



News Release

Office of the Metro Auditor

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Metro Auditor reviews employee travel records

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In an audit released today, the Office of the Metro Auditor examined whether employees were collecting personal frequent flyer miles while traveling on Metro business. Reports made to Metro's Ethics Line prompted the review.

According to a 2001 opinion of the Oregon Standards and Practices Commission, travel rewards are a personal benefit and should not be collected or used by public officials for personal travel. The purpose of the audit, titled *Frequent Flyer Benefits: More controls needed*, was to determine whether Metro had adequate travel policies in place and whether they were applied consistently across departments.

The audit found that Metro's policies did not provide guidance to employees about prohibitions on travel rewards when traveling on Metro business. Auditors reviewed records for 40 of the 229 flights taken in FY2009-10. In 10 cases, frequent flyer numbers were listed. The audit found other inconsistencies in travel reimbursements and concluded that policies were insufficient to ensure compliance with ethics standards.

"In the absence of guidance, Metro employees were collecting frequent flyer miles inappropriately," Metro Auditor Suzanne Flynn said. "However, once we notified Metro management of the audit results, it acted quickly to notify employees of travel rules.

For more information, contact Suzanne Flynn, Metro Auditor, at 503-797-1891.

The audit is available on the Metro website at <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/auditor>. Copies of the audit can also be obtained by calling the Office of the Metro Auditor at 503-797-1892. The Metro Auditor will brief the Metro Council on Thursday, March 31st.