

# **SW Corridor Light Rail Project Community Advisory Committee (CAC)**

**Thursday, October 1, 2020, 5:30-7 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting Summary**

## **Present**

Rachael Duke – Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH)  
Calista Fitzgerald – Designer, Former Tigard Planning Commission Chair  
Bill Garyfallou – Property/business owner  
Michael Harrison – Oregon Health & Sciences University (OHSU)  
Melissa Moncada – Engineer, West Portland Park Neighborhood  
Lindsey Wise – Tigard Transportation Committee, transit commuter to PSU  
Amanda Guile – Tualatin resident, commuter  
Elise Shearer – Tigard Town Center Advisory Commission, St. Anthony Parish  
Ian Stude – Portland State University (PSU)

## **Not Present**

Chris Carpenter – Government Affairs Director, FocusPoint Communications  
Eric Sporre – PacTrust  
Debra Dunn - Synergy Resources Group(business consultant)  
Ethan Frelly – Tigard Chamber of Commerce, business owner  
Bob Ludlum – Washington County resident, Veteran’s advocate  
Rebecca Ocken – Portland Community College (PCC) Sylvania Campus

## **Welcome & Introduction**

**Josh Mahar, TriMet**

Josh welcomed attendees to the Zoom (virtual) meeting and noted the meeting was being recorded. Noted the agenda included a presentation from Nuhamin Eiden, to provide an overview of the Southwest Equity Coalition. This is a follow up on the Southwest Equitable Development Strategy (SWEDS) work previously led by Brian at Metro and now morphed into the Southwest Equity Coalition (SWEC). There were no edits to the August 2020 summary.

## **Public Comment**

There were no public comments, one comment submitted via email was shared with Committee members electronically.

## **Southwest Equity Coalition Overview**

**Nuhamin Eiden, Coalition Manager-UNITE Oregon**

Came to the role at end of February, before the pandemic happened, many of the people she has been working with she has not met in person; it is a challenge, yet easier to fit in phone calls and meetings. Has been able to get acquainted virtually with people who were part of SWEDS efforts. The conversation for SWEC to start where Brian left off. The Southwest Corridor is a large area from Downtown to Bridgeport, encompassing two counties, and several cities, Tigard, Portland, Tualatin and Sherwood. As a resident of the corridor area, she enjoys

the work that touches on so many different levels. What launched this work and thinking differently in development? Anticipate that the population will increase significantly in the next decades. The Southwest Corridor Equitable Development Strategy was created to address the impacts of this major public investment and to think of it in a different way. In the past transportation-related development projects have resulted in negative impact to BIPOC communities. The strategy aims to avoid displacement; build a grassroots approach where impacted communities are leading the conversations on what is needed, gaps in services, and where are the resources that are lacking that could contribute to involuntary displacements or residents and businesses.

The idea for SWEC grew out of the SWEDS goals. It is not just one governing body community organization speaking for the community but rather a coalition of nonprofit organizations, community organizations, residents, businesses, state and local government bodies coming together to center the needs of frontline communities rooted in racial equity and economic and environmental justice.

SWEC gets together for resource sharing and foster transparency and accountability between the different players and stakeholders. This coalition is committed to preventing the types of negative impacts from past projects on this project by ensuring racial equity commitments and to put communities most impacted, at the center of decision and hold accountable their governments as well as other community entities.

The coalition provides the role of the organizing body for people who would otherwise find it daunting to get involved by fostering civic engagement and leadership development.

Coalition Equity Commitment:

- Prioritize racial equity
- Implement community-centered decision-making processes
- Ensure the affordable housing needs are met
- Create a clear path for the community to participate
- Strive to prevent any involuntary residential or business displacement
- Uphold transparency
- Invest in leadership development

Nuhamin walked through the coalition structure. While it is a large membership pool, within the pool, there are different opportunities for stakeholders to move around in different spaces to influence the work, share resources, expertise and skills in different spaces than the ones they are traditionally used to.

**At the center are the communities affected** who are on the frontline or affected communities; these are the renters, home owners, people who have lived for generations or have relocated there in recent years. Area is home to a large South African community; Markham elementary is very diverse community, home to two large mosques.

**The Executive Committee** is made up of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) who serve the community directly. There are also subcommittees, including the West Portland Town Center Community Development Workgroup, Anti-displacement workgroup, and Technical Advisory Committee. They all coordinate and work together to implement the Southwest Corridor Equitable Development Strategy.

Another committee who meets regularly is the Charter committee. This group is made up of the Executive committee and other technical advisors who worked on the charter; group will continue to meet should additions or revisions to the charter be needed.

Nuhamin's role is to coordinate between groups; ensure equitable process to uplift voices who are missing from discussions; holding conversations between committees and workgroups as well as external communication like newsletters, funding opportunities, ensuring ways to collaborate are shared as well as recruiting potential members and communities into different work groups. She noted the importance of the coalition doing things in a different way as opposed to experts and governing bodies making the decisions and then asking for input. The coalition aims to learn the needs and struggles of the community as well as their ideas on how to address the issues faced by centering the work on community needs and ensuring resources are shared equitably. Nuhamin noted how the large number of stakeholders can lead to resource sharing, reduce waste, in terms of time, skills, grants and avoid duplication of work by inviting them to collaborate in sharing curriculums and promoting transparency and accountability.

They are doing this is by building on prior work done by Unite Oregon, Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT), Momentum Alliance and IRCO who worked together in the pilot stage. By putting these CBOs in the Executive committee, the coalition is centering the work on the affected communities through direct service organizations that are staffed by affected community members who also live in the area.

The Equity Statement is a big piece of the charter and the driving force behind the coalition's work: **We affirm that racial equity – an understanding and acknowledgment of historical and ongoing racial inequities and a commitment to actions challenging those inequities – is a core tenet of our coalition's practice.** Learning from past events and acknowledging errors to move forward and make things better in the future as reflected in SWEC's membership. Constantly striving to have representation of unrepresented communities, who are historically excluded from the decision-making processes. Continuing to recruit organizations for general membership and Executive membership. The goal is to have a wide representation of frontline communities; aware there are currently no organizations representing Native American communities as well as business associations. Working on getting additional executive committee members who are residents in the area.

The Executive Committee is charged with decision making for the coalition as well as the following: positions on public policy, and private and public development, and admitting more members. Relationship between executive committee and general membership, offering stipends for participation by community members, provide policy recommendations and reports to governing bodies and ensuring appropriate and sufficient representation of diverse members within the coalition.

The Executive Committee will make decisions based on equity model implemented through: Inclusive decision-making process that focuses on racial justice; Promoting accessibility and fairness in procedure; providing access and adequate time to all committee members to review all relevant documents. Acknowledging that sometimes, review may take a little longer for some members due to events that may take community based organizations away from this work and focusing on the work in the community. Accommodate member's accessibility needs when necessary; a decision can be made even when there is disagreement among members. Dissenting members not under obligation to officially sign off, but will make every effort not to

lobby against the Coalition's position. Expect there may sometimes be disagreements; members will have the opportunity not to sign up if they disagree.

Named the coalition's workgroups and supportive committees and roles: Anti-Displacement workgroup is made up of housing providers, housing developers who work together to learn more about naturally affordable housing, in an educational and problem solving process. Technical Advisory Committee is new and currently accepting membership recommendations. West Portland Town Center (WPTC) Community Development Workgroup is new to SWEC's, group used to meet on their own. CAC member Rachael is also part of the WPTC group and noted the small group focuses on the West Portland Town Center area- looking at services for a community center, affordable housing, opportunities for a walkable community and greenspace. Opportunities for funding some to of the planning through TIFF district a possibility. Great community with lots of opportunities to foster community and prosper over time. Looking to build a summit in the springtime to bring people together and make housing happen and preserving communities so people are not priced out. Rachael noted this is great timing for investment before homes become unaffordable. SWEC is like the parent group.

Nuhamin noted SWECs is looking for members who represent residents, businesses, and/or organizations/associations that have presence in the SW Corridor. They are been inclusive and intentional on centering the work in the southwest corridor communities.

## Questions and Discussion

**Bill** – Southwest Corridor provides networking between educational institutions and job opportunities; wondering if representatives from the various institutions along the corridor are going to join the SWEC committee.

**Nuhamin**- PCC was originally part of the SWEDS work, looking for a connection and re-engaging them. Expecting education institutions will be added by next time they come back to the group in the same way that SWEDS brought them together to build a pilot and work with OHSU in the past.

**Michael**- Project with SWEDS was very interesting; Exciting work in finding employees who have an interest in furthering their careers, finding ways where people can move up the economic ladder. Looking to connect previous work with work programs OHSU is developing.

**Nuhamin** - Shout out to Michael for his support and work from the beginning.

**Josh**-Are there inspirational situations that inspired this type of model?

**Nuhamin**- Looked at the South Seattle coalition called SAGE; main difference is they are all CBOs and do not coordinate with governing bodies. Their model has been very successful; the coalition has set conversations that have met the community's needs. Connected with them and looked at their model; decided to go with a model about creating pathways and space where different stakeholders could talk about their work; Unite is big on civic engagement, leadership development and has a tradition in getting people involved in decision-making spaces and this is what we would like to see happen with SWEC.

**Elise** suggested reaching out to Mac-G interfaith alliance of churches, working on several campaigns like affordable housing and racism - large group of Jewish, catholic and Methodist community.

**Guy** \_ regarding group consensus on issues in Executive committees, how do you prioritize or weigh out the community needs?

**Nuhamin** – through Racial Justice Analysis, conversation will take place and we'll be looking at communities who are most marginalized, which groups would be most harmed and make decisions based on decisions that would be less harmful to the most marginalized community.

**Rachel** \_Has been great to see the SWEDS group morphed into something bigger, is excited to see the work continue!

**Nuhamin**- Looking forward to doing more community outreach and meet in person in the future.

**Josh** – asked if SWEDS, which was led by Metro, is now gone since the group has morphed into SWEC.

**Nuhamin** -SWEDS lives on within the SWEC charter, many values are still part of SWEC as well as partners and organizations on the pilot are still involved. Metro relinquished the convening body, and now Unite Oregon brought Nuhamin to manage the coalition; Coalition owns the work.

## Public Engagement Update

**Community Affairs Team** - Community Affairs team provided an update on public engagement.

**In Tigard/Tualatin area** presentations to various groups continue to take place; the team presented to Tigard City Council and Tigard Transportation Advisory Committee. Heard about committee's interests and concerns regarding the Hall station, how the Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) design will be incorporated with the rest of the area, overall connection to downtown, and bus interaction at the station. Parking capacity, pedestrian safety, specifically at Hall/Hunziker and 68th Avenue as well as traffic impacts and mitigations at Upper Boones Ferry are recurring topics of high interests and concern. There is also general interest on the Multi-Use Path over 217 and how it can be incorporated into the project. The Transit Oriented Development Work Plan with both project staff and City of Tigard staff are working closely to identify changes that can lead to opportunities for TOD. Later this month we will follow up on the letter from the Tigard Town Center Advisory Committee to discuss their questions more. The Tigard City Council adopted the final draft of the Conceptual Design Report; we gathered very valuable information to take back to the project team. We've have heard the concerns, and we will continue to work with stakeholders to address these items in further designs.

In terms of the corridor, we have held two virtual office hours, with another one scheduled for October 20. These are happening on third 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30. These events are a place to get information and ask questions about the project.

**In the outer inner Portland area**, outreach work is underway for Section 106 and Section 4 (f). Due to widening of Barbur Blvd. for transportation features such as sidewalks, bike lanes and

green infrastructure, we expect impacts to some parks & historic resources in the corridor. Section 106 and Section 4 (f) requires the project to identify mitigations for any adverse impacts, and seek public comment on impacted parks & historic resources, as well as mitigations. Working with federal and state partners on finalizing outreach materials, will post to the website in November. Will seek written public comments for 30 days, about 2-3 weeks into that period a public presentation will be scheduled where people will be able to learn more and submit verbal comments. Planning outreach directed at interested stakeholders such as neighborhood groups and historical advocates. Materials to be shared with committee members to share with community.

**In outer Portland**, we continue to meet with several neighborhoods associations and stakeholders; early in the CDR engagement process, we heard concerns about access and circulation in the neighborhoods. These conversations continue to take place and we will be able to share more about the access and circulation conversations next month.

**Amanda**- asked if outreach to Tualatin Council and Chamber had taken place or if outreach is in the works.

**Amparo**- we presented to groups in Tualatin back in the spring when the Draft Conceptual Design Report was released; will reach out to Tualatin about the Final Draft of the CDR and see about scheduling some presentations.

## Round Table Discussion: Feedback and Engagement

Josh Mahar, TriMet

Josh facilitated a round table discussion to hear from each CAC member, including thoughts on a letter of support for the Multi Use Path at 217 to accompany Tigard's application for funding for the project. The Multi Use Path at Highway 217 was mentioned in the Conceptual Design Report as an opportunity, the project received a lot of good feedback; was in the list of top station access project improvements that people were excited about.

**Bill** – Strongly supports the Multi Use Path at 217 and letter for the grant.

**Elise** – Interested in working with people to send letter from committee.

**Lindsey** – noted she can help with the letter; is also a member of the Tigard Transportation Advisory Committee who is very supportive of the multi-use path and is pleased to hear all the support and comments.

**Calista** – supports letter; concerned about the transportation measure, reading the media and different groups speaking about it, has been speaking with friends, co-workers and family about the project and giving a different perspective.

**Josh** - reiterated staff's position as public employees; however, we can provide members with facts or materials to facilitate conversations for the project.

**Amanda** – supports the letter for the multi-use path; concerned about Tualatin's hands off position towards project and worried people in south metro area see the project as Portland centric although the project is not; will make it a priority from her end to speak at Tualatin city council and share more about the project and give her perspective.

**Elise** – asked if there are plans with SWEC’s or any plans with Tualatin to build affordable housing near Bridgeport.

**Rachael** – Noted CPAH got some funding through the Washington County Housing bond to build a multifamily building of about 115 units in the Basalt Creek area about 3 miles from the terminus. Still early in the process but happy to discuss more in the future.

**Scott and Guy** - added that the project is having conversations about TOD near stations; in Bridgeport they recently modified their zoning for higher density. We don’t have all the details of what this means exactly, there are conversation about more development and more mixed-used development, we hope to find out more as it becomes more certain and will share the information then.

**Rachael** – reiterated the urgency to identify land locations soon before prices go up; hopeful the bond measure will pass and time will go by fast, land will get expensive.

**Michael** – reiterated support for the multi-use path at 217.

**Melissa** – supports letter for Multi-use path, sounds like a great idea to be incorporated with the project.

**Ian**- echoed support behind the letter and elsewhere where it may be relevant along the corridor. Project will bring many multi modal improvements throughout the corridor and would like to support and help as best possible. Noted his willingness to facilitate connections with PSU’s broad community and contribute to the work organizations like SWEC’s and others are doing.

## Meeting Adjourn

Josh Mahar, TriMet

Josh thanked the group and reminded everyone the next meeting will be, Thursday, November 12, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Attendees were told they could send an email to [swcorridor@trimet.org](mailto:swcorridor@trimet.org) with any further questions or comments.