

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 February 11, 2013

Members

Diane McKeel
Lisa Barton Mullins
Rich Allen
Tim Clark

Representing

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

EMCTC Staff

Tara Bowen Biggs
Katherine Kelly
Karen Schilling
Allan Berry
Joanna Valencia
Kate McQuillan
John Mermin
Mark Gunter
Phil Healy

Representing

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

Guests

Shirley Craddick	Metro
Greg Olson	Chair of Gresham Subcommittee on Transportation and Multnomah County Bike/Ped Committee
Steve Entenman	EMEA
Dave Eatwell	West Columbia Gorge Consortium
Allison Hart	Gresham Chamber of Commerce
Brian Monberg	Metro
Kelly Betteridge	TriMet

Welcome and Chair's Comments

EMCTC Chair, Commissioner McKeel called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM with introductions. A quorum was present. Commissioner McKeel acknowledged and thanked the voting jurisdictions for sending in the names of their representatives and alternates.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Review and Approval of January 7, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the January 7, 2013 meeting were emailed to the group prior to the meeting and also available at the meeting. The committee reviewed the minutes. Councilor Barton Mullins made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Clark seconded the motion. There was no discussion to the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Election of EMCTC Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioner McKeel asked for nominations for EMCTC Chair. Councilor Barton Mullins nominated Commissioner McKeel for the position. Councilor Allen seconded the motion. There was no other discussion to the motion. The motion passed unanimously electing Commissioner McKeel as Chair of EMCTC.

Commissioner McKeel asked for nominations for EMCTC Vice Chair. Councilor Allen nominated Susie Lahsene from the Port. He noted that Susie was not present to either accept or decline the nomination. Commissioner McKeel asked Phil, the Port's alternate, if he felt that there would be any opposition from Susie. Phil responded he didn't think that there would be any opposition from Susie. Councilor Barton Mullins seconded the motion. There was no further discussion to the motion. The motion approved unanimously electing Susie Lahsene from the Port of Portland as Vice Chair of EMCTC.

Regional Travel Options Grant

Joanna passed out information on the Regional Travel Options (RTO) grant and went over the process. She mentioned that Dave and Katherine would be going over the proposals. Joanna went over the available funding noting that as part of sub-regional funding identified, \$57,770 has been allocated to East County for EMCTC to allocate and direct to prioritized projects. With the sub-regional allocations, approximately \$1.47M is left for a competitive process for applicant's to compete for. Applications for the grant are due February 22nd. Applications received that are located in East County will be distributed to EMCTC for review and prioritization during EMCTC's March and April meetings as needed. The prioritized project would then be forwarded to Metro by April 5th with a final list of funded projects expected to be announced on April 10th. Joanna quickly went over the goals of the RTO that should be considered as EMCTC reviews and prioritizes projects. She mentioned that there has been two possible projects identified one from the Gresham Chamber and one from the West Columbia Gorge Consortium. Representatives for both projects were present to give an overview on their projects. Joanna stated that this would be an opportunity for EMCTC to hear about the projects and offer feedback as they prepare to submit their projects to Metro. EMCTC will then review and prioritize received projects during their March and April meetings.

Phil asked if there was a required match. Joanna responded that the required match is the standard 10.27%.

Katherine started the conversation off by clarifying that the Gresham Chamber proposal is being proposed by the Chamber and they are the main project sponsors and applicant. Katherine clarified that Gresham's role includes limited resources including providing in-kind staff support. With this clarified, Allison Hart from the Gresham Chamber went over the proposed Gresham Chamber project. Allison started off by stating that the Gresham Chamber is currently a recipient of an RTO Grant for managing the Gresham Transportation Management Association (TMA) for the Gresham area for the last three years. In looking at the grant criteria, the Chamber decided to not apply for continuation of the TMA, but instead decided to focus their application on a project specific to looking at bicycle tourism and the aim to align with the findings of the East Metro Connections Plan (EMCP). Allison mentioned that the project is targeted to serve the whole region including thing East County cities and also all the way out to Cascade Locks. This builds on the investments made to bike infrastructure in the region. They are going for funding from the Visitor's Development fund that is yet to be decided on. She anticipates that the project will be run in two phases, with the first phase being the bike tourism planning phase, and the second phase being the implementation. She mentioned that there is a lot of components of the projects already in the works currently and believe that they can pull together all the resources to make the project successful. Katherine reiterated that the project is designed to be phased noting that if different funding sources weren't secured; the project could be segmented based on the funding that is secured.

Councilor Barton Mullins asked for clarification on inclusion of the other East County cities other than Gresham. Katherine responded that this has been brought to the TAC and discussed briefly at EMCTC over the past few months. Concerns raised at the staff level include limited resources. Katherine noted that Gresham's

contribution is in the form of in-kind staff, which is consistent to their participation to other RTO efforts in the past. Allison noted that she has also been discussing this project with other regional committees.

Dave Eatwell was then asked to speak about his project. Dave handed out a description and budget for the proposed project. The project aims to provide a variety of transportation-related services to the cities of Troutdale, Fairview and Wood Village with a focus on serving the CCRD. Program elements include an employer transportation service, alternative commuting modes, live near work program, way finding components, bike racks, and location transit planning and information. They are aiming to improve the efficiency of the services provided by profit and non-profit groups. He noted that there currently is not a TMA serving the proposed project area. Dave went over the details of the different elements of the project.

Councilor Barton Mullins asked about the cost of the proposed project to the other municipalities. Dave responded that there is \$7000 request from Fairview, which he envisioned to possibly be in the form of staff time.

Councilor Craddick commented that it seemed as though the proposal were similar, and with the funding being competitive and down asked about efficient use of funds. She asked about the possibility of including all the East County cities in one proposal. Councilor Barton Mullins supported the idea of combing the proposals and including all cities. Mr. Eatwell responded that the project includes all the cities, but noted that Gresham already has a TMA. Councilor Allen stated his support of exploring combining the projects for a regional program. Commissioner McKeel also supported the idea and encouraged that the project sponsors work together.

Dave Eatwell responded to the comments indicating that this is something that can be explored, especially since the Consortium has just reformatted their structure to allow them to work across municipalities. Allison added that a regional chamber sort of approach could be explored to see how it may benefit the whole area.

Commissioner McKeel expressed her concern about the identified matching allocation with the Visitor's Development Fund (VDF) noting that allocations haven't been made. Allison acknowledged that the VDF funds weren't secured yet, and that the grant request will be revised to note this and that it is anticipated that the grant request will include an option for the VDF not being secured. Allan asked if this is consistent with what the TAC has reviewed. Katherine responded that the proposal has included the VDF as a potential source.

Councilor Craddick inquired about how bike tourism would work with the cities and how the work would get done. Katherine responded that with Gresham it would be in the form of in-kind services. Allan added that concerns about resources and staffing and involvement of the smaller cities were discussed at the TAC level. Allison responded that the project would engage all stakeholders at all levels. Councilor Craddick added that the school district should also be included. Allison and Dave both agreed that the school district should be engaged.

Greg Olson commented that as a member of the Bike and Pedestrian CAC, he is familiar with bike tourism efforts, and has been involved in projects such as the way finding sign project with Gresham and noted the importance of mapping and identifying the appropriate locations.

Councilor Allen asked Allison and Dave if there was interest to explore combining the projects and working together. Councilor Craddick further asked if it was possible to reframe the projects and make it more inclusive. Dave indicated that this may be possible. Allison responded that this is something that could be discussed, but noted that she also needed to explore impacts to the Chamber's fiscal responsibilities. Councilor asked about how to best facilitate the conversation. Dave and Allison responded that they would work together and address the questions raised by EMCTC about combing the projects.

Katherine added that the RTO structure would also need to be considered, including the direction and challenge to identify specific projects to fund. Commissioner McKeel noted that the discussion and committee is encouraging a collaborative effort. Councilor Clark clarified that the committee was encouraging the project

sponsors to work together. Allison acknowledge the comments, and noted challenges including identifying the lead organization and the challenge of finding a vision, and also the challenge of the tight time frame before them. She added that she will be working with Dave to explore what makes sense to move forward. Councilor Clark added that he would like both proposals to ensure being inclusive. Councilor Barton Mullins acknowledged that there are some differences between the proposals that also need to be considered. Phil added that future conversations will need to look at the competitiveness of the project.

JPACT Agenda

John Mermin of Metro reviewed the upcoming JPACT agenda. The agenda included a resolution on the Region's position on the Federal Transportation Policy in preparation of the annual trip to Washington DC. The other resolution included designating the administrator of the Region's Special Needs Transit. Updates were provided for the CRC project, the MTIP schedule, and STIP process. Councilor Craddick encouraged folks who had the resources to consider joining the Washington DC trip.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update

Joanna gave some information and background on the RTP Amendment process. As part of implementing the East Metro Connections Plan, an amendment is being submitted to add the NE 238th project to the financially constrained list of the RTP. Gresham and Multnomah County, as project sponsors of other RTP projects worked together to identify two projects to remove in order to be able to swap out projects with similar costs of the NE 238th project. The estimated cost of the NE 238th project is \$9 Million. Proposed projects to be removed are the East Buttes Loop Trail Gresham Project and the Beaver Creek Trail Multnomah County Project. These projects were reviewed and approved for removal by staff.

In addition to the refinements to the project list, proposed policy changes include amending the RTP freight network map. In addition to amending the freight map, recognition of a proposed new trail amendment to the regional trail plan to connect the "Sandy River and Springwater Connections" Trail concept to Mt. Hood Community College, Springwater District, and Springwater Corridor Trail is proposed to be included as a policy change. Future master planning would identify the route and design.

Brian Monberg updated the group on the TRB grant. They are still waiting to hear about the grant award. It is envisioned that the grant will help continue discussion to raise issues and concerns and follow-up with the EMCP.

Karen added that the amendment process includes a public process. Councilor Allen added that he was concerned about the North bound downhill land, with two lanes going down to one lane and safety concerns related to this.

STIP Update

Joanna gave a quick update on the STIP. The next project selection committee meeting is scheduled for the afternoon of February 26th. She informed the group that the 150% lists would be posted online soon.

Regional Flex Funds Update and Process

Joanna updated the group on both the MTIP Regional Flex Funds and Regional Economic Opportunity Fund (REOF). The applications for both funding pots are due on March 15th. She reminded the group that Gresham would be submitting their Sandy Blvd project for the Regional Flex Funds. The Port will be submitting for the 257th Troutdale Interchange Project and the County will be submitting the NE 238th project of engineering and design.

Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.