



**METRO**

**SOUTH CORRIDOR STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEETING SUMMARY**

Monday, July 9, 2007

**ATTENDEES PRESENT**

Sam Adams  
Jim Bernard  
Fred Hansen  
Robert Liberty  
Brian Newman  
Alice Norris  
Lynn Peterson  
Jason Tell

**AFFILIATION**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Maria Rojo de Steffey

**AFFILIATION**

Multnomah County

**STAFF PRESENT**

Matt Bihn  
Richard Brandman  
Joyce Felton  
Tony Mendoza  
Brian Monberg  
Ross Roberts  
Jamie Snook  
Mark Turpel  
Bridget Weighart  
Karen Withrow  
Phillip Kennedy-Wong  
James Mast  
Sean Batty  
Ann Becklund  
Dave Unsworth  
Elissa Gertler  
Steve Iwata

**AFFILIATION**

Metro  
Portland Development Commission  
TriMet  
TriMet  
TriMet  
Clackamas County  
City of Portland

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Chair Brian Newman called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

### ***Approval of May 14 Meeting Minutes***

Commissioner Lynn Peterson moved, Mayor Alice Norris seconded, to approve the May 14, 2007 meeting summary. The motion passed unanimously.

## **II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Newman opened the floor for public comments:

Mr. Ray Polani, Citizens for Better Transit–Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Association (AORTA): Mr. Polani recommended that staff eliminate the bridge component from the alignment and focus light rail service on the eastside of Portland. He felt that the project should focus on connecting the northern and southern eastside sections versus the east and west sides of Portland.

Mr. Jim Howell, Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Association (AORTA): Mr. Howell distributed a memorandum regarding "Potential Yellow Line Ridership–CBD vs. Eastside Routing." (Memorandum at conclusion of meeting summary.) He (representing AORTA) asked the committee to consider an eastside light rail connector from Milwaukie to the existing Yellow Line as one of the alternatives in the SDEIS. Mr. Howell felt that the alignment would increase ridership and service while decreasing travel times and capital, operating and maintenance costs.

*Chair Newman recalled substantial ridership findings supporting the construction of a river crossing. He asked staff to compile a quick reference sheet addressing the previous ridership results as well as the material presented by AORTA. Councilor Robert Liberty stated that he is interested in an eastside connector as an addition to this Milwaukie project.*

## **III. PROJECT UPDATE, SCHEDULE & BUDGET**

Mr. Richard Brandman gave an update on the project, schedule and budget. He stated that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has implemented a series of new guidance procedures including new New Starts application deadlines, changes in the rating system and increased emphasis on congestion management/pricing strategy ratings.

Mr. Brandman referred to a schedule entitled, "Portland to Milwaukie LRT–Preliminary Schedule." (Handout at conclusion of meeting summary.) Ideally staff would like to submit technical drafts to FTA by December 2007 and select a Locally Preferred Alternative in Summer 2008.

He stated that the EIS budget will need to be addressed as the project has undergone significant changes including the number of design options at the river crossing and the Milwaukie terminus and extension.

#### **IV. MILWAUKIE DESIGN OPTIONS REVIEW**

##### ***Process***

Ms. Bridget Wieghart recalled Mayor Jim Bernard's request from the last the Steering Committee meeting to have staff analyze potential design options in downtown Milwaukie on McLoughlin and Main Streets. Three design options were developed, analyzed and presented to the Riverfront Board, Downtown Businesses, North Industrial businesses and the City Planning Commission.

##### ***Options Reviewed***

Mr. Sean Batty gave a presentation entitled, "Milwaukie Design Options Booklet." (Presentation at conclusion of meeting summary.) The presentation detailed the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) and impacts and benefits of three additional design options developed for SE McLoughlin Boulevard and/or SE Main Street.

##### ***Results of Public Involvement***

Ms. Wiegart summarized the general comments from the four groups specifically asked to consider additional alignment options. The Riverfront Board voted six to one against adding any additional light rail alignment on SE McLoughlin Boulevard, citing concern over the impact on the Riverfront Park and noting that their primary mission is to reconnect downtown and the riverfront.

The North Industrial and downtown business and property owners do not have formal associations and therefore did not take a vote or make a formal joint statement about the alignment options. Several spoke at the meetings and testified before the Planning Commission. One industrial business representative commented that the possible new alignment could complicate the use of the Tillamook Branch for light rail in the North Industrial District, which the businesses in the industrial district strongly prefer.

Six Planning Commissioners considered and voted on the questions posed by Mayor Bernard regarding the potential to add a fourth alignment to the South Corridor Phase II SDEIS study. On the question of whether there is community consensus two said no, two said yes and two said they were unsure. On the question of how a new light rail alignment would impact downtown revitalization, five said impacts on SE McLoughlin Boulevard would be too great and it should not be studied further. However, five also thought that some additional exploration of the idea of an option on SE Main Street or perhaps SE Main Street and SE 21st Avenue could be worthwhile.

#### **V. PROPOSED NEXT STEPS IN MILWAUKIE**

Mayor Jim Bernard submitted and referred to a letter addressing the downtown light rail alignment options. (Submittal at conclusion of meeting summary.)

MOTION: Mayor Bernard moved, Councilor Liberty seconded, to support the City of Milwaukie in development and review of possible light rail options on Main Street or Main Street and 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue in downtown Milwaukie between now and August 7, 2007. Further, based on this

review, if the City of Milwaukie determines that there is sufficient community support and technical merit to an option on Main or Main and 21<sup>st</sup>, and the Steering Committee concurs, an option would be brought into the SDEIS for more detailed study.

*Discussion:* Committee discussion included Main and Main/21<sup>st</sup> affect on connection to areas north of Highway 224, property impacts, public workshops and the importance of reaching a timely conclusion and recommendation from Milwaukie on an alignment.

With eight committee members in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

## **VI. WILLAMETTE RIVER CROSSING**

### ***Design Options Being Studied in the NEPA***

Ms. Wiegart referred to a memorandum regarding the South Waterfront river crossing area. (Memorandum at conclusion of meeting summary.) The memorandum addressed staff and consultant recommendations to move two river crossing options and two sub-options (located in the SE Sherman St., SE Division Place, SW Arthur St. and SW Porter St. band) into the SDEIS for further study.

Committee discussion topics included project complexity, connectivity to existing transit systems, environmental impacts, project costs, land use, street planning and OHSU, OMSI and Zidell development/master planning.

MOTION: Commissioner Sam Adams moved, Council Liberty seconded, to approve the study of the Sherman/Mead and Caruthers/Porter river crossing as described in the July 2, 2007 memorandum to the Steering Committee as primary options along with the LPA in the Portland to Milwaukie light rail SDEIS and also to approve study of the Sherman/Porter and Caruthers/Mead sub-options as referred to in the July 2, 2007 memorandum in the SDEIS.

With eight committee members in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

### ***South Waterfront Coordination/Eastside Issues***

Mr. Steve Iwata referred to a diagram regarding the east and west sides of the river. (Diagram at conclusion of meeting summary.) He briefly discussed the City of Portland, OMSI, OHSU, Zidell and various other organizations' future development plans and how light rail affects each of them.

Committee discussion included street planning and institutions' development goals.

## **VII. CAC**

### ***First Meetings***

Mr. Phillip Kennedy-Wong stated that the Citizen Advisory Committee orientation and tour would be scheduled over the summer. The first meeting will be held in September and meetings will be scheduled monthly for the remainder of the project.

***Chair***

Staff and the PMG recommended that Rick Williams assume the position of chair of the CAC. This position will be a voting position on the Steering Committee.

MOTION: Councilor Liberty moved, Mayor Bernard seconded, appoint Rick Williams as chair of the CAC.

With eight committee members in favor, to the motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. ADJOURN**

The committee briefly discussed the \$250 million in lottery-backed bonds awarded to the Portland to Milwaukie project and the bonds' terms/conditions.

Seeing no further business, co-chair Newman adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelsey Newell  
Recording Secretary

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR JULY 9, 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>I.</b>	Memorandum	7/9/07	Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates (AORTA) memorandum submittal	070907sc-01
<b>IV.</b>	Letter	7/7/07	Letter from the Portland Waldorf School	070907sc-02
<b>V.</b>	Letter	7/5/07	Letter from Mayor Jim Bernard regarding the downtown light rail alignment options	070907sc-03