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JOINT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION (JPACT)

Meeting Minutes

October 21, 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

Sam Desue

Curtis Robinhold

Nina DeConcini

Carley Francis

Anne McEnery-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

TriMet

Port of Portland

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Washington State Department of Transportation

City of Vancouver

Clark County

MEMBERS EXCUSED

AFFILIATION

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Chris Ford

Chris Warner

Emerald Bogue

JC Vannatta

Jef Dalin

Scott Langer

Ty Stober

AFFILIATION

Oregon Department of Transportation

Portland Bureau of Transportation

Port of Portland

TriMet

Cities of Washinton County

Washington State Department of Transportation

City of Vancouver

OTHERS PRESENT: Adriana Antelo, Aliza Whalen, Allison Boyd, Bob Kellet, Brenda Bartlett, Brian Monberg, Chris Deffebach, Chris Fick, Chris Smith, Cindy Pederson, Dan

Eisenbeis, Dave Roth, Don Odermott, Douglass Allen, Dwight Brashear, Erin Doyle, Garett Prior, Glen Bolen, Grace Cho, Greg Johnson, Isabella Garcia, Jaime Lorenzini, Jamie Stasny, Jean Senechal Biggs, Jennifer John, Jessica Berry, John Mermin, Katherine Kelly, Mandy Putney, Mark Gamba, Mark Lear, Mark Ottenad, Mark Shull, Mat Dolata, Matt Bihn, Matt Ransom, Monica Tellez-Fowler, Rachel Dawson, Ray Mabey, Sarah Iannarone, Will Farley, and Zach Lindahl

STAFF: Anneliese Koehler, Alex Oreschak, Eliot Rose, Ken Lobeck, Kim Ellis, Lake McTighe, Lisa Hunrichs, Malu Wilkinson, 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 7:31 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 Mark Gamba (he/him) of the City of Milwaukie provided testimony. He spoke to what local jurisdictions can do to address the increasing number of traffic deaths in the region. He discussed the need for increased investment in traffic safety if the region wants to see deaths decrease.

Chris Smith (he/him) of No More Freeways provided testimony. He agreed with Mayor Gamba's comments. He spoke about the I-205 tolling project and expressed concern for multiple siloed pricing projects occurring in the region. He advocated for a holistic consideration of pricing projects and expressed concern for the way that ODOT is presenting the project.

3. UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Craddick informed members that the Metro Council is working to improve the MTIP amendment process.

Rian Windsheimer (he/him) thanked Chair Craddick for the update and expressed concern about what the additional process would be like because the timelines for MTIP amendments are already very long. He noted that the amendments already go through a rigorous process.

In the chat Rian shared information on an upcoming Bus on Shoulder project demonstration: https://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/ORDOT-2f86b91?wgt_ref=ORDOT_WIDGET_8.

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 September:

Gene Brendan Carlson, 66, Austin Boyd, 23, Illia Kuchke, 34, and six unknown persons.

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty (she/her) pointed out that half of the fatalities last month were people who were walking.

In the chat Commissioner Nafisa Fai (she/her) asked for clarification on what it means for a fatality to be unknown.

Metro Staff responded that when someone is listed as unknown or unidentified, it means that their identity has not yet been established or released by the police. Once the information is received the name of the victim is updated in the monthly fatal crash memo that is provided to the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC).

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle (she/her) moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Hardesty seconded the motion.

ACTION: With all in favor, the motion passed.

5. INFORMATION DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Review and discussion of an upcoming request by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to amend the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) to create a preliminary engineering phase and add funding to the I-5 Interstate Bridge Replacement Project - Introduction

Chair Craddick introduced Metro Staff Margi Bradway (she/her) and Ted Leybold (he/him) to give an overview of the item.

Key elements of the presentation included:

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Margi explained that this item is already in the RTP and is purely informational for this meeting. She introduced IBR Staff Greg Johnson (he/him) and ODOT Staff Ray Mabey (he/him).

Ted explained that next month JPACT would vote on creating the Preliminary Engineering project phase, which would program \$36 million of new funding. More information was provided in the meeting materials.

ODOT Staff gave an update on the Interstate Bridge Replacement program. The program was started by the governors of Oregon and Washington and based off six priorities. They are looking to utilize as much work as possible from past work done during the Columbia River Crossing project. Construction is expected to begin in late 2025, assuming funding is secured. Robust community engagement is a key priority of the program. Much of the upcoming work would be with modeling and environmental studies.

Member discussion included:

Commissioner Hardesty noted that she would like to see an analysis look at how to invest fully into transit capacity alongside an equitable congestion pricing system. She expressed concern that the region might miss the opportunity to implement multi-modal options.

IBR Staff discussed how the project is trying to establish multiple options for how people travel through the area. They are also looking at how to bring a level of equity to the project.

Councilor Kathy Hyzy (she/her) expressed appreciation for the efforts to look at equity and climate and asked how the project will integrate with the other equity initiatives in the state.

IBR Staff discussed how the IBR principle climate officer has been speaking with partners in the region to gather information. They are building climate and equity frameworks to drive the program forward. The gathered information will inform design and construction specifications.

Commissioner Paul Savas (he/him) suggested doing a climate benefit analysis on the impact of congestion. He noted that reducing congestion results in less gas being consumed, and it would be good to know more about the exact benefit that could

come from reducing congestion.

IBR Staff discussed some of the research that has been done on congestion and its climate impact. The project is aiming to smooth traffic flow to ensure that gas is being used efficiently.

ODOT Staff added a study in the chat: <https://www.accessmagazine.org/fall-2009/traffic-congestion-greenhouse-gases/>.

Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez (he/him) thanked Staff and shared with members some of the discussion that the Metro Council had with the IBR team.

Margi added that Metro will continue to work on climate modeling as a part of the 2023 RTP update.

5.2 2018 Regional Transportation Plan Amendment: I-205 Toll Project (Preliminary Engineering Phase)

Chair Craddick introduced Metro Staff Kim Ellis (she/her) and ODOT Staff Mandy Putney (she/her) and Brendan Finn (he/him).

Key elements of the presentation included:

Metro Staff shared that last month ODOT had requested the amendment to the 2018 RTP. She reminded members that the RTP is the long range transportation system plan for the region. The amendment will also come before MPAC.

Brendan provided context to the amendment by sharing the values of the project, which included equity, safety, climate change, reliable funding, and congestion. He shared a map that shows ODOT's core Portland Metro Area Projects. The toll program is also a congestion pricing program. He explained the timeline of the project, and what it will pay for.

Mandy went over the timeline for when the amendment would come before TPAC, MTAC, JPACT, MPAC, and the Metro Council. She explained the process that would need to happen for the project to go forward.

Member discussion included:

Commissioner Hardesty expressed concern for the approach being taken to

congestion pricing, and how it has been split among many projects. She discussed how she would like to see how the project incorporates low-income exemptions and funds multi-modal transportation options.

Mandy noted that they are working on a traffic analysis right now to understand the benefits and impacts of the toll. Once the analysis is done, they plan to discuss mitigation. There is also a transit and multi-modal working group that is looking at current and planned services in the area. She explained that they are currently planning to use income based rates.

Commissioner Hardesty asked for clarification on whether low income people will have to pay congestion prices and where that would be decided.

Brendan clarified that nothing is set in stone, and they want to continue to work with JPACT members frequently.

Commissioner Savas noted that there are not alternatives to I-205 and expressed concern for implementing congestion pricing for that reason. He discussed how there is no set plan for how alternative modes of transportation will be funded by the toll.

Mandy spoke to how ODOT staff is learning about the area and will continue to ask for input from local jurisdictions.

Mayor Steve Callaway (he/him) expressed concern for diversion that may be caused due to congestion pricing and advocated for doing a mesoscopic analysis on how the program would affect the entire region.

Mandy discussed the intersection-level analysis that will be available early next year.

Councilor Gonzalez discussed how the region can fund alternative transportation systems and expressed concern that the tolling funds would only go to improving I-205 instead of the regional system.

5.3 2023 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update – Kick-off Scoping Phase

Chair Craddick introduced Metro Staff Kim Ellis to give an overview of them project.

Key elements of the presentation included:

Kim gave an overview of what the RTP is and how often it gets updated. She explained

the importance of the RTP and the regional decision-making process that goes into it. She discussed how the region is interlinked and how it continues to grow. The foundation of the plan is the 2040 Growth Concept, and the plan aims to create a complete and connected system. She spoke to the need for multimodal solutions to connect people and goods to the places they need to go. She shared the proposed timeline for the process of updating the RTP, including opportunities for community and stakeholder engagement. She went over feedback that has already been provided by the Metro Council and immediate next steps.

Member discussion included:

Councilor Hyzy expressed a desire to see the RTP reflect the push towards electrification. She advocated for planning a system that provides safe, reliable, and affordable multi-modal options.

Margi discussed how Metro staff is looking at revenue ad funding with an equity and climate lens.

Councilor Christine Lewis (she/her) advocated for having the RTP progress include multiple workshops and cautioned against using the same assumptions of the previous RTP. She noted that the nation as a whole needs to be ready to move away from the gas tax.

Commissioner Hardesty discussed the potential for the region to be a national leader on climate. She agreed about looking for a different funding source for the transportation system. She noted that the region as a whole may not have a shared view or sense of urgency on climate and equity goals.

In the chat Mayor Callaway advocated for using a mesoscopic model because it allows for a closer look at diversion and helps to understand the long term impact of tele-commuting.

Commissioner Savas expressed a hope for having more dialogue around the RTP and making sure that JPACT was given enough of a voice in the process. He emphasized the shared role between JPACT and the Metro Council as the MPO.

Margi acknowledged that a lot has changed in the region since the last RTP, and that the next agenda item can help members to understand the changes in the region.

5.4 Emerging Transportation Trends - update

Chair Craddick introduced Metro Staff Eliot Rose (he/him) to present on emerging trends in the region.

Key elements of the presentation included:

Eliot introduced the emerging transportation trends study, which will look at the major trends due to the pandemic and other recent disruptions. He shared a project showing timelines for both the study and the RTP update. He gave an overview of the major changes that the region has seen lately, which included a widening gap for low-income and BIPOC communities due to the pandemic. He reviewed transportation data and how the pandemic has impacted transportation. The study plans to engage with communities to better understand these changes. He concluded by going over potential trends that may continue to affect the region in the future.

Member discussion included:

Councilor Hyzy suggested continuing the discussion at a later meeting due to running out of time.

Commissioner Hardesty suggested that the study look how white supremacy has kept BIPOC communities from using public transit.

6. UPDATES FROM JPACT MEMBERS

Rian Windsheimer thanked Mayor Gamba for his comments and expressed hope to see the MTIP reflect those priorities. He shared information on a bike and pedestrian program open house: <https://odotopenhouse.org/pedestrian-and-bicycle-strategic>.

7. ADJOURN

Chair Craddick adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Connor Ayers
Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 21, 2021

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
2.0	Testimony	10/21/21	Doug Allen Testimony on Agenda Item 5.1	102121j01
3.0	Presentation	10/21/21	September Traffic Fatalities	102121j-02
5.1	Presentation	10/21/21	I-5 Bridge Replacement Presentation	102121j-03
5.2	Presentation	10/21/21	I-205 Tolling Project Presentation	102121j-04
5.3	Presentation	10/21/21	2023 RTP Update Presentation	102121j-05
5.4	Presentation	10/21/21	Emerging Transportation Trends Presentation	102121j-06

