

East Multnomah County Transportation Committee

City of Fairview

City of Gresham

City of Troutdale

City of Wood Village

Multnomah County

Port of Portland

Meeting Notes

Monday July 15, 2019, 3:00pm-5:00pm

Gresham City Hall, 1333 Northwest Eastman Parkway, Room 2A/2B

Members

Lori Stegmann
Karylenn Echols
Tom Bouillion
Nolan Young
Jamie Kranz

Representing

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

EMCTC Staff

Nolan Young
Katherine Kelly
Chris Damgen
John Niiyama
Nathan Clark
Joanna Valencia
Jessica Berry
MaryJo Andersen
Jamie Snook
Eve Nilenders

Representing

City of Fairview
City of Gresham
City of Troutdale
City of Wood Village
Multnomah County
Multnomah County
Multnomah County
Multnomah County
Metro
TriMet

Guests

Shirley Craddick
Valerie Egon
Charlene McGee
Andrew Campbell

Representing

Metro
ODOT
Multnomah County
Multnomah County

1. Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Stegmann called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. Opportunity for Public Comment

3. Review and Adoption of May 2019 Meeting Minutes - All

Action Item

- Motion: Approve minutes:
- Moved by Councilor Echols, Second Nolan Young. Approved.

4. Columbia Gorge Express – Valerie Egon, ODOT

Information/Discussion

Valerie provided some background the history of the Columbia Gorge Express, including when it started and why. She noted that congestion in the Columbia Gorge continues to worsen and that there is a group of policymakers looking into additional ways to deal with congestion. The Columbia Gorge Express is one of methods being used to reduce congestion currently. Columbia Gorge Express has grown steadily over the three years that it has been in service. In 2016 and 2017 – CGE was serving Multnomah Falls from Gateway Transit Center and Rooster Rock, Friday - Sunday. In 2018 and 2019 The CGE serves Cascade Locks and Hood River and operates 7 days per week. The total boardings in 2018 was 87,829 and the majority of riders are from out of state (73% in 2018). ODOT is having conversations about how to continue the Columbia Gorge Express long term. This may include applying for another Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant in addition to working with other transit agencies. Councilor Craddick asked about the fare. Valerie noted that it is \$5 to ride it from Gateway (includes return trip). There is not a fare from Rooster Rock, however users do pay a \$5 parking fee. Nolan Young noted that Fairview is interested in building a park and ride lot near the freeway and this would be a good location for a stop. Valerie noted that Hood River is also looking into a park and ride lot that could be served by the Columbia Gorge Express. Chris Damgen asked who provides the service. Valerie noted it is provided through a contractor (MTR Western). Chris also asked if there has been any additional discussion about providing a smaller “express bus” service and traveling on the old historic highway by the Vista House and the Womens’ Forum. Valerie said that she’ll look into but that it hasn’t been an active discussion lately. Councilor Echols asked if they’re ADA accessible and if they have variable fares for types of riders (income level, age). Valerie replied that they do have ADA compliant vehicles, and they do not currently offer variable fares. Councilor Kranz suggested that the buses have wifi in the future. Councilor Craddick asked if the Commissioner’s work on the Gorge forum is aligned with the work of the Columbia Gorge Express. Commissioner Stegmann said yes, there is alignment. The committee’s official responsibility to develop and recommend improvements has been completed. However the group has committed to working together into the future because there is trust among the agencies and they want to make coordinated decisions.

5. Value of Jobs Economic Report: East Multnomah County – John Topogna, EcoNorthwest

Information/Discussion

John Topogna introduced himself and noted that once a year the Portland Business Alliance does an update on the Economic condition of the Portland metro area. This year’s edition had a special focus on east Multnomah county. It was inspired by some analyses that showed disparities between inner Portland and East Multnomah County. In this case, East County included anything east of I-205 and included Gresham, Fairview, Troutdale, and Wood Village. Some statistics include:

1. Population is 312,025
2. 26% non-white, non-hispanic
3. 99,200 jobs
4. 20% of households living in poverty
5. 61% of renter households spend more than 30% on income
6. Only Retail Trade jobs in east Multnomah County pays higher than the annual average wages compared to the rest of the region, all other jobs pay similar or less than the rest of the region

7. 69% of residents in east County leave for work. 67% of east County workers are coming from outside east Multnomah County
Discussion ensued.

6. JPACT Updates– Councilor Shirley Craddick and Jamie Snook, Metro

Information/Discussion

Councilor Craddick drew the committee's attention to two action items: She noted that the Regional Transportation Plan identified a number of important programs that Metro is now beginning to work on. The first is the Regional Mobility Policy, this is being updated –this has to do with how we measure congestion on our roads and how we decide what level of service needs to be maintained when Transportation System Plans are written and/or amended. Jamie Snook noted they're in the scoping phase to come up with measures for all modes. This update will inform the next RTP update and will influence the local agencies' transportation system plans. The second item is the regional congestion pricing technical study. This is also from the RTP. Regional congestion pricing can be used to reduce congestion and/or raise funding. It will also look at parking fees and how that can influence driver behavior.

JPACT meeting materials: <https://oregonmetro.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

7. Agency Updates

- a. ODOT Update - none
- b. TriMet Update - TriMet will be having service disruption on all MAX lines from Sunday August 4th through Saturday August 17th due to track improvements in the Lloyd District. <https://trimet.org/alerts/lloyd/>. Eve also noted that TriMet is initiating a regionwide pedestrian plan. They'll be forming a stakeholder advisory committee soon.
- c. Port of Portland – Tom noted that Emerald is setting up the PDX tour for September. He also noted that the 40 mile loop trail plans are nearing 60% and should go to construction next summer. Things are moving along. He noted that this is another option for employees at Fed Ex and Amazon to get to work. He also noted that Subaru at Gresham Vista phase II is seeking permits to add another 236k square feet.
- d. Fairview – Nolan noted that they've received 30% design plans for the bike/ped under the railroad on 223rd. The cost estimate is under \$500k, which is promising.
- e. Gresham – Katherine Kelly noted that staff is working with TriMet to engage the community about design options at the Triangle. It will be an interactive activity at the Transit Center on Saturday. Councilor Echols also noted that the T2020 Task Force is meeting monthly now and there are Local Investment Teams that are meeting to talk about projects on the corridors.
- f. Troutdale – Councilor Kranz noted that summerfest is Saturday in Troutdale. Gresham is doing their festival on both Friday and Saturday. Chris Damgen noted that they're working on hiring a landscape architect to develop 30% design plans for the Sandy River Access (area behind the mall). The City has been taking steps to determine what is publicly owned. He can bring an item in October.
- g. Wood Village – John noted Friday July 19th is the Wood Village night out. They have also started the recruitment process to hire a new City Manager – hopefully by November. 238th and Halsey (site of former city hall) is under new ownership and the owners are seeking demolition permit. Ultimately it will be a new apartments and mixed use.
- h. Multnomah County – MaryJo noted they're wrapping up reporting on the prior Safe Routes to School Grant. She noted that County has received funding for 3 more years of part time safe routes to School funding. County is still waiting to hear from ODOT on the other grant.

8. Other Business – none.

Next Meeting is August 12th.