



## MEETING SUMMARY

**MEETING:** High Capacity Transit System Plan MTAC/TPAC Subcommittee Meeting  
**DATE:** September 12, 2008  
**TIME:** 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Metro, 600 NE Grand Avenue, Room 370 A/B

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Armstrong (for Joe Zehner)	Planning – City of Portland
Kenny Asher	City of Milwaukie
Ron Bunch	City of Tigard
Jonathan David	City of Gresham
Dan Drentlaw (for Nancy Kraushaar)	City of Oregon City
Elissa Gertler	Clackamas County
Jon Holan	Forest Grove
Andy Johnson	ODOT
Alan Lehto	TriMet
Mike McCarthy	City of Tigard
Jan McFarland	Multnomah County
Margaret Middleton	City of Beaverton
Dale Robbins	RTC
Sandhu Satvinder	FHWA
Sidaro Sin (for Denny Egner)	City of Lake Oswego
Patrick Sweeney (for Paul Smith)	Transportation – City of Portland

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Steve Allen	SMART
Dave Norberg	DEQ

### PROJECT STAFF

Metro	Tony Mendoza, Crista Gardner, Karen Withrow, Ross Roberts
Project Consultants	Kristin Hull and Brandy Steffen, CH2M HILL Jeanne Lawson, JLA Jeffrey Tumlin and Tom Brennan, Nelson Nygaard

## **I. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION**

On September 12, 2008 the second MTAC/TPAC Subcommittee meeting was held for the Regional High Capacity Transit (HCT) System Plan project. Ms. Kristin Hull outlined the agenda and asked if there were any changes to the meeting summary of the first meeting. The meeting summary was approved as written.

## **II. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Ms. Karen Withrow recounted the public involvement activities that the project team has completed including: nearly 60 stakeholder interviews; four public workshops; staffing several farmers' markets; two Riverfest events; an online survey; and several targeted community group meetings. Four main ideas have been gathered from the public:

- Access (e.g., how people get to HCT stops by bike or foot)
- Speed (especially through downtown as a way to compete with personal automobiles)
- Safety (personal and at vehicle crossings)
- Land use (connection between transit and land use)

Ms. Withrow also mentioned that the first Think Tank meeting will be held on October 7, to gather a big picture perspective on land use and policy issues. A summary of that meeting will be presented at the next Subcommittee meeting.

There were no committee communications or public comments.

## **III. CALENDAR**

The group quickly discussed the calendar. The next Subcommittee meeting will be in late October.

## **IV. CORRIDOR IDEAS**

Mr. Tony Mendoza discussed the collection methods and preliminary corridors that were the result of the public involvement work. The workshops each resulted in discussions centered around the geographic area of the meeting since most participants lived nearby. The end result of all the public outreach will be one map of corridors ideas. Mr. Mendoza stated that the Subcommittee's task will be to narrow the initial corridors using the screening criteria.

*Discussion:* The group mentioned that bus service would be needed in some of these corridors to support high capacity transit. The group discussed how lines that go outside the urban growth boundary will be handled. Tony stated that the public generally respected the urban growth boundary and kept proposed corridors, as well as origins and destinations, within that boundary. However, a few corridors do lead to Salem, Eugene, Vancouver Washington, the coast, and Mt. Hood. As the next step, the technical team will tag the frequency of the end points and begin to look for logical corridors.

There was also a concern that transit generators, which are not activity centers, should receive high capacity transit service; e.g. industrial centers, universities and colleges, hospitals, and other institutional facilities. Employment areas should also be considered as origins/destinations.

## **V. INTRODUCTION OF EVALUATION FRAMEWORK**

Mr. Jeffery Tumlin reviewed the process involved in screening and evaluating alternatives, while providing case studies from San Francisco and London. Mr. Tumlin mentioned that the key to this process will be to determine what the most important issues for the region and how to measure those issues. Screening criteria should serve as a way to shorten a long list of alternatives, to one that most people agree with. The group thought that ridership and cost effectiveness should be threshold criteria. Evaluation criteria are more difficult to choose, but lead to greater detail and prioritization.

*Discussion about screening criteria:* The group wondered if this project is working with the RTP group as they develop performance measures. Mr. Tumlin said that the two groups are coordinating. The issue of equity was raised and the group discussed whether or not to include it as a screening criteria. Ms. Hull clarified that the group was interested in ensuring social equity in the screening of potential lines. It was determined that since equity is so hard to measure, it would be better to include it in the evaluation criteria, by examining where low and middle income housing was located. Geographic and social equity are of concern as well as how they interact. A question was also raised about the reliability of the models used for these evaluations. Mr. Tumlin mentioned that while it is hard to predict the future, the criteria should be flexible enough to adjust for changes. Ms. Hull added that the models have worked well to date.

The Subcommittee also discussed the value and public perception of qualitative versus quantitative data and how it is shown in the process. Mr. Tumlin said that these two data types should be of equal weight and that every criterion doesn't have to be one or the other. He suggested that one way to deal with the perceived inequality of these two data types is to create high/medium/low ratings instead of exact numbers.

The technical team will use the Transit Orientation Index (TOI) tool to evaluate the alternatives before screening them. Equity, noise and neighborhood impacts, and decreases to species habitat will be examined as evaluation criteria since there may be a possibility to mitigate negative impacts.

### **Evaluation criteria**

Mr. Tumlin quickly reviewed the evaluation criteria and asked the Subcommittee to think about these goals for the next meeting. Mr. Hull reminded the group that they would not make a decision on the evaluation criteria until the November meeting.

*Discussion about evaluation criteria:* The group asked the project team to consider and report back on whether and when mode type would be evaluated in the process. The group also discussed how to address whether all high capacity transit required its own right-of-way. The project team agreed to report back with a recommendation at the next meeting.

## **VI. NEXT STEPS**

Ms. Hull reminded the Sub-Committee members to begin thinking about the evaluation criteria for the next meeting. Members were told to expect an email asking for meeting time and day preferences. In addition she mentioned that the group would receive future meeting materials five days before the next meeting.

**VII. ADJOURN**

Seeing no further business, Ms. Hull adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 2008**

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

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT NO.</b>
I.	Agenda	9/12/08	HCT MTAC/TPAC Subcommittee Agenda	091208HCTSUB-01
I.	Meeting Summary	7/30/08	Regional High Capacity Transit System Plan Subcommittee Meeting Summary	091208HCTSUB-02
I.	Protocols	7/30/08	Regional High Capacity Transit System Plan Sub-Committee Protocols – Adopted	091208HCTSUB-03
I.	Report	9/11/08	High Capacity Transit System Plan Online Questionnaire Status Report	091208HCTSUB-04
I.	Summary Report	9/10/08	Metro High Capacity Transit Workshops Summary	091208HCTSUB-05
I.	Summary Report	9/11/08	DRAFT: High Capacity Transit System Plan – Stakeholder Interview Summary	091208HCTSUB-06
V.	Memo	9/11/08	Potential HCT Screening and Evaluation Criteria Framework	091208HCTSUB-07
	Calendar	9/11/08	2035 Regional Transportation Plan Update Meeting Schedule	091208HCTSUB-08
	Contact	9/12/08	Regional High Capacity Transit MTAC/TPAC Subcommittee Contact List	091208HCTSUB-09