



SUMMARY MINUTES

*Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee*

October 8, 2014

The following people were in attendance:

RVMPO Technical Advisory Committee

Voting Members in Attendance:

Alex Georgevitch	City of Medford
Desmond McGeough	City of Medford
Jon Sullivan	RVTD
Josh Le Bombard	DLCD
Kelli Sparkman	ODOT
Kelly Madding	Jackson County
Maria Harris	Ashland
Matt Brinkley	City of Phoenix
Matt Samitore	City of Central Point
Mike Kuntz	Jackson County
Mike Upston	Eagle Point
Paige Townsend	RVTD
Tom Humphrey	City of Central Point
Robert Miller	City of Eagle Point

Others Present:

Mike Montero, Jenna Stanke, Bob Cortwright, Nick Fortey, Mike Quilty, Bruce Sophie, Brian Hurley, Tara Weidner.

RVCOG Staff

Jonathan David, Dan Moore, Andrea Napoli, Bunny Lincoln, Sue Casavan, Dick Converse

1. Call to Order / Introductions -

Chairman Mike Kuntz called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

2. Review / Approve Minutes -

Chairman Kuntz asked committee members if there were any additions or corrections to the August meeting minutes. (NOTE: There was no meeting in September.)

Alex Georgevitch did not attend the meeting. Page #3. T. Humphrey referenced page 3 of the minutes, clarifying that there was no action on the additional match discussion.

On a motion by Tom Humphrey, seconded by Paige Townsend, the minutes were approved by unanimous voice, as amended. Kelly Madding and Alex Georgevitch abstained.

3. Public Comment

No public comment was forthcoming.

4. Strategic Assessment –

Bob Cortwright opened the Strategic Assessment presentation, explaining that it was a joint effort between ODOT and DLCDC and related to reducing greenhouse gasses around the State. Tara Weidner explained her role in the process, and working with the newest Regional Strategic Planning Model.

Mr. Cortwright explained Strategic Assessment and walked through the recently completed Corvallis Plan, the first completed Assessment. He reviewed the following items:

- Historical project background 2009-10.
- Portland's Scenario Planning
- Scenario Planning Guidelines, a broader process than strategic planning (required for Metros)
- The 20% reduction goal
- Statewide Transportation Strategy (ODOT implementation)

At this point, the MRMPO has no reduction targets or obligation to comply with same.

Strategic Assessment is a new “tool” to assess how existing, adopted plans/data can help to meet the established GHG reduction goals by 2035. RTP & Land Use Plans, as well as census information are used in the process.

The Base Case is set at 2010 for Current Conditions (the most recent data available).

The Reference Case is established at 2035.

The members discussed various aspects related to the categories upon which the Assessment is expected to provide information:

- Household travel costs
- Transportation & energy costs
- Air quality
- Mixed-Use development
- Health impacts
- Vehicle miles traveled
- Travel delay
- Fuel consumption
- Walk trips & bike miles
- Greenhouse gas emissions

Other items discussed included:

- How the Assessment could help local municipalities and agencies evaluate and update their transportation plans and make informed investment decisions
- How the Regional Strategic Planning Model (RSPM) allows for the analysis of smaller geographic areas and the understanding of future transportation trends, as well as identification of potential policy actions to successfully reach local goals. Statistics and data used include census data, Oregon travel data & surveys, national travel study trends, adopted land use & transportation plans and TAZ-level travel models.
- Assessments can usually be completed within six months.
- Funding and no-cost technical assistance are available through ODOT.

- Technical assistance (no-cost) is also provided b DLCD.

Mr. Cortwright and Ms. Weidner shared more specific details of the Corvallis Assessment (CAMPO), with Power Point slides covering:

1. State agency assistance provided
2. Key Findings and Factors on per capita greenhouse gas declines to 2035
3. Key Factors and Findings on public health improvements
4. Key Findings on reaching the target GHG reductions
5. The availability of multiple options to reach the reduction goal
6. Policy impacts by reductions in emissions, household travel costs and road congestion
7. Factors evaluated by RSPM
 - ❖ Regional Context
 - ❖ Local Actions: Community Design, Marketing & Incentives
 - ❖ Collaborative Actions: Vehicles & Fuels, Pricing

Mike Quilty brought up the subject of electric vehicles and related power generation, and Mike Kuntz asked about a margin of error factor in the Assessment process. Tara Weidner shared that these were an area of unanswered questions to date, but that some areas (fuel prices and land use densities) had been evaluated to a certain degree.

Bob Cortwright stated that participating in the Strategic Assessment did not create any regional mandate for doing further analysis or moving on to Scenario Planning. The SA creates no obligation for doing anything more. The DLCD will be updating the GHG targets next year.

Mike Upston was concerned about duplication of effort, and its impact on staff time/costs.

Mr. Cortwright spoke about how the SA process is a “tool” to help with the next update to the RTP, providing additional baseline information for future decision making and alternative measures.

Mike Kuntz pointed out the importance of recognizing the significant diversities, actual and philosophical, throughout the Rogue Valley municipalities, and the need to be judicious in not pushing those diversities all together in under common scenario.

Tara Weidner used Eugene/Springfield as an example of different districts and policies being combined into a plan that recognizes various philosophies while working toward a common goal. Members agreed that no single municipality will cede its land use planning to others.

Josh LeBombard brought up the RPS adopted plan, and that the accepted land use densities would undoubtedly remain the same for a significant period of time.

Cortwright said that existing Land Use Plans are starting point. Alex Georgevitch pointed out that Medford’s RTP does not include future growth. Non-RTP alternatives could be used for future land use. OEA population projections would be used, but discussion and review might be needed when looking at the model. It was agreed that adjustments might be needed.

Local resources were used in gathering Corvallis’ information and data. MPO Staff was mainly used to assess existing data.

The Committee discussed funding mechanisms and manpower allocations/staff time required to

provide data and complete the SA. Mike Quilty said that the Policy Committee would need a better understanding of these issues before committing to any SA participation.

The next steps in the process are: 1) A TAC recommendation to the Policy committee to proceed with the SA, 2) A Policy Committee letter to ODOT expressing support for the MPO to conduct the SA, 3) Development of an IGA with ODOT to fund local work, and 4) Begin the SA in late 2014.

Paige Townsend made a motion to recommend that the Policy Committee proceed with a Strategic Assessment for the Rogue Valley. Tom Humphrey provided the second.

Discussion:

Mike Kuntz expressed concern that not enough procedural information had been provided for continuing with the SA. Paige Townsend said that she felt comfortable with everything that had been presented, and felt a recommendation to the Policy Committee was warranted.

Alex Georgevitch said he was still unclear on the final outcome of the SA. Cortwright responded that the 2009 legislature had provided direction. There is NO mandate at this point. It is strictly a voluntary approach at this time, but GHG issue won't go away. The SA information established will allow the rogue valley

Alex Georgevitch said the potential for non-validated information made him very nervous.

Next year, DLCD will be creating targets for years beyond 2035. Jonathan David expressed concern about unfunded mandates in the future.

Alex Georgevitch stressed that he wanted to be sure that any SA output needed to be based on fully informed decisions. Kuntz spoke about an inherent margin of error in the untested model, and that he was compelled to vote against the motion. Josh LeBombard commented that the SA would have the least bearing on Jackson County, and that he felt there would be more effect on the various cities involved. Mike Quilty was concerned about the SA becoming a political document without designated future funding sources or binding obligation, and how it might be viewed others. Tom Humphrey said the SA would create a legitimate analysis/assessment, with relative scientific benefit.

Mike Upston pointed out that Strategic Assessment Vs Scenario Planning needs to be clearly defined, and that the SA is designed to be just another analytical "tool" to benefit the region.

Alex Georgevitch said he was comfortable supporting the SA, but that the document must be defined as an informational document only, and must also be expected to be refined over time.

Kuntz speculated about the merits of being the "second guinea pig" behind Corvallis.

Chairman Kuntz called for the vote. Kelly Madding and Mike Kuntz voted no. The motion passed on a majority voice vote.

Chairman Kuntz thanked Mr. Cortwright and Ms. Weidner for their time and presentation.

5. MPO Planning Update –

Jonathan David said staff is working on the Limited Maintenance Plan. Dan Moore is working with

the EPA and DEQ, with a scope of work expected next week. The 2010 model will be probably be used. Dues will be used to pay for additional costs.

6. Public Comments – None.

7. Other Business / Local Business

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.