

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 6/10/13

Members

Diane McKeel
Lisa Barton Mullins
Doug Daoust
Tim Clark
Susie Lahsene

Representing

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

EMCTC Staff

Craig Ward
Katherine Kelly
Sean Files
Karen Schilling
Rachel Ferdaszewski
Joanna Valencia
John Mermin
Mark Gunter
Phil Healy
Rich Watanabe

Representing

City of Troutdale
City of Gresham
Multnomah County
Multnomah County
Multnomah County
Multnomah County
Metro
City of Wood Village
Port of Portland
ODOT

Guests

Shirley Craddick	Metro
Beth Cohen	Metro
Rich Allen	City of Troutdale
Greg Olson	Chair of Gresham Subcommittee on Transportation and Multnomah County Bike/Ped Committee
Brian Monberg	Metro
Tammy Hawkins	Division Midway Alliance
Matt Freitag	ODOT

Welcome and Chair's Comments

EMCTC Chair, Commissioner Diane McKeel called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM with introductions. A quorum was present.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Review and Approval of April 1, 2013 and May 6, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the April 1 and May 6, 2013 meeting were emailed to the group prior to the meeting and also available at the meeting. Approval of the minutes was postponed to this month's meeting due to a lack of quorum at the May meeting. The committee reviewed the minutes. Councilor Clark made a motion to approve the minutes. Mayor Daoust seconded the motion. There was no discussion to the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

ODOT Projects Overview

Rich Watanabe and Matt Freitag from ODOT went over projects that would affect East County. They handed out a folder containing information for the projects. Rich noted that there are a number of projects that they are working on, including 35 active projects statewide. Rich went over the I-84 paving project. The last paving occurred about 10 years ago. This project includes traffic changes at the I-84 west/I-5 merge area that includes restriping to make two lanes dedicated to the southbound movement.

Tammy asked about the stats used to support the change. Rich responded that traffic counts and accident data were looked at. Councilor Craddick asked about the southbound movement and the Morrison Bridge exit and if folks will be able to continue on I-5. Rich responded that no changes will be made to this location and those movements will remain the same. He went over the closure dates for the project. Councilor Mullins asked if the closures would be 24-hours. Rich responded that they would be 24 hours in order for the contractor to expedite the work and limit closure. Mayor Daoust asked where the closure would occur heading west bound. Rich responded that traffic would be cutoff at the I-205 split with traffic being limited from going westbound.

Matt went over the I-84 eastbound project that would make improvements to the ramp for traffic travelling to I-205 northbound. This project will create an exit only lane for northbound traffic. Commissioner McKeel inquired about the timeline. Matt responded that this will be completed this year. Mayor Daoust asked about the large pipes. Matt responded that these are components of the retaining wall.

Matt went over the I-5 and Airport Way interchange project. This is a joint project between ODOT and the Port of Portland. Construction started in February and includes new westbound Airport Way ramps to carry westbound traffic onto I-205. Bike/Ped facilities will also be improved. The next project includes rapid flashing beacons at three crossings on Powell Blvd between 111th and 176th to improve pedestrian safety. Sidewalk ramps and signals will be upgraded to ADA standards. Tammy asked about placement of sidewalks. Matt responded that there are funding issues to deal with acquiring right-of-way and providing storm water facilities. Katherine added that the City of Portland Outer Powell Plan has plans for sidewalk. Rich added that this project doesn't preclude that project from happening. Tammy asked about separated bike lanes and if a barrier will be constructed to separate the bike lane. Matt responded that it will just be a delineated bike lane. Katherine inquired about the addition of rumble strips to separate the bike lane. Matt responded that different options are being explored to address the concern of vehicles going into the bike lane, including the option of profile striping. Upgrades to signals will also be made, in addition to shoulders being widened.

Rich went over the Troutdale Interchange project that is part of the Jobs and Transportation ACT (JTA). This is the third set of improvements to the interchange. The main part of the project involves the widening of Marine Drive between the two frontage roads to allow for two-way traffic, so vehicles exiting I-84 eastbound can turn directly on to northbound Marine Drive instead of travelling all the way around on the frontage roads. Mayor Daoust inquired about the process of lifting the bridges. Councilor Craddick asked about the couplet. Rich responded that there are no changes proposed for that area.

Rich went over the Sandy River bridge project showing photos of the work completed so far. He went over the bike/ped path that was constructed under I-84 to get pedestrians and bicyclists off of Jordan Road. The contractor is currently working on the westbound bridge. Phil inquired about the bench trail on the Westside of the river. Rich responded that funding has been received for connecting the trail on the Westside.

Rich then covered the Gorge Trail. He reminded folks that Kristen presented this project at a past EMCTC meeting. He went over the highlights, and noted that folks are already using the trail even though paving has just been completed. He went over photos of the trail and work completed.

East Metro Connections Plan Progress Report

Brian Monberg from Metro gave an update of the progress so far since approval of the East Metro Connections Plan (EMCP) on June 2012. He started by giving a brief overview of the project. Copies of the EMCP were

distributed. Brian also distributed a document highlighting the progress so far. Brian noted that this is a long range plan and work has started implementing the EMCP. Greg Olson, a member of the EMCP steering committee, emphasized the importance of referencing and promoting the plan, and to let citizen's know and continue to inform the community. Commissioner McKeel agreed, noting that this was a long term project and this gives us a focused way to look at projects moving forward.

Brian went over the progress so far. Policy elements have occurred including the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) amendment and Transportation System Plan (TSP) updates. Programming and funding for projects have also been occurring, including funding being sought for state and regional funds. Brian went over the projects featured in the handout. Brian updated the group on the funding received to start doing some refinement work and public engagement in summer/fall 2013 to help move 238th to engineering/design. The funding will also look at 242nd/Hogan area. Metro is currently working on the scoping for the funds. Other capacity projects include the Southeast Gateway area where Gresham has secured funding. A planning phase for the Regional East-West transit link is also set to kick-off this summer. This effort will parallel the Eastside Service Enhancement Plan effort that TriMet will be working on in 2013. Economic development work has also been occurring to highlight the Gresham Vista area.

Brian concluded his presentation and asked if the format/framework of the presentation is helpful moving forward. Susie commented that using pages 6 and 7 of the EMCP would be helpful to identify what has or hasn't been funded. She feels that keeping this project list updated would be helpful to help identify what is being built versus just policy items. She would like to see an easy way to track what is being built.

Councilor Allen raised safety concerns with 238th with the three lanes versus the four lanes. Brian referenced the concept design that was agreed to as part of the EMCP, and added that there will be a process to take a look at refinements of this design and conduct public engagement on the designs to address any concerns. He added that there was a lot of discussion on this project as part of the EMCP, noting the constraints and opportunities for the project and the need to find the right balance. Councilor Craddick asked about the funding being sought so far for the NE 238th priority project and the timelines, and the opportunity to look at addressing the safety issue. Joanna responded that the EMCP process identified the three lanes and the existing East County transportation system as key elements of the north-south connection. Councilor Allen added that he and other Troutdale councilors are concerned about the safety aspect. Joanna added that safety components will be looked at as part of design. Councilor Craddick clarified that in regards to capacity, the EMCP demonstrated that three lanes is appropriate for capacity, and it is unlikely that the project would be widened to add another lane. The same outcome of safety and mobility could be addressed without adding another lane could be explored as part of the design/engineering. Councilor Allen responded that from his observations he has concerns that without adding another lane safety and mobility will remain a concern.

Mayor Daoust agreed with Susie's comments and asked about the project list and how the different phases, priorities and packages were prioritized and how specific projects rose to the top over other projects. Brian responded that he can put a tool together to track the projects. Commissioner McKeel added that the projects were discussed as part of the EMCP and that NE 238th was the priority project. Brian added that there is also a balance of identifying the right projects for the right funding as funding becomes available. In addition, looking at opportunities for leveraging is also important. Councilor Allen requested that if data/information is available that demonstrates how 238th can be safe, he would like to see that information and requests that Councilor Clark be present at that meeting as well.

Councilor Craddick asked about TIGER grants and the opportunity to apply for these grants. She asked if there was any way to set the stage to be able to move projects forward. Karen agreed that this would be a great idea, but part of the struggle is with the timing, securing the required funding match and getting the projects designed and "shovel ready." Councilor Craddick asked if there was a way to focus on planning projects initially so that they can be ready. Katherine added that getting to design is a struggle. She noted that there are opportunities such as the PSU MURP program to bring students on board to start the planning efforts. Tammy added that

there are many professionals coming out of school that are looking for internships to become licensed and if there's a way to provide opportunities to get work done she would encourage exploring those options. Phil added that with the TIGER grants there is also the need to conduct a cost-benefit analysis. Susie agreed with Councilor Craddick's comments on the need for getting projects "shovel ready" and developing strategies for funding projects with not only just TIGER but other funding opportunities.

Brian thanked the group and added that he will work on a tool to track progress. Commissioner McKeel thanked Brian and noted that it is exciting to see the EMCP moving forward.

JPACT Agenda

John Mermin went over the agenda. A report on how money is being spent on transit will be given. John handed out a fact sheet on the Regional Active Transportation Plan and gave an overview of the project. The plan is being presented region wide and there have been requests received to be able to spend some more time to review the plan. He noted that this planning effort is being funded as a TGM grant, so there is a need to get at least a draft completed by the end of June. Metro is exploring next steps for the project after the completion of the TGM grant. John went over the amendment to the Air Quality Maintenance Plan. A substitute is being proposed to be able to meet air quality requirements.

Councilor Craddick asked for clarification on the relationship of the air quality requirements with the federal dollars received. John responded that the transportation control measures need to be met in order to be able to receive and spend Federal transportation dollars.

MTIP (Regional Flex Funds and REOF) Process

Joanna distributed a proposed schedule for the MTIP EMCTC process. She indicated that the process is similar to the last Regional Flex Funds process. Joanna went over the proposed projects. The schedule was put together to tie-in with the existing EMCTC meeting schedule with a change to the July 29th meeting. The July 29th meeting will include an Open House and Public Meeting that will be held after the regular EMCTC meeting.

The TAC has been working on reviewing the projects and criteria. Joanna distributed a draft score sheet compiling scores from all TAC members of the two proposed Regional Flex Funds projects on Sandy and Hogan. This represents a draft recommendation from the TAC and scores the Sandy Blvd project over the Hogan project for funding.

The process will conclude with EMCTC voting on a 100% list at their September meeting. The 100% list will be forwarded to Metro for consideration.

Other Business

There was no other business. Commissioner McKeel noted that there will be two meetings in July due to changes in the JPACT schedule. As a result, there will be no meetings in August.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.