

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Study Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: May 31, 2011 **Time:** 10:30 a.m. **Length:** 45 minutes

Presentation Title: Lake Oswego to Portland Transit Project Discussion

Department: Public & Government Affairs

Presenters: Elissa Gertler, PGA
Scot Sideras, Legal Counsel Senior

POLICY QUESTION

What considerations need to be identified as the Board of County Commissioners considers the Lake Oswego to Portland Transit Project Steering Committee's ("Committee") recommendation of the Streetcar Alternative as the recommended, preferred transit mode?

ISSUE & BACKGROUND

The Lake Oswego to Portland Transit Project (Project) was convened with the purpose of improving transit within the Lake Oswego to Portland Transit Corridor while being fiscally responsive and supporting regional and local land use goals and maximizing regional resources, economic development and garnering public support. After considering the information presented in the Lake Oswego to Portland Transit Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and public comment received from the Community Advisory Committee and public hearings, the Committee chose its Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). After identifying the choices as "No Build," "Enhanced Bus," and "Streetcar", the Committee identified the Streetcar as the LPA.

On April 19, 2011 the City of Lake Oswego resolved to support further study of the Streetcar. The City of Portland followed with its own resolution supporting further study of the Streetcar on April 20, 2011.

If the Project is to receive further study through the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) process for potential construction, it is now necessary for Clackamas County to register its response to the LPA. Completion of the FEIS process would allow the costs and benefits of the Streetcar to be fully examined, and is an essential part of qualifying for federal funding.

QUESTION(S) PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

What resource issues and policy considerations surround the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Portland to Lake Oswego Transit Project, and how might they relate to the County's evaluation of the Project?

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

To discuss the Project and the Committee's choice of the LPA, to consider the decisions made by the Cities of Lake Oswego and Portland, to weigh the amount of any resources that ought to be devoted to the Project and the timing of their commitment, and after accounting for the implications of the LPA to important policy choices, determine the terms and conditions under which the County may or may not support the Streetcar.

SCHEDULE FOR STUDY SESSION

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Elissa Gertler at either 503-742-5900 or ElisaGer@co.clackamas.or.us