

Summary Minutes
Rogue Valley MPO Public Advisory Council
October 8, 2014
Special Meeting



The following attended:

MPO Public Advisory Council

Aaron Prunty, Chairman	Eagle Point	864-9868
Brad Inman	Mass Transit	482-2807
David Chapman	Ashland	488-0152
David Lewin	Phoenix	512-0436
Ed Danehy	Senior Citizens	858-0367
Eric Heesacker	Talent	455-7138
Glen Anderson	East Medford	770-6577
Kay Harrison	Central Point	664-1066
Mark Earnest	Jacksonville	899-8080
Mike Montero	Freight	779-0771
Mike Stitt	Phoenix	535-2504
Ron Holthusen	Jacksonville	878-3019
Thad Keays	Talent	774-8273

Staff

Jonathan David	RVCOG	423-1338
Sue Casavan	RVCOG	423-1360

Others Present

Tara Weidner, ODOT; Bob Cortright and Brian Hurley, DLCD; Nick Fortey, FHWA; Mary Wooding, Mike Quilty

1. Call to Order/Introductions/Review Agenda -

Chairman Aaron Prunty called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Review/Approve Minutes -

Previous meeting minutes will be reviewed in November.

3. Public Comment -

None received.

4. Strategic Assessment

Bob Cortright and Tara Weidner gave a Power Point presentation on Strategic Assessment of Land Use and Transportation Plans and Policies. They gave an overview of state efforts and described the strategic assessment using the recently finished Corvallis report as an example. They explained that the assessment would evaluate current adopted plans for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and various other outcomes to inform future

planning efforts. They emphasized that this assessment was voluntary.

Mike Montero commented that he had seen the presentation earlier in the day and noted that this is following the direction of the legislature and the agencies produced a product that is available for the region to use. He felt the important issue will be to ask questions about the process and keep in mind that it is voluntary.

Tara Weidner gave a detailed presentation on the Regional Strategic Planning Model (RSPM). She described the various data that would be needed for inputs and how the model used the data to create the outputs in relation to Environment, Land Use, and Economy.

Glen Anderson asked if the source of the fossil fuel was considered when put into the model. Weidner assured members that the source was captured through an input known as 'wells to fuels' data.

Some members had concerns of what would happen if the existing current plans did meet the targets and Bob Cortright explained that there is no requirement at this time and the region could find out that their current plans would not reach the targets. He noted the DLCDC will be reviewing the targets next year and it could be valuable information to change the targets. He emphasized once again that this was voluntary at this time.

All members agreed that the jurisdictions in the region were very different and had unique geographies. Members asked how this would be addressed. Weidner said that the model could be divided into sections and will look at long term strategic details with the option of doing many scenario model runs.

Weidner noted that some data is baseline data but individual data for each region is also used. She added that the focus of the assessment will be light vehicles.

Ron Holthusen asked if through the Corvallis study they encountered any negative political reactions or other situations. Bob Cortright mentioned that the region initially thought the assessment might add one more obligation but found the information provided by the assessment was very useful.

Mike Quilty said that electric vehicles were becoming more affordable and available and data will need to be updated frequently with all the changes. Weidner agreed that in a changing environment they will need to keep up with the demographics with numerous updates.

Mike Stitt asked how a new generation will address the affordability issue with the current economics of people. He thought mass transit will be needed for this demographic. Weidner explained that there are things in the model and sensitivity tests could be done to see if they matter and what the region could do in response. Cortright added that Portland is looking at what this will do to the cost of living for low and low to moderate income households and the analysis can take this into consideration.

Mark Earnest acknowledged that the legislature decided 20% was their goal and he wondered if the economic impact for a struggling economy was considered. Cortright responded that the DLCDC was given the task of creating the targets and emphasized that it is voluntary at this time. He explained that the purpose of the target is not to require the assessment but what would the cost be. Weidner added that issues about adaptation and mitigation are being considered to keep at a more manageable level. Cortright indicated that Portland has found out the benefits have exceeded the costs.

Members expressed concerns about negative economic impacts to the region and the need to be balanced.

Jonathan David informed members that there is limited amount of funding for MPOs statewide and this might help the MPO to spend funding more wisely and make better economic choices. It could provide a way of looking at transportation options. Discussion pursued about emerging technologies and percentage of use for transportation options.

Brad Inman asked MPO staff what their recommendation to this committee would be and what the TAC decision earlier today was. David responded that the TAC decided to move the project forward with two dissenting votes and noted that from an MPO staff perspective having data is a good thing. Inman asked how

long the assessment would take and Cortright responded that it would be about six months.

On a motion by David Chapman and seconded by Glen Anderson the committee unanimously forwarded recommendation for approval of the Strategic Assessment to the Policy Committee.

5. MPO Planning Update –

Jonathan David said that MPO staff was working with DEQ and EPA on the Limited Maintenance Plan for the Rogue Valley and there are current discussions about which model to use.

Mike Quilty thanked members on behalf of the Policy Committee for their valuable input on the council. David agreed and also thanked members for their attendance at this special meeting.

Members expressed their thanks to the presenters for their willingness to answer all their questions.

6. Other Business –

There was no other business.

8. Public Comment -

There were no public comments.

9. Next Meeting -

The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2014, in the RVCOG conference room, at 5:30 p.m.

9. Adjournment -

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Prunty at 7:45 p.m.