

East Multnomah County Transportation Committee

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

Meeting Minutes January 7, 2013

Members

Diane McKeel
Lisa Barton Mullins
Tim Clark
Susie Lashene

Representing

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

EMCTC Staff

Sean Files
Katherine Kelly
Joanna Valencia
John Mermin
Mark Gunter
Phil Healy
Rich Watanabe

Representing

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

Guests

Shirley Craddick
Rich Allen
Eric Chambers
Greg Olson

Metro
City of Troutdale
City of Gresham
Chair of Gresham Subcommittee on Transportation and
Multnomah County Bike/Ped Committee
Metro
ODOT

Grace Cho
Kristen Stallman

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 reminded folks to get Joanna the names of their EMCTC representative and alternate for the coming year, so elections of the Chair and Vice Chair can occur at the February meeting. She also reminded folks that alternates need to be elected officials and not staff. John Mermin introduced new Metro planner Grace Cho.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Review and Approval of December 10, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the December 10, 2012 meeting were emailed to the group prior to the meeting and also available at the meeting. The committee reviewed the minutes. Councilor Barton Mullins noted that there were some grammatical and spelling errors, but the content was fine. Councilor Barton Mullins made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Clark seconded the motion. Joanna will work with Councilor Barton Mullins to correct the errors. There was no further discussion to the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

ODOT Trail Presentation

Kristen Stallman, the ODOT National Scenic Area Coordinator for ODOT updated the committee on the projects that were happening out at the Gorge. Commissioner McKeel recognized Kristen as a great partner for the Gorge and East County. Kristen acknowledged EMCTC's past support of grant applications. Kristen went over the history of the historic highway and the process of restoring old portions of the highway into a trail. The John B. Yeon Trail is expected to open next summer that will provide a multimodal facility from Troutdale to Cascade Locks. Other projects include restoring view points, replacement of the iconic white guardrail, and the new Sandy River Bridge on I-84. The bridge includes a multimodal trail and connections as you get off the bridge to the 40-mile loop. Kristen also went over projects at Mosier, Troutdale and The Dalles. Kristen also went over a bike tourism effort for the Gorge, including improved mapping, a way finding plan and other opportunities for unlocking the possibilities of the Gorge. Kristen showed a quick video developed for the Gorge.

Councilor Allen asked about bike camping. Kristen responded that she is working with ODOT state parks on bike camping in areas throughout the Gorge. Greg Olson added that there is a demand for biking and camping. Commissioner McKeel thanked Kristen for her presentation and the work out at the Gorge. She added that bike tourism is being explored as part of the East County Visitor Development Fund as well and making the connection to the Gorge.

JPACT Agenda

John Mermin of Metro reviewed the upcoming JPACT agenda. Three items are informational and one item is an action item. The action item identifies State and Federal legislative priorities for the Region. The next agenda item discusses the STIP and gives an update on the process. The last item deals with air quality conformity and transportation control measures to meet air quality standards for projects. The EPA and DEQ are looking at the measures and the need to revisit due to transit cuts and the downturn in the economy.

Commissioner McKeel asked for comments on the action item on the legislative priorities and if EMCTC is ok with what is being proposed. Councilor Allen asked about providing bike lockers throughout the region. John responded that the region is exploring providing facilities near businesses. There were no other comments or questions. The committee was fine with moving forward the priorities as identified for the JPACT action item.

Regional Travel Options Grant Opportunity and Update

Katherine went over the background of the program and changes to the funding allocation. She added that what is being proposed moves away from a Transportation Management Association (TMA) approach. She has been working with the Gresham Chamber to develop a bike tourism studio concept for East County. This concept would be similar to what has occurred in Clackamas County. This would take a look at bike facilities and plans and how to market bike tourism in East County. Katherine is currently working with the Gresham Chamber to develop the RTO application and they will be asking EMCTC to support the application.

Commissioner McKeel asked for clarification on what a bike tourism studio is. Katherine responded that she will provide additional information at the next meeting, but it involves a series of meetings to explore bike tourism and how to market bike tourism in East County. Commissioner McKeel clarified that the \$58,000 would support this effort and not fund the existing TMA. The funding would be used to explore the bike tourism studio and support staff and logistics. Susie asked if there has been background work that has occurred identifying that this bike tourism concept meets the objectives of the RTO program, and whether or not other options has been explored including improving access to jobs. Katherine responded that this project was thought to be a strong tool for East County especially with the work that has been done so far in East County, and also takes advantage of the opportunity to improve access to the Gorge and Mt. Hood. Sean went over a description of the Clackamas County bike tourism project provide on the County's webpage to help clarify the purpose of the program. Katherine will come back at the next meeting to provide additional information. Councilor Allen asked about the possibility of expanding this effort to Troutdale. Katherine responded that it is envisioned that all jurisdictions would work together on this project.

STIP Update

Joanna updated the group on the STIP process. She gave an overview on the submitted STIP applications and reminded the committee of the priorities identified for East County. She went over the make-up of the STIP selection committee and the process of identifying the 150% list. She went over the guiding criteria, but noted that there are no specific priorities. The 150% list is due January 25th, and the committee will meet in February to finalize the list. Joanna asked if there are any guiding principles that EMCTC would offer for committee members sitting on the STIP committee to consider.

Susie commented that it would be good for committee members on the STIP committee get together and coordinate project priorities. Commissioner McKeel agreed that this would be a good idea. Rich added that the committee will need to consider projects regionally as well. Katherine added that Gresham is working on their priorities. Commissioner McKeel noted that it has helped that EMCTC has identified priorities as part of this process. Commissioner McKeel also added that it would be good to outreach to other STIP committee members. Staff will coordinate getting together to develop the lists with committee members.

Other Business

Phil informed the group that he is currently working on the Port's Transportation Improvement Plan and passed out a handout. A hearing is scheduled for Wednesday. The comment period ends on January 11th, but Phil will take comments until January 18th. Susie added that the plan includes some EMCP and CCRD projects. Susie encouraged folks to comment on the project list to ensure that local projects are included. Rich asked about reduction of the size of the airport. Susie responded that she isn't aware of any plans. Phil added that the plan doesn't include any reductions currently.

Joanna distributed the 2013 EMCTC meeting schedule.

Councilor McKeel informed the group of an upcoming Town Hall with Senator Merkley Thursday afternoon at Gresham City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.