



January 2007

The Scrimmage Line

On the Field

The next RGF-CIC meeting will take place March 7, from 3-5pm and will feature Commissioner Marc Boldt.

The Scrimmage Line serves as the Current Issues Coalition's "Condensed Minutes."

CIC is a committee of the Responsible Growth Forum and meets monthly to review issues relating to growth in Southwest Washington.

For more information on the CIC, please contact Megan Forell at (360) 695-1385.

On Wednesday, January 31, the Responsible Growth Forum's Current Issues Coalition invited Dean Lookingbill, Transportation Director for the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, and Dale Robbins, RTC staff, to discuss the Clark County High Capacity Transit System Study (HCTSS). "The purpose of this study is to identify a high capacity transit system that will provide efficient and high quality transit service connecting county residents with where they want to go."

The HCTSS will identify the key underlying policies and possible high capacity transit options necessary to expand beyond the existing bus transit network. The study will have input from several formed committees, including:

- Sounding Board – Open membership
- Task Force – Stakeholders
- Steering Committee – Elected/appointed policy makers
- RTC Board – Adopts Plan

High Capacity Transit is a term used to describe many types or modes of transit that move large numbers of people quickly and efficiently, but excludes normal buses. Dean and Dale discussed the different components of this study and what they hope to gain from it's creation. They also described the different high capacity options, which include:

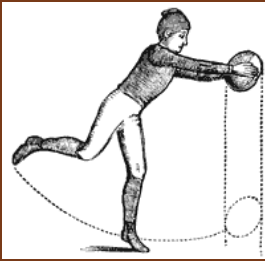
Subway – A rapid transit, underground tube system with a high capacity and frequency of service. Examples - Bart and subway system used predominantly in NYC

Commuter Rail – Usually provides a rail service between a central business district and suburbs or other locations that draw large numbers of people on a daily basis. Example - Tacoma Sounder

Light Rail – Urban rail transit that uses segregated lines with the ability to carry numerous riders. Example - MAX

Monorail - Systems in which a carrier is suspended from, or rides on, an overhead rail structure. Example – Seattle Monorail

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) – This bus system can come in a variety of forms, from dedicated busways that have their own rights-of-way to bus services that utilize HOV lanes and dedicated freeway. Example – Eugene's EmX



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Streetcar – Transit system that typically carries 45-60 people and travels in lanes that are shared with automotive traffic. Example – Portland Streetcar

This 18-month study hopes to identify, locally, the corridors that make sense for High Capacity Transit. Dean and Dale emphasized that they are only looking at options in Clark County and that the purpose of this study is to identify the corridors, not necessarily the method of HCT that is to be implemented.

As far as funding, Dean explained that the estimated cost of the study will total \$1.8 million, with a small amount coming from local jurisdictions and federal transit agencies funding majority of the cost. The consultants on board to complete this study include URS and Parsons Brinckerhoff, noted engineering firms, that are involved in the design of light rail and BRT.

Dean stressed the importance of coordinating with the Columbia River Crossing Project, along with the need for compatibility with C-Tran's 20-year Transit Development Plan. Funding for an eventual project would have about a 50% local match, competing with local funds for the Columbia River Crossing and other important local transportation improvements.

URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

Discussion followed regarding RGF's testimony on the new UGB in the coming months, which includes an RGF report that shows 7,400 acres of critical lands designated to accommodate 40,000 jobs and 40,000 people.

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