City of Vancouver

Washington State Department of Transportation

Oregon Department of Transportation

Port of Portland

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
(ODEQ)

Cities of Washington County

Cities of Multnomah County

Cities of Clackamas County

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Doug Kelsey

AFFILIATION

TriMet

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Jamie Kranz

JC Vannatta

Chris Ford

Emerald Bogue

Jef Dalin

Chris Warner

AFFILIATION

Cities of Multnomah County

TriMet

ODOT

Port of Portland

City of Cornelius

City of Portland

OTHERS PRESENT: Al Bannan, Allison Boyd, Andy Shaw, Brian Monberg, Chris Fick, Chris Johnson, Christina Deffebach, Dave Roth, Derek Bradley, Don Odermott, Erin Doyle, Glen Bolen, Grace Cho, Jamie Huff, Jamie Stasny, Jean Biggs, Jeff Gudman, Jeff Heilman, Jeff Owen, Jessica Berry, John Goodhouse, Julia Hajduk, Katherine Kelly, Laura Handon, Matt Grumm, Megan Neill, and Shoshana Cohen.

STAFF: Margi Bradway, Carrie MacLaren, Tyler Frisbee, Kim Ellis, Connor Ayers, and Jaye Cromwell.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

JPACT Chair Shirley Craddick called the virtual zoom meeting to order at 7:30 am.

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

2. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

3. UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR & JPACT MEMBERS

She introduced Margi Bradway to read the names of those who died in traffic accidents within Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington County.

Ms. Bradway shared the names and ages of victims during the month of December: Grant Fisher, 23, Charles Patton, 43, Veronica Zearing, 52, Gabriel Castro 29, Jean Gerich 77, Eddie Larson, 48, Brenda Stader 50, Elina Marie Inget 66, Daniel Martinez, 19, and two unknown persons.

Chair Craddick opened the meeting for updates from JPACT members.

JC Vannatta gave an update to TriMet's hiring process of a new general manager. He described TriMet's steps taken to date and the outreach to the community that is being done.

Commissioner Paul Savas noted that many in Clackamas County still are without power or internet. He asked if the chat feature could be enabled for questions.

Carrie MacLaren commented that staff will look into enabling the chat for future meetings.

Commissioner Roy Rogers added that he would also like for the chat feature to be enabled and welcomed Mayor Travis Stovall to JPACT.

Mayor Callaway thanked Metro staff for changing the agenda to reflect that public comments can be made on non-agenda items.

Carley Francis made members aware of an open house survey for the interstate bridge replacement program.

Chair Craddick welcomed the two newest JPACT members, Mayor Stovall and Councilor Kathy Hyzy.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Rogers moved to accept the consent agenda. Commissioner Savas seconded the motion.

ACTION: With all in favor, motion passed.

5. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Regional Emergency Transportation Routes

Chair Craddick explained the purpose of updating the regions Emergency Transportation Routes. She introduced Project Managers Laura Hanson and Kim Ellis.

Key elements of the presentation included:

Laura Hanson gave a background on the ETRs of the region, first established in the 90s. She explained that the purpose of the project was to update and raise the visibility and understanding of ETRs. Ms. Hanson introduced the project's team that handled the data and work group partners. She gave an overview of the project's timeline, with the last step being to review and accept the process before implementing it.

Kim Ellis explained the Final Report and gave an overview of what was learned from the project. She explained what factors were used to review existing routes. She highlighted maps that showed regional connections to critical infrastructure and facilities. Ms. Ellis noted other maps that highlighted the most vulnerable populations

of the region that would be hardest hit by a natural disaster.

Laura Hanson emphasized that there needs to be more work at the local level to understand where ETRs overlap with local evacuation routes and plans. She also noted that engineering evaluation is necessary to gain a better understanding of the region's resilience. She gave an overview of phase two of the ETR update, which would involve tiering and operationalizing routes. Ms. Hanson finished by explaining what next steps would be taken during phase two of the project.

Member discussion included:

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty expressed concern about adding new routes without taking away any. She asked how routes were being prioritized and the reasoning behind them.

Ms. Ellis noted that routes were chosen in partnership with ODOT and other local partners. She commented that routes were added based off of regional resilience and connectivity.

Commissioner Hardesty asked if fire operations, including boats were included in the evaluation.

Ms. Hanson noted that the project had been in contact with fire and EMS services through the work group, and their capacities should be included.

5.2 Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge

Chair Craddick introduced Megan Neill and Jeff Heilman

Key elements from the presentation included:

Ms. Neill gave an overview of the project, explaining that it is meant to ensure there is still a Burnside Bridge standing after a major seismic event. She explained all the steps that have been taken so far, and what still needs to be done, including finishing the environmental review, selecting a design, and construction. Ms. Neill reviewed the draft environmental impact statement. She explained the recommended preferred alternative and showed the bridge type options being explored. She explained that the long span alternative was preferred because of liquefiable soils in the area and that it costs the least. Ms. Neill noted that they had opted to close the bridge instead of having a temporary movable bridge because it would extend the project by a year and have negative environmental impacts. She gave an explanation of the community outreach

being done and evaluation criteria topics. Ms. Neil explained the next steps that will be taken with Metro and other partners.

Member discussion included:

JC Vannatta thanked Ms. Neill and the team for their work.

Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson thanked Ms. Neill and the Multnomah County team.

6. LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE FROM CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER

Chair Craddick introduced Metro Staff Tyler Frisbee to give an introduction to Congressman Earl Blumenauer.

Ms. Frisbee noted the involvement of Congressman Blumenauer in the region before opening the floor to him.

Congressman Blumenauer noted the critical role played by JPACT in the region. He remarked that this session of Congress would contain many major events. He noted the many challenges facing the country and the region, including the pandemic, economic situation, and climate change.

Congressman Blumenauer commented that infrastructure funding has been sporadic at best for a long time. He explained that infrastructure would be a major topic coming up in the Biden administration. He expressed hope for infrastructure being a non-partisan issue that would be able to pass in the narrow majorities of both the House and Senate. He noted that road user charges are a good long term solution, but acknowledged that some want to look at tolling. He emphasized the need for a road user charge that can be precise, deal with funding inequities and manage transportation behavior. He noted that the Biden admin would not raise taxes on those that make less than \$400,000 a year.

He commented that those at the federal level are willing to explore new road solutions with the region. One thing that will likely face the region is congressionally directed spending. He emphasized that these would have high standards of transparency and accountability. He concluded by saying that he was looking forward to continuing the conversation with JPACT and working with Salem and Congress.

Member discussion included:

Commissioner Rogers acknowledged that they would want to make smart investments

with earmarked funds. He expressed hope for working closely with Congressman Blumenauer. He inquired if there were general themes for funds that would come up that the region could focus on.

Congressman Blumenauer advised that JPACT should continue to use the same process that has been successful in the past for securing funding. He highlighted the work done in the region of building public support which has put it ahead of other regions. He acknowledged that it would be a challenge to secure funding on top of the challenges imposed by the pandemic. He emphasized the need for flexibility, innovation, and cooperation.

Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez asked what themes the region should focus on when engaging with the federal government.

Congressman Blumenauer noted that the region was off to a good start with climate and equity.

Commissioner Vega Pederson noted that Biden administration has placed emphasis on climate and asked what the advice Congressman Blumenauer would have for approaching climate change.

Congressman Blumenauer noted that a lot of the work in the region gets national attention and emphasized framing the work done through climate and equity. He highlighted that the administration is very committed to climate progress, which would make them receptive to climate projects in the region.

Mayor Steve Callaway asked if federal local matched percentages for transit projects could increase while local matches decrease.

Congressman Blumenauer expressed hope that this would happen, but that it is still being discussed.

Commissioner Hardesty asked how the region could increase opportunities for minority businesses to get federal contracts. She also asked how to prevent recovery packages from having a negative impact on climate resilience.

Congressman Blumenauer noted that the region has credibility with the work that it has already done. He explained that when it comes to contracts, governments in the region would have opportunities to recalibrate the way they are awarded.

Commissioner Hardesty noted that most do not go beyond minimum standards set by the federal government on minority owned business contracts.

Congressman Blumenauer stated that he is willing to support stronger federal standards for awarding contracts to small minority owned businesses.

Chair Craddick thanked Congressman Blumenauer for attending JPACT and allowing members to ask questions.

Ms. Frisbee remarked that it is important to coordinate as a region and speak with one voice. She noted that draft versions of legislative priorities has been started.

7. ADJOURN

Chair Craddick adjourned the meeting at 9:11 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connor Ayers". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "Connor" and "Ayers" being capitalized and prominent.

Connor Ayers
Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 2021

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
3.0	Presentation	02/18/21	January Traffic Fatalities	021821j-01
5.1	Presentation	02/18/21	Regional Emergency Transportation Routes PowerPoint	021821j-02
5.2	Presentation	02/18/21	Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge PowerPoint	021821j-03

