



**METRO**

**SOUTH CORRIDOR STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEETING SUMMARY  
Monday, August 13, 2007**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jim Bernard  
Roland Chlapowski (for Sam Adams)  
Elissa Gertler (for Lynn Peterson)  
Fred Hansen  
Robert Liberty  
Brian Newman  
Alice Norris  
Jason Tell

**AFFILIATION**

City of Milwaukie  
City of Portland  
Clackamas County  
TriMet  
Metro Council  
Metro Council  
City of Oregon City  
ODOT

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Maria Rojo de Steffey  
Sam Adams  
Lynn Peterson

**AFFILIATION**

Multnomah County  
City of Portland  
Clackamas County

**STAFF PRESENT**

Matt Bihn  
Richard Brandman  
Joyce Felton  
Tony Mendoza  
Brian Monberg  
Ross Roberts  
Jamie Snook  
Mark Turpel  
Bridget Wieghart  
Karen Withrow  
Phillip Kennedy-Wong  
Ralph Drewfs  
Sean Batty  
Tom Markgraf  
Tom Armstrong  
Katie Mangle  
Ed Abrahaman  
Carlotta Collette

**AFFILIATION**

Metro  
ODOT  
TriMet  
Markgraf & Associates  
Bureau of Planning  
City of Milwaukie  
Multnomah County  
Milwaukie City Council

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Chair Brian Newman called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

### ***Approval of July 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting Summary***

As committee members had no corrections, the meeting summary was approved.

## **II. MILWAUKIE ALIGNMENT REVIEW**

### ***Process and Alignments Reviewed***

Ms. Bridget Wieghart, assisted by Mr. Sean Batty of TriMet, appeared before the committee and provided a summary on the downtown Milwaukie workshops that focused on the SE Main Street and 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue Couplet alignments. The presentation detailed the process and technical evaluations of the proposed alignments. (Presentation included in the meeting record.)

### ***Public Comment Summary***

Ms. Karen Withrow appeared before the committee and provided a brief summary of the public involvement for the Milwaukie design workshops. She outlined the format on both the development and review design workshops and emphasized the high attendance at both meetings. Information presented included downtown revitalization priorities, trade-offs and key themes on the SE Main Street and SE 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue and SE Main Street Couplet identified/cited by citizens. (All comments included in the booklet as part of the meeting record.)

In addition, Ms. Withrow overviewed the public testimony given at the August 7<sup>th</sup> Milwaukie City Council meeting. The majority of testifiers spoke in opposition to adding an additional alignment to the SDEIS citing concern over what a Main Street alignment would do to the community's vision for the downtown and reconnection to the riverfront, the retail environment, business access, parking, traffic, safety and sound issues. Testifiers in favor of adding an alignment spoke about the benefits to redevelopment and concerns about light rail on the Tillamook Branch. Concerns cited about the Tillamook alignment included its proximity to schools and churches.

Station area planning and safety and security meetings will be scheduled to provide opportunity for further discussion of citizens' project concerns.

## **III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Newman opened the floor for public comment:

Mr. Jim Howell, Association of Oregon Rail and Trail Advocates (AORTA): Mr. Howell distributed three handouts that addressed a potential downtown Portland eastside light rail connection to the existing MAX Yellow line between OMSI to the Rose Quarter. (Handouts included in the meeting record.) He encouraged members to consider the eastside connection and include the alternative for further study in the SDEIS.

Mr. Howard Dietrich, 970 SE McLoughlin Blvd.; Milwaukie, OR 97222: Mr. Dietrich recommended that the committee consider a light rail alignment on the rail right-of-way from Tacoma Street to Highway 224 that would terminate north of the schools and churches. He did not support the Main Street alignment due to potential impacts to the North Industrial area, limited transportation movements and engineering challenges. Additionally, he did not support the Tillamook alignment citing potential impacts to the surrounding neighborhoods and limited right-of-way.

Mr. Ed Zumwalt, Historic Milwaukie Neighborhood Association: Mr. Zumwalt did not support any of the potential light rail alignments in Milwaukie due to the potential impacts to the Riverfront Park, local businesses, neighborhoods and schools. However, he did support a light rail alignment that would terminate north of Milwaukie and provide bus rapid transit or shuttles into the city.

Mr. Walt Dimick, Board of Trustees President for the Portland Waldorf School: Mr. Dimick submitted a memorandum outlining the Portland Waldorf School's concerns on station placement, safety and security, noise, vibration and disruption. (Handout included in the meeting record.) He emphasized that these outstanding issues need to be addressed and that the Board looks forward to being an active participant throughout the process.

Mr. Ed Parecki, Downtown Milwaukie Business Owner: Mr. Parecki did not support the City of Milwaukie's decisions on the alternative design options developed. He stated that the alignments were being disregarded too early and that committee members should include an additional alignment for further study in the SDEIS.

Mr. Scott Churchill: Mr. Churchill encouraged that an additional alignment be considered for further study in the SDEIS. He did not support Mayor Bernard's actions and indicated that he felt the Mayor had a conflict of interest.

Mr. John Otsyula, 2515 SE Lake Road; Milwaukie, OR 97222: Mr. Otsyula was concerned that the process did not satisfy the NEPA requirements. He stated that staff should provide the public with a better explanation of the NEPA process and requirements throughout project. He encouraged the committee to include all three of the alignments as well as a no-build option into the SDEIS for further study.

#### **IV. CITY OF MILWAUKIE RECOMMENDATION**

Committee member Mayor Jim Bernard thanked the Steering Committee, Metro and TriMet for their support in allowing the City of Milwaukie to study additional downtown alignment options. Mayor Bernard submitted a letter formally requesting that no additional downtown alignment be included in the SDEIS. (Letter included as part of the meeting record.)

Mayor Bernard recognized the community, City boards and commissions, schools, businesses and staff comments and concerns. He cited the alignments' incompatibility with the Downtown and Riverfront Framework Plan, risk to other functional requirements of Main Street and prior local support for, and technical affirmation of, a non-Main Street option as reasons not to move

an additional alignment forward. He thanked the neighborhood and business and school communities for their comments and encouraged them to remain active participants throughout the process.

Committee discussion included the downtown Milwaukie development vision and on-street parking and facilities.

## **V. STEERING COMMITTEE ACTION ON MILWAUKIE ALIGNMENT**

Ms. Wieghart briefly outlined the findings of the of the McLoughlin Boulevard/Main Street and Main Street/21<sup>st</sup> Avenue review processes and the City of Milwaukie's staff recommendation to the Mayor and City Council. (Handouts included in the meeting record.) She highlighted the additional alignments' incompatibility with the downtown development vision, parking traffic functions and impacts to existing businesses.

MOTION: Mayor Bernard moved, Mr. Fred Hansen seconded, not to consider the Main Street, 21<sup>st</sup> Couplet or the McLoughlin Boulevard alignments for further study in the South Corridor SDEIS and to adopt the "Findings of the South Corridor Steering Committee Regarding Alternative Alignments in Downtown Milwaukie".

Discussion: After some discussion, Chair Newman supported the motion and emphasized moving forward alternatives that are viable options and would gather public support. He indicated that additional resources would be best allocated to addressing the concerns presented by the public about the existing options.

Mr. Hansen requested that all additional analysis material used to develop the "Findings of the South Corridor Steering Committee Regarding Alternative Alignments in Downtown Milwaukie" memorandum be included in the meeting record.

ACTION TAKEN: With all in favor the motion passed.

## **VI. NEXT STEPS**

Councilor Robert Liberty expressed interest in Mr. Howell and AORTA's recommended extension of the MAX yellow line as an alternative alignment. He recommended that the proposed alignment be analyzed as both part of the SDEIS and as a separate project. He cited the potential eastside, north/south connections and lower associated costs as reasoning.

Ms. Wieghart stated that an eastside alignment had been analyzed before and that the ridership demand for downtown was high and warranted a new connection. However, she stated that staff would model and analyze Mr. Howell's suggested alignment within the projected 2030 landuses. The committee supported modeling the proposal, but not in place of a river crossing. Members emphasized the need for a river crossing in terms of serving the South Waterfront development and downtown.

Ms. Wieghart noted that project next steps include further analysis of park and ride facilities (specifically at Park Avenue). She noted that the options had been discussed with park and ride spaces as a range. The potential capacity of Park and Sparrow Park and Rides had been further analyzed. The sizes were being specified for the SDEIS in consultation with the TAC and PMG. It appears that Sparrow would not be needed. Information will be presented at the next meeting.

**VII. ADJOURN**

Seeing no further business, Chair Newman adjourned the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelsey Newell  
Recording Secretary

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR AUGUST 13, 2007**

*The following have been included as part of the official public meeting record:*

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT NO.</b>
<b>III.</b>	Letter	7/31/07	Jim Howell/AORTA letter submittal regarding Transit Access to South Waterfront	081307sc-01
<b>III.</b>	Maps	5/17/07	Maps of the AORTA proposed MAX Yellow Line Extension and Portland Streetcar System	081307sc-02
<b>III.</b>	Letter	7/19/07	Letter from Jim Howell regarding a North-South Rapid Transit Corridor	081307sc-03
<b>III.</b>	Memorandum	8/13/07	To: South Corridor Steering Committee From: Portland Waldorf School Board of Trustees RE: South Corridor Phase II – Milwaukie Light Rail Project	081307sc-04