

East Multnomah County Transportation Committee

City of Fairview

City of Gresham

City of Troutdale

City of Wood Village

Multnomah County

Port of Portland

Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 13, 2020 3:00pm-5:00pm

<https://zoom.us/j/539700938>

Members

Lori Stegmann
Emerald Bogue
Jamie Kranz
John Miner
Nolan Young

Representing

Multnomah County
Port of Portland
City of Troutdale
City of Wood Village
City of Fairview

EMCTC Staff

John Niiyama
Katherine Kelly
Nathan Clark
MaryJo Andersen
Jessica Berry
Graham Martin
Oscar Rincones
Allison Boyd
Eve Nilenders
Arini Farrell

Representing

City of Wood Village
City of Gresham
Multnomah County
Multnomah County
Multnomah County
Multnomah County
Multnomah County
Multnomah County
TriMet
City of Troutdale

Guests

Shirley Craddick
Kim Ellis
Craig Beebe
Ally Holmquist

Representing

Metro
Metro
Metro
Metro

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Commissioner Stegmann and Jessica Berry welcomed the group.

2. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

None

3. **Review and Adoption of prior Meeting Minutes - All**

Postponed

4. Updates from Partners on closures

Eve Nilenders – Trimet

Eve presented the group with service changes Trimet has made in response to COVID-19. Her presentation included details on reduction in services and where to find that information online (<https://trimet.org/alerts/reducedservice.htm>).

Eve reassured the group that Trimet continues to focus on helping essential workers get to their jobs while remaining a safe and sustainable service to the community and its employees.

Overall, lines 2, 9 and 20 had small changes; line 21 is now on a Saturday service schedule; lines 22, 23 and 25 have not had changes; line 72, an important transfer point has had no changes, lines 73 and 74 are not changed and line 77 is operating on Saturday schedules along with line 80. Information on other service reductions can be found at the link above.

Max service remains at 15 minute intervals on a Saturday schedule.

There is still no date known on which regular service will resume. Eve also reviewed with the group that TriMet is limiting the number of people allowed to travel in a bus and operators have stopped collecting cash on buses.

Commissioner Echols asked about the process followed when a bus is “full” and can no longer pick up passengers; Eve will follow up with the group on that information.

Jessica Berry reminded everyone that the county contracted transit services remain in operation and have added some trips on the Amazon route to allow for social distancing.

Emerald Bogue – Port of Portland

Emerald reminded the group that the Port of Portland – PDX area covers two general aviation airports, four land terminals, and five business parks covering about 10,000 acres of industrial land and reviewed that they are seeing an impact from COVID-19.

Especially affected is the airport which is seeing passenger volumes down as much as 92 to 94 percent. Along with that they have seen the decline in revenue from parking transactions, rental car operations and concession businesses.

Port of Portland has also seen a reduction in auto parts imports and exports but some demand for parking for the cars that come in. Bulk marine facilities continue to do well.

The agency is implementing actions to try to keep costs under control including some employee furloughs and reducing non-critical travel,

Emerald reviewed how the Port of Portland is also taking steps to assist their tenants. They are deferring two months of airline rent and fees for April and May (due in September and December of this year). They have also suspended the minimum guaranteed rent provisions; tenants will only pay rent as a percentage of their sales for the time being. The Port is also providing technical assistance in applying for loans or other resources as they become available regionally.

Councilor Minor asked if the small businesses that have closed remain under obligation to their lease agreements. Emerald explained the variety of lease agreement types and explained that the Port is doing the best that it can to assist tenants of all types and at this point there is no clear answer since many instances are situational.

At this time, there is no information on additional funding in the pipeline and details on how or when it will flow.

Other East County Closures – City/County Staff

Jessica Berry with Multnomah County reported that there are areas that continue to be closed including sites in the Gorge and how important it is that people stay out of these areas ([closure and information here](#)). Information on other Multnomah County COVID-19 related closures can be found [here](#).

Katherine, with the City of Gresham reported that Gresham City Hall and parks remain closed to the public. Essential services are police, fire and emergency services and are open. The City of Gresham continues to look for ways to assist small businesses and to do outreach to elder citizens who may need assistance.

John Niyama, with the City of Wood Village reported that their city hall remains closed and access is by appointment only. Staff are working on alternating weeks to help limit exposure. Late fees and shut-offs for utilities have been suspended.

John continued and explained that Donald Robertson Park remains open along with the restrooms during park hours (basketball court and playground remain closed). In addition, there is a \$140,000 utility relief fund ([more info here](#)). One time assistance is available for up to \$250.

Also mentioned by City of Wood Village Councilor John Miner is that the RFP is out for the railroad fence project funded by the urban renewal agency. It is hoped that will be awarded and begin to move forward in May. In addition, the RFP for the design of the park on Wood Village Boulevard is out and submittals are being reviewed. They hope to have a design firm picked out in the next couple of weeks.

Councilor John Miner and John Niyama expressed how the Mayors, City Managers, public works directors and department directors of the four cities have remained consistent in their response to the COVID-19 emergency declarations and how this has benefited the residents in East Multnomah County.

Nolan P. Young with the City of Fairview reviewed that their city hall remains closed to the public and employees are working remotely. Field crews are working; parks are open with play equipment closed. In addition, City Council meetings remain on the schedule. Also, continuation of the improvements on First Street, across from Fairview Elementary are moving forward.

Shirley Craddick, with Metro, reported to the group that Metro venues are closed ([details here](#)). 41% of the workforce has been laid off. The agency is moving forward with the slow process of reopening when appropriate.

Councilor Kranz, with the City of Troutdale, shared that similar efforts and responses were initiated including deferring the collection of the transit lodging tax (hotels impacted can defer until June/July). Arini Farrell shared that efforts are being made to let residents know which restaurants remain open for take-out or delivery orders ([info here](#)), city hall remains open but [only by appointment](#), development services remains open, parks remain open with tennis and basketball courts closed and restrooms are open.

Commissioner Stegmann, Multnomah County reported on efforts to address the houseless population, domestic violence survivors and outdoor emergency shelter areas. The effort into expanding capacity continues.

Commissioner Stegmann also mentioned efforts to support employees who are working from home or essential employees still reporting to worksites including childcare subsidies.

The EOC meets daily and has continued to work with adjoining counties and with the state. It is the hope that up to 75% of the cost for extra services might be reimbursed through FEMA once the barrier to applying has been addressed (subtracting Portland's population from Multnomah County disqualifies Multnomah County for federal funding).

5. Metro Transportation Funding Measure, Programs – Craig Beebe, Metro

Presentation/Discussion (Attached: GetMoving2020-Metro-Programs-Presentation-EMCTC-20200413)

Craig shared that work on the transportation measure has continued at the council's direction to hopefully give them something for voters to consider in November of 2020. Craig shared with the group that the focus on the vision wide programs including investment in the most heavily travelled corridors and investments that benefit areas throughout the region is intended to also advance regional policies that have been in the works for years, such as the Regional Transportation Plan and the Climate Smart Strategy.

The Metro Council has been advised throughout this process by the Transportation Funding Task Force since early 2019 and had their last meeting on Wednesday.

After the presentation, Craig opened up the floor to questions and comments asking attendees what outcomes they would like to see advanced and what kinds of investments they would most like to see in the programs. Craig offered to take this feedback and incorporate it into the staff engagement report and making it part of the recommendation to council in June.

Nolan Young, City of Fairview, expressed that the revitalizing of Main streets is particularly important to be able to move forward with that project.

Shirley Craddick highlighted the importance of affordable fares for students, which many non-profits have been advocating for, is important and foundational for education. Craig responded that there has been a lot of advocacy and organizing around this topic. Craig shared that discussion on the cost and implementation is ongoing.

John Niyama also expressed support for the main streets on Halsey revitalization projects. John Miner mentioned that this also addresses safety hot spots and is inclusive of other items that are a priority on this plan.

Councilor Craddick mentioned the opportunities to combine categories to enable cities to apply for funds in multiple categories. Craig advised the group that the committee is working on simplifying the process for application of funds.

Councilor Craddick made the point that connecting regional trails together might be challenging.

Councilor Echols expressed support for anti-displacement strategies that might assist businesses and private residents who might need assistance with small business retention and housing. Craig mentioned that they are paying great attention to the successful processes followed in the southwest corridor project(s).

6. Regional Emergency Transportation Routes– Kim Ellis, Oregon Metro

Presentation/Discussion (Powerpoint attached)

Kim provided the group with a Powerpoint presentation on the topic of improving regional emergency transportation routes and the work of the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (which serves a five county region in Portland and Vancouver) with Metro. This partnership is to update the routes for emergency response purposes across the five county area. Funding for this project is through FEMA's Urban Area Security Initiative.

Kim opened up the floor for discussion, feedback and questions.

Councilor Craddick asked how our current emergency response to COVID-19 has influenced the discussions and criteria they've looked at.

Kim responded that this has heightened the importance of being prepared and will most likely inform their conversations moving forward.

7. JPACT Updates– Councilor Shirley Craddick and Kate Fagerholm, Metro

Information/Discussion

Councilor Craddick provided an update to the group on the upcoming JPACT agenda, including the MTIP item requesting approval of the amendment in which ODOT was asking for funds to be released to allow them to begin purchasing land for the Rose Quarter Project to be able to stage their equipment. She clarified that this decision has no impact on the design of the program or its scope.

Councilor Craddick discussed the Oregon Transportation Commission's decision to move forward an environmental assessment on the Rose Quarter. She reminded the group that the City of Portland, Multnomah County, and other partners sent a variety of values that they wanted identified in the project and felt that the agency's decision regarding harmful assessment met those; while it was not a full EIS, the Metro Council was comfortable that we will be able to meet those values that they want addressed.

Councilor Craddick stated how important it is that this project be a benefit to the state and region, particularly the Albina community and mentioned the opportunity to restore racial justice in this project.

She also informed the group that JPACT will be having its second virtual meeting this Thursday. On the agenda will be an update on the Federal Cares Act and the possibility of a second act focusing on infrastructure.

Along with this, another item on the agenda will be the regional congestion pricing study. The City of Portland/PBOT is working on looking at how they might use congestion pricing and some kind of mechanism to influence people's decision about using bridges and parking downtown.

Councilor Craddick also mentioned that the final item will be adopting the **2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)** and certifying that the Portland metro area is in compliance with the federal transportation funding requirements.

8. Agency Updates

- a. ODOT Update None
- b. TriMet Update None
- c. Port of Portland None
- d. Fairview None
- e. Gresham None
- f. Troutdale None
- g. Wood Village None
- h. Multnomah County

MaryJo Andersen communicated to everyone that Safe Routes will be reaching out to all schools to support safe walking and biking while school is out of session.

Other Business- All

Councilor Craddick and Jessica reminded everyone that most meetings are now accessible as virtual or remote meetings.

Next Regular Meeting: May 18, 2020