

# Clackamas County Coordinating Committee (C4) Minutes

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2013

Development Service Building  
150 Beaver Creek Road – Auditorium

## Attendance

**Members:****Clackamas County:** Paul Savas (Co-chair) & John Ludlow; **Canby:** Brian Hodson & Traci Hensley (Alt.); **CPOs:** Marjorie Stewart (Firwood) & Jerry Hein (Firwood – Alt.); **Hamlets:** Susan Hansen (Molalla Prairie); **Happy Valley:** Lori DeRemer (Co-chair) & Markley Drake (Alt.); **Lake Oswego:** Jeff Gudman (Alt.); **Molalla:** Glen Boreth; **MPAC:** Wilda Parks; **Oregon City:** Betty Mumm; **Sandy:** Jeremy Pietzold; **Sanitary Districts:** William Wild & Terry Gibson (Alt.); **WestLinn:** Jody Carson; **Wilsonville:** Tim Knapp

**Staff:** Gary Schmidt (PGA); Chris Lyons (PGA); Mary Jo Cartasegna (Admin.); Diedre Landon (DTD); Barb Cartmill (DTD)

**Guests:** Commissioner Jim Bernard (Clackamas County); Commissioner Martha Schrader (Clackamas County); Jeremy Ferguson (Milwaukie); Seth Atkinson (Sandy); Tammy Stevens (Beaver Creek); Hugh Kalani (Clackamas River Water); Dick Jones (Oak Lodge Water); John Valley (Sen. Merkley); Mark Ottenad (Wilsonville); Tina Olsen; Ben Eckstein (Rep. Schrader); Jeff Weakley (God's

Remnant Church); Maureen Ludlow; Rick Cook (Stafford Hamlet); Jason Tuck (Happy Valley)

## DRAFT Minutes

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting called to order and chaired by Co-chairs Paul Savas & Lori DeRemer. Self introductions made. 13 of 23 voting members present. Quorum established.

### 2. Housekeeping

**Approval of September Minutes**

Minutes from September 2013 C4 meeting approved with one change: Gary Schmidt noted that he will reword the STIP section to better clarify the discussion.

### **Review Bylaws Change**

A change to the bylaws was proposed that would add one representative from the Port of Portland, one representative from an urban transit district, and one representative from a rural transit district as ex officio (non-voting) members of C4. In addition, Susan Hansen noted that the list of Clackamas County Hamlets should include Molalla Prairie. There was consensus among C4 members for these changes to the bylaws, which will be voted on at the next C4 meeting.

### **3. High Speed Rail Presentation/ODOT**

Jim Cox from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) gave a presentation on high speed rail. ODOT is studying ways to improve inter-city passenger rail service between the Portland-Vancouver, Washington urban area and the Eugene-Springfield urban area. The study will help decide on a general passenger rail route and evaluate options for train frequency, trip time, and improving on-time performance. ODOT has completed an evaluation of preliminary rail route alternatives and is now seeking input on which alternative should receive more detailed study in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Additional tracking will be required, but the extent of new tracking will depend on which alternative is chosen.

Jim noted that March 2016 is the deadline by when ODOT hopes to complete the entire study process, which would allow the project to be eligible for federal funding. Federal funding would be essential to undertaking this project. The blue alternative route, which generally follows the existing Amtrak Cascades route, would cost approximately \$3 billion with the state picking up approximately 20% of this cost plus maintenance.

Concern was raised regarding the high speed of the trains going through communities in Clackamas County. Additional concerns were raised regarding how intersections would be improved and who would pay for these improvements.

### **4. Countywide Transportation Funding Initiative**

Co-Chair DeRemer noted that it appeared at the last C4 meeting that C4 was not on the same page as the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). However, she added that there have been productive discussions since that time. She stated that both C4 and the BCC must be on the same page or else

this effort will not succeed. Fortunately, there is common ground in that everyone recognizes that there is a road funding problem, that gas tax revenues are declining, and that new funds are needed. The differences come down to timing – C4 is interested in asking voters to weigh in in late 2014 or 2015, whereas the BCC is considering going out to voters in early 2014 due to the urgency for funding for county-maintained roads.

Mayor Knapp stated that Chair Ludlow recently brought together a number of mayors where funding options were discussed. \$15 million per year is what is needed to keep up with basic maintenance on the county's 1400 miles of roads, which boils down to \$100/household or \$10/month.

Chair Ludlow stated that the county is looking at a \$9.90/month utility fee vs. a \$25 or \$26 road user fee for unincorporated areas only. He also noted that the county cannot use general fund (property tax) income for roads.

Co-Chair DeRemer asked the members if November 2014 is a middle ground where consensus could be reached.

Susan Hansen noted that her area is opposed to a road user fee since this would mean rural residents would be paying for roads that are used by urban residents.

Mayor Knapp informed C4 that Wilsonville already pays a road utility fee, which would complicate matters. He stated that it might be possible for cities to continue pursuing a registration fee and the county to pursue a utility fee if support exists for one.

Councilor Carson informed C4 that West Linn just increased their street maintenance fee. She also stated that there are two primary issues: the county needs funding for road maintenance as well as major improvements.

Commissioner Mumm felt that a Vehicle Registration Fee is needed. She also noted that Oregon City has their own pavement maintenance fee that is \$11/month.

Susan Hansen stated that a list of projects will be needed to sell the idea to voters. Chair Ludlow responded that voters will be informed what funding would be used for and how it would benefit them.

Commissioner Bernard noted his concern that numerous cities have fees but the county does not. He wants to find the best mechanism that voters will accept and believes that it will be difficult to find all of the funding that is needed. He would like to discuss a VRF, which is split 60/40 by law. He would also support a sunset date. He supports a commitment for November 2014 with polling done in advance to see if the county should go it alone or do

it together with cities. Based on the polling, a decision would be made in mid-2014 on which approach to take. In the end, Bernard will support what C4 wants.

Councilor Pietzold suggested there be a countywide fee, which would be used to plug the county's \$15 million gap with the remainder going to cities to be used at their discretion.

Commissioner Schrader agreed on the need to do this together if this effort is to succeed.

Jerry Hein asked if a percentage of the property tax could be used for roads.

Susan Hansen suggested that the effort would be more successful by pursuing incremental (smaller) asks than fixing the problems in one fall swoop.

Commissioner Bernard stated three things to look at: 1) a District concept that could be countywide or just for unincorporated areas; 2) a VRF; and 3) a gas tax.

Mayor Hodson agreed on the need to go out for polling.

County Administrator Don Krupp asked Gary Schmidt to send the list of funding options developed by county staff to the full C4 membership. He also recommended that everyone look at the timeline in the report and attend the Board's planning meeting on Tuesday, November 5 at 10am.

## **5. JPACT/MPAC Update**

Mayor Knapp informed C4 members that JPACT is currently considering Rail-Volution, results from the Climate Smart Communities scenarios, passenger rail, the Regional Transportation Plan update, and a letter to Senators Wyden & Merkley requesting an increase in federal transportation funding.

Councilor Carson, the 2014 Chair of MPAC, informed C4 members that MPAC is currently considering the Urban Growth Report, Climate Smart Communities updates, and the Regional Transportation Plan update. She also suggested that the C4 Executive Committee consider adding the Regional Equity Atlas as an agenda item for a future C4 meeting.

## **6. Pressing Updates**

No pressing updates given.

**Meeting adjourned.**