

East Multnomah County Transportation Committee

City of Fairview • City of Gresham • City of Troutdale • City of Wood Village • Multnomah County • Port of Portland

Meeting Minutes 3/10/14

Members

Diane McKeel
Tim Clark
Lisa Barton Mullins
Jerry Hinton
Doug Daoust
Susie Lahsene

Representing

Multnomah County
City of Wood Village
City of Fairview
City of Gresham
City of Troutdale
Port of Portland

EMCTC Staff

Craig Ward
Katherine Kelly
Sean Files
Joanna Valencia
Rachel Ferdaszewski
Grace Cho
Phil Healy
Steve Kautz

Representing

City of Troutdale
City of Gresham
Multnomah County
Multnomah County
Multnomah County
Metro
Port of Portland
TriMet

Guests

Shirley Craddick	Metro
Ted Tosterud	City of Fairview
April Bertelsen	City of Portland
Steve Entenman	EMEA
Kelly Clarke	City of Gresham
Greg Olson	City of Gresham Transportation Committee and Multnomah County BPCAC

Welcome and Chair's Comments

EMCTC Chair, Diane McKeel, called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM and started with introductions. A quorum was present.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Review and Approval of February 10, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the February 10, 2014 meeting were emailed to the group prior to the meeting and also available at the meeting. Councilor Barton Mullins noted corrections in the minutes noting that Samantha Nelson and Allan Berry from the City of Fairview were both present at the meeting and should be noted in the minutes.

Commissioner McKeel asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Barton Mullins moved to approve the minutes with the additions as she noted. Councilor Clark seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

JPACT Agenda

Commissioner McKeel started off by noting to new EMCTC members that EMCTC is scheduled the Monday before JPACT in order to hear and discuss the agenda. Commissioner McKeel and Councilor Barton Mullins sit on JPACT, and this is an opportunity to discuss the agenda with all East County jurisdictions in order to guide the JPACT representatives and/or inform them.

Grace Cho, from Metro, gave an overview of the JPACT agenda. First up on the agenda are comments on the JPACT Annual Washington DC trip. Resolution No. 14-4501 addresses support for the Transportation for America program and includes continued conversations on the resolution. Kim Ellis will be discussing the alternatives being explored for the Climate Smart Communities project. Two joint meetings with JPACT and MPAC are scheduled for April and May to look at strategies. John Mermin will be going over the Public Review draft for the RTP which will be released on March 21st for the start of the public comment period. Lake McTighe will be going over the Active Transportation Plan Public Review draft which will parallel the RTP public comment period. Ted Leybold and Dan Kaempff will go over the findings of the survey conducted looking at the Regional Flex Funds process. Metro is looking at the process in preparation of kicking off the next Flex Funds process.

Susie asked about the Regional Flex Funds process and noted that there was a lot of conversation at TPAC, especially in regards to a small survey response rate and whether it was representative of a regional perspective. Grace responded that Metro has noted this and they will be asking JPACT for feedback as well. She noted that Metro is still open to receiving feedback. Susie asked Commissioner McKeel if we could add an agenda item to discuss the Regional Flex Funds process at today's EMCTC meeting to give additional feedback to Metro. Commissioner McKeel agreed and noted this addition to the agenda.

Commissioner McKeel asked Councilor Craddick if she could provide an update of the Washington DC JPACT Trip. Councilor Craddick noted that there were a number of folks that attended to meet with the Congressional delegation and Representative Shuster of the Transportation Finance Committee. JPACT conducts the trip annually to inform them of the regional priorities. Key takeaways included challenges that congress is facing in working together and challenges in identifying funding for the highway fund that is in danger of losing funding soon. Councilor Craddick felt that there are great challenges to making the highway fund whole again. JPACT discussed new strategies to future trips, including bringing local business representatives to communicate the importance of funding the highway fund. Susie echoed the message of support from businesses and communicating that to DC. Some folks also met with Transportation for America and explored membership options to joining the group that lobbies for transportation funding.

Commissioner McKeel transitioned the conversation to discuss the Regional Flex Funds process. Susie noted the success of East County in securing funding at both the regional and state levels. Susie indicated her support for continued programs such as the Regional Economic Opportunity Fund (REOF) and the importance of having a relationship to the State system. Susie also emphasized continued forward movement in implementing the East Metro Connections Plan.

Councilor Craddick asked about the REOF funding being available in the future and whether or not it was only one-time funding available. Councilor Craddick also noted the success of EMCTC's funding strategy. Commissioner McKeel asked about the possibility of another round of REOF dollars. Susie responded that its uncertain, but it is important to communicate it to Metro if this is something that EMCTC would like to see/explore again. Councilor Craddick also added that TIGER grants are also possibilities and that JPACT as part of their DC trip advocated for continued support of TIGER. Councilor Craddick noted the need to set-up projects around the region to be prepared for TIGER applications. Commissioner McKeel also noted the need for large match requirements.

Joanna commented on the challenge of the 75/25 policy split and fitting the Gresham project to fit the freight and active transportation requirements. She added building in some flexibility to the split would be helpful.

Katherine agreed, and also added that as part of the next process it would be helpful to look at a regional look at projects based on criteria instead of splitting allocations based on population. She advocated for looking at projects in regards to criteria and benefit to the regional transportation system. Katherine liked the idea of getting projects prepared for TIGER and identifying funding to support getting projects to “shovel ready.”

Election of 2014 EMCTC Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioner McKeel went over the identified representatives and alternates for all EMCTC voting agencies. The representatives are eligible for the Chair and Vice Chair position. Commissioner McKeel asked if there were folks not interested in the positions. Councilor Barton Mullins asked to not be included for consideration for both positions for this year. No other members refrained from consideration. Joanna passed out ballots for voting representatives to complete.

Joanna tallied up the votes and announced that the 2014 Chair will be Commissioner McKeel and the Vice Chair will be Susie.

RTP Project List and New Gresham TSP Projects

Joanna started off by passing out a matrix of proposed Gresham TSP projects to add to the EMCTC RTP project list and a summary sheet of the proposed RTP refinement. Joanna started off with background information, including noting that the original EMCTC endorsed RTP list was approved back in December. The proposed refinement and addition of Gresham projects is to address the remaining funding available resulting from the February RTP refinement of the \$189M East Metro Connections Plan (EMCP) placeholder (RTP Project #10383). The February EMCTC RTP refinement added the new EMCP projects that weren't previously in the RTP list already. The total of the new EMCP projects was only for approximately \$83M, leaving around \$106M left in the placeholder and Financially Constrained RTP (FC RTP) list. EMCTC TAC staff has been working on addressing the remaining \$106M and has been working on brainstorming projects to add to the RTP. As part of this process, EMCTC staff identified new Gresham TSP projects to add to the RTP Financially Constrained list in order to allocate all funding. The new Gresham projects identified in the project matrix handout reflect approximately \$160M in projects. Staff is proposing using the remaining \$106M in the Financially Constrained allocation and adding \$103M worth of Gresham projects, and allocating the remaining \$57M worth of projects in the state list. The calculations and proposal is summarized in the one page handout. The new Gresham TSP projects are mainly located in the Pleasant Valley and Springwater area. Kelly went over the new projects contained in the project list.

Councilor Craddick asked for clarification on the placeholder. Joanna clarified the refinement process of the project lists. Susie asked about how to include projects that come out of future planning processes that the Port will be going through and what sort of amendment opportunities would there be in the future for the RTP project list. Phil noted that this is just an interim update, however he noted that there have been challenges in the past noting that once a project is the FC RTP list it is difficult to remove them and they are assumed to be on the FC list. Susie asked if there was a way to amend the FC RTP list. Joanna responded that there was an RTP amendment in Spring 2013 to add the NE 238th project. Multnomah County and Gresham worked together to amend the RTP and pull projects out and add the NE 238th project. Katherine added that there is some recognition that some projects are more long term and priorities may change. Joanna added that the identification of phases also adds some sort of prioritization to the RTP list.

Commissioner McKeel asked if any of the new projects are EMCP projects. Staff responded that the EMCP projects have already been added and that these are new TSP projects. Councilor Craddick asked about projects in Fairview, Troutdale and Wood Village. Joanna responded that the projects have been added in the RTP for these cities. Councilor Tosterud asked if he could get a copy of the EMCTC endorsed list in order to look at projects in Fairview. Susie asked about placeholders. Grace responded that the EMCP placeholder refinement was needed in order to not trigger another planning process or another EMCP planning effort. The RTP list needed to reflect the projects and completing the EMCP. Placeholders can be placed for planning efforts. Susie

asked about placing a placeholder for the Troutdale Airport Refinement Plan and being able to add projects that come out of this planning effort to the RTP list. Susie reemphasized the concern of not having allocation left in the FC RTP list and being able to remove and add projects once the projects are on the FC list. Joanna asked about the timing for this planning effort and explored how it may tie in to the bigger upcoming RTP Update. She also noted that there is also an option of putting a placeholder in the EMCTC State RTP list for any projects that come out of the Troutdale Airport Refinement Plan. Grace clarified that any refinements would need to be submitted as part of the public comment period. Commissioner McKeel asked about the EMCP distribution of projects. Joanna didn't have the exact numbers but showed the number of packages identified per the EMCP and the distribution throughout all of East County.

Councilor Clark asked about the process and the differences between adding the Port planning project for the Troutdale Airport Refinement Plan in the FC list versus the State list, and removing Gresham TSP projects. Refinements could be made as part of the public comment period. Staff responded that conversations could occur at the staff level, and be brought back for EMCTC endorsement at the April meeting for any refinements to the project list. Mayor Daoust asked about Troutdale TSP projects and adding them to the RTP project list. Councilor Barton Mullins also inquired about Fairview projects with the Fairview TSP not yet completed. Joanna responded that staff is aware of extensions issued for the Fairview TSP update and staff has been working to identify projects in the city. Mayor Daoust raised some concerns about ensuring that Troutdale projects have been included and FC allocation going to a large amount of Gresham projects. Katherine responded that she doesn't see this as a finite list and the RTP update will revisit the Financially Constrained list. Joanna added that all EMCTC staff has been working on ensuring that needs are identified and have been added in the RTP list.

Commissioner McKeel asked if action needed to be taken today or if it could be delayed to the April meeting so folks could have a chance to talk to their staff about the project list. Councilor Barton Mullins commented that she would like to talk to her staff. Grace responded that without endorsement, the public comment draft wouldn't include the Gresham projects and there would be the \$106M gap that would remain. She responded that Metro would like the list as representative as possible when it goes out for public comment period. Katherine commented that it seems that it would be good to move forward with endorsing the addition and spending the full allocation. Grace added that it would be better to have the project list fully represented, with opportunity for refinement through the public comment period. Mayor Daoust asked about adding new projects. Grace responded that Metro would like to have the project list as complete as possible versus having \$106M worth of projects added as part of the public comment period. Endorsement would be needed before March 21st.

Susie asked if there would be additional revenue anticipated for the Financially Constrained list as part of the future update in order to add more projects that come out of future planning and TSP efforts. Susie asked if as part of being able to take action today, if EMCTC members could commit to recognizing the need to revisit the list as planning efforts and TSP updates are completed, especially as part of the future RTP update, recognizing that projects may be pulled from the Financially Constrained list in order to make room for other projects yet to be identified. Councilor Craddick noted that there is an RTP amendment process as well to revise project lists. Phil added that this is an interim update and placeholders were identified in the RTP list to recognize planning efforts. He added that it is important that folks agree and recognize that if a placeholder isn't identified that folks are committed to revising the FC RTP list in order to look at priorities that have since developed since the last RTP list. Mayor Daoust asked if there are any new Troutdale projects, what would be the process for adding these projects. Grace responded that any refinements could be reviewed at the April EMCTC meeting and an EMCTC letter identifying any project list refinements could be endorsed and a comment letter from EMCTC submitted as part of the RTP public comment period. This would add more time and not hold up the public comment period. Commissioner McKeel asked about the weight the comments have on refining the RTP list. Grace responded that the comments will be considered and will have equal weight. Comments will be reviewed with jurisdictions. The public comment period ends on May 5th. Councilor Tosterud asked about the process of removing projects. Grace responded that this would happen through the EMCTC comment letter as well similar to adding projects.

Commissioner McKeel suggested that if any jurisdictions have refinements for the RTP list that they send them to Joanna to be included for review at the April 7th EMCTC meeting. Joanna added that this will be discussed at the EMCTC TAC meeting as well. Greg added that the RTP lists seem to already reflect projects and needs, and he doesn't anticipate any big surprises at the April meeting for additions/deletions of projects.

Commissioner McKeel asked for a motion to endorse the addition of the Gresham projects. Councilor Hinton made a motion to add the Gresham project to fill the remaining EMCP placeholder. Councilor Clark seconded the motion. Commissioner McKeel asked for discussion to the motion. Susie added as an amendment that projects that come out of the public comment process for the RTP be considered and that EMCTC commit to a re-review of the RTP project list as part of the upcoming larger RTP update in order to consider new projects that come out of planning and TSP processes and look at priorities for the FC RTP list for East County. The amendment was accepted. There was no further discussion to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

April from Portland introduced herself to EMCTC. Commissioner McKeel thanked her for coming and emphasized the importance of coordinating with Portland on projects. April added that she is one of the planners that works on East Portland projects, including the Powell Division project. Councilor Craddick asked that the Powell-Division project be added as a standing item for the EMCTC agendas to provide updates. The next Steering Committee for the project is scheduled for Monday, March 17th. Councilor Craddick provided some background on the project. A link on how to get involved will be sent out.

April added that the City of Portland is working on sidewalk infill on division and is working with ODOT on the Outer Powell plan.

Susie added the Port is engaging partners in a study of transportation system relationship to the economy in anticipation of the 2015 legislation. This includes an update to the cost of congestion study. The Port is looking for partners for this effort.

Katherine shared the news of her latest adoption of a 10 month old and 12 month old from Ethiopia. EMCTC congratulated her.

Steve Kautz shared the annual report and at a glance handouts.

The loss of Mayor Thalhoffer was recognized by committee members.

Joanna tallied up the votes and announced that the 2014 Chair will be Commissioner McKeel and the Vice Chari will be Susie.

Commissioner McKeel closed by mentioning to new EMCTC members that staff is available to answer any questions about EMCTC and to contact Joanna if they have any questions.

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.