

DRAFT Steering Committee 2 Meeting Summary

Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022
Time: 2:00-3:45 pm
Location: Zoom webinar

Committee Members Present

Brendan Finn, Urban Mobility Office *Director, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)*
 Karmen Chavez-Sam, *Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO)*
 Mayor Lacey Beaty, *City of Beaverton*
 Mariana Valenzuela, *Director of Community Partnerships and Advocacy, Centro Cultural (alternate for Maria Caballero Rubio)*
 Bret Marchant, *Greater Portland Inc (alternate for Monique Claiborne)*
 Councilor Beach Pace, *City of Hillsboro*

President Deanna Palm, *Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce*
 Art Pearce, *Director of Policy and Planning Projects, Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT)*
 Tom Mills, *Director, Planning and Policy, TriMet*
 Commissioner Pam Treece, *District 2, Washington County*

Committee Members Absent

Council President Lynn Peterson, *Metro*
 Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson, *District 3, Multnomah County*

Agency Representatives

Stephanie Millar, *ODOT*
 Vanessa Vissar, *ODOT*
 Mandy Putney, *ODOT*

Kate Hawkins, *Metro*
 Margi Bradway, *Metro*
 Malu Wilkinson, *Metro*

Staff and Consultants

Mara Krinke, *Parametrix*
 Nadine Appenbrink, *Parametrix*
 Jeanne Lawson, *JLA Public Involvement*
 Brandy Steffen, *JLA Public Involvement*

Valentina Peng, *JLA Public Involvement*
 Jake Warr, *Espousal Strategies*

Additional Attendees:

Allison Boyd, *Multnomah County*
 Chase Landrey, *City of Beaverton*
 Christina Deffebach, *Washington County*
 Don Odermott, *City of Hillsboro*
 Eric Hesse, *City of Portland*
 Gregg Snyder, *City of Hillsboro*

Jean Senechal Biggs, *City of Beaverton*
 Paul Langdale, *Oregon Department of Transportation*
 Stephen Roberts, *Washington County*

Meeting Summary

This was the second meeting of the Westside Multimodal Improvements Study Steering Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to confirm the Steering committee charge and problem statement; review the priority areas and approach for the evaluation framework; and introduce the committee to investment options and scenario development prior to conducting the business roundtable and other public engagement.

Introductory Remarks

ODOT Urban Mobility Office Director, Brendan Finn, opened the meeting and made introductory remarks about the origin of the study and the local, regional and statewide importance of Highway 26. Mr. Finn thanked Metro and President Peterson for the partnership on this study, noting the need to work collaboratively on the issues that need to be addressed on the westside. Mr. Finn thanked the Steering Committee members for their time and energy in the meeting and gave a preview of engagement the team has planned with businesses, community-based organizations, and the public in the months ahead.

Facilitator Jeanne Lawson asked alternates and members to introduce themselves. In absence of President Peterson and Alternate Council Gonzalez, Margi Bradway, Deputy Director of Planning, Development and Research at Metro, represented Metro as a non-voting attendee.

Existing Conditions

Nadine Appenbrink, Parametrix, provided the committee an overview of existing conditions, highlighting the economic, traffic, and safety conditions in the corridor.

Comments or questions:

- **Commissioner Treece** – safety concerns/impacts are higher for BIPOC communities.
- **Tom Mills** – where are the eastbound travelers exiting within the study area? Nadine clarified that 60% of all eastbound vehicles on US26 at Brookwood/Helvetia exit US26 by the 217 interchange.

Problem Statement and Evaluation Framework

Kate Hawkins, Metro, reviewed the problem statement as well as the issues and needs developed by the project team with previously collected input and feedback. The team has identified five priority areas (mobility, safety, social equity, climate action, economic vitality) for the evaluation framework.

With the one noted revision (adding “and reliability” to the mobility priority area), the Steering Committee agreed to the problem statement and priority areas.

Comments or questions:

- **Councilor Pace** - expressed a need for predictable freight movements. The manufacturing community has production constraints due to predictability issues. How is reliability addressed in the criteria? Ms. Hawkins replied that travel time reliability and vehicular delay metrics, as well as a freight travel cost index, are included.
- **Councilor Pace** - businesses are planning far into the future and we need to take a long-term mindset too.
- **Councilor Pace** - interested in safety data; for example, are the crashes on US 26 or on other facilities.

- **Mayor Beaty** - the problem statement is sound, but the “devil is in the details”. It will be a challenge to agree on how to address the issues with different priorities for each member.
- **President Deanna Palm** - agrees with the priority areas, but the problem statement needs more data to support the statements, e.g., the statement about BIPOC communities having greater safety risk.

Evaluation Framework

Ms. Hawkins provided an overview of the approach to identifying and then evaluating investment options and developing scenarios to build to the study’s implementation plan.

Investment Options and Scenarios

Stephanie Millar, ODOT, described the types of investment options that will be considered by the study.

Comments or questions:

- **Tom Mills** - thanked the team for recognizing TriMet’s work on Forward Together and to ensure the “Better Red” Project is part of the baseline.
- **Margi Bradway** - asked Tom to highlight the recommendations from the Forward Together draft service concept; new routes proposed in blue and yellow highlights areas with new and frequent service (Trimet.org/forward – public comment open through Monday 10/31).
- **Mayor Beaty** - consider the order we address these problems; there is more money available now but would like to look at the “low-hanging fruit.”
- **Art Pearce** - is timed freight delivery on the table? if not, add it to the discussion.
- **Tom Mills** - we would need to add a bus route on the highway to take advantage of bus on shoulder. Councilor Pace asked about transit reliability and wondered if having bus on shoulder (or express light rail) could address this. Mr. Mills highlighted the tradeoff between speed and access; TriMet offered to speak more to this at a future meeting.

Ms. Millar spoke to the scenario development process, noting that the team will package groups of investment options into scenarios for testing purposes and to provide information on how projects or programs might address the problems, issues and needs. It’s likely that the study’s recommendations will draw from multiple scenarios.

The Committee members were asked to discuss “what are your take-aways, do you have questions you want to have answered, what do you feel strongly about?”

- **Councilor Pace** - really interested in seeing data, for example trip length, to make sure we are making the best decisions based. Mr. Finn confirmed that the team would “get after the data request” – so we can substantiate why we are making the decisions. Mr. Finn added that the technical team wants to ensure the process is correct, and meetings like this one are important to establish agreement on key points.
- **Commissioner Treece** - appreciates the team’s responsiveness. As we get further along into this process/project, it will get more difficult as we get into the details. Commissioner Treece also

wanted to recognize that the TriMet Forward Together image had pink lines, illustrating where service is being reduced.

- **Art Pearce** – the group has had a good dialogue and like the push to look long term, but also balance what we can do right away. Addressing the issues by framing with sequencing could be useful, rather than either/or.
- **President Palm** - agreed, stating she likes the idea of sequencing the near and long term, and how much benefit do we get out of near term to affect the long term.
- **Karmen Chavez-Sam**, APANO - feels strongly about not widening highways and that she is excited to see how the packages turn out, especially to see how longer-distance travel can be addressed. For example, how can improvements to active transportation change use of the major corridor?
- **Bret Marchant**, Greater Portland Inc. - learning and reflecting during the meeting and appreciative of the engagement this early in the process.
- **Mariana Valenzuela**, Centro Cultural, - this project connects to all of the projects she's worked on in the community. We all want to help people feel safer. Though we recognize we can't do everything, we are all working to better our communities.
- **Margi Bradway**, Metro, - is reflecting on the long-distance through trips, as well as how important mobility and reliability are on US 26, where maybe safety is more critical on some of those other routes. So, the focus areas are all important but maybe facility type is a factor as well in prioritizing outcomes.
- **Mayor Beaty** - as Beaverton's Mayor, US 26 is part of the city's community and where we live; it is more than a route through. Want to make sure we create a plan that we can fund. How can we set ourselves up for success?
- **Councilor Pace** - appreciated the engagement of the group and wants to make sure we do take a long term (30+ years) look; additionally echoed Karmen's suggestion to make more attractive options (transit, active transportation), and Mariana's desire for safety in our communities.
- **Tom Mills** - echoed a desire for making data-driven decisions, that we anchor our proposed solutions in data.
- **Mr. Finn** - closed the discussion with reflections, and that he will be asking team to consider financial planning, what is available and when we can get it. Recognize that we need to get it right together, and that we know we can't build our way out of congestion.

Revised Charter

Jeanne Lawson provided the committee the revisions made to the charter:

- The committee will strive to provide decisions by consensus. Consensus is defined as the point where committee members agree on the most viable option for the group, even if it is not each committee member's personal favorite.
- If consensus cannot be reached on a plan or on a strategy for moving forward, each agency responsible for any proposed element is committed to considering all the opinions of the committee members and determining their respective next steps.

All members raised their hands to indicate endorsement of the charter. The project team will update the charter document to say "Approved at the second meeting on 10/26" with members' names listed.

Public Comment

Brandy Steffen, JLA, then opened the meeting to public comments.

- **Joaquín Castañeda**, Genentech, thanked the committee and provided context on the origins of this study. The company considered locations in Hillsboro and Indianapolis during the site selection phase for a facility expansion. Genentech's executive team was concerned about traffic; these concerns were abated when they were able to secure a small freight flight from Hillsboro to PDX, and the Governor requested this study. The governor's commitment helped the Genentech team have confidence that transportation concerns will be addressed. Joaquín told the committee that they are a long-term partner in this process.
- Ms. Millar read the comment provided in packet from **Kathleen Silloway**.

Next Steps

Mr. Finn wrapped up meeting and thanked Joaquin from Genentech for speaking and highlighting the importance of the work by this team.

Adjourn

Jeanne concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for their time and involvement.