

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Thursday, April 6, 2006
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Robert Liberty, Rex Burkholder, Carl Hosticka, Rod Park, Brian Newman

Councilors Absent: Susan McLain (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Regular Council Meeting at 2:06 p.m.

I. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND INTEGRATION WITH NEW LOOK

Robin McArthur, Planning Department, provided an overview of the agenda. They were looking for direction on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update and preparing for the April 20th forum. She noted the flow chart (a copy of which is included in the meeting record). The purpose of the chart was to provide a quick glance at all of the phases of the update. She reviewed what had been covered already and where they were now. They were at the very early stages of how all of these issues linked together, transportation and land use. By the end of the year they hoped to get agreement on the long-term concept plan. What areas were most likely to urbanize and what areas needed to be protected. Councilor Burkholder spoke to fiscal reality and transportation funding. He felt they needed to focus on funding issues along with this plan. Council President Bragdon suggested that they would be addressing some of these issues in the second section of this work session. Councilor Liberty talked about integrating infrastructure costs across the region along with this discussion of fiscal realities. Ms. McArthur said they would be addressing many of these issues in the New Look plan. She continued reviewing the chart and noting Council decision points. Councilor Park asked how you would integrate a decision on transportation packages in 2007 and how it tied in to an urban growth boundary (UGB) decision in 2008. He was concerned this wasn't marrying up the two issues. Andy Cotugno, Planning Director, suggested May 2008 was an opportune spot for a transportation ballot measure. This was before you would have to make a decision on the UGB, which was in December 2008. Councilor Liberty suggested an advisory vote instead of a tax vote. Councilor Newman said this process was where the vision should come from. Specific votes were ways to implement the vision but not drive the vision. The votes should be taking steps to implement the Council's vision.

1.1 April 20th Forum Preparation and Input

Kim Ellis, Planning Department, introduced Terry Moore and Brian Scott.

Terry Moore, EcoNorthwest, said there were two outcomes they were looking for in this meeting: comments on their program and if it made sense and what could they do to explain it more to the public on April 20th. He provided an overview of the project (a copy of the power point presentation is included in the record). They were in Phase I of the RTP focusing on the stakeholder piece. April 20th would provide an opportunity to talk about the process for public engagement. The point of the workshop was to talk about what the RTP was all about, what was the framework for Phase I of the RTP and some optional work programs of which they would have a recommended work program? In Phase II they would actually be doing the work. He provided a chart showing integration between the RTP and the New Look work plans. When you talk about one, the public will ask about the other plans. The two were wedded together. Both the

New Look and RTP have a technical evaluation and a stakeholder engagement piece. There had to be internal coordination of the two pieces. He said this should lead to an integrated RTP and New Look Work Plan. The final point was that the two plans had to join up. There was a regional forum set up for the New Look. They had to tie the RTP into the regional forum as well.

He talked about the technical evaluation process in a world of multiple projects and constrained funding. Councilor Liberty suggested that they were still presenting the idea as two separate things. He suggested communicating more effectively that these were the same activity. He felt this was an improvement but it needed to be thought of as one thing. Mr. Moore said some of that integration had occurred. The regional forums would be joint forums. The other component was how you communicated that integration. Councilor Liberty said they had a job to do to get people to start thinking about this as one project. Mr. Moore said he had given them an answer to the second question concerning how to explain this to the public.

Brian Scott, MIG, said they had been trying to figure out how to model these two processes. He provided a diagram of Metro's New Look at Transportation (a copy of the chart is included in the meeting record). He shared how these two processes worked together. He talked about the variety of products that resulted. He said a key issue was how you engaged stakeholders. He noted opportunities and challenges. They were trying to engage a representative sample of citizens. There were three pieces: 1) Initial Outreach and Education, 2) Agency and jurisdiction coordination, collaboration and outreach and 3) Formal Review and Comment. They were trying to get an integrated sense of involvement. They wanted Council feedback about the direction they were taking as well as the Council's role at the event.

1.2 Direction on Draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) process For April 20th Forum

Mr. Scott talked about the engagement event on April 20th. They were trying to engage people early in the process so they could get help early on. Mr. Moore added that there was a lot of technical work in memoranda such as best practices for stakeholder engagement. They were going to the meeting with a recommended work program. Councilor Burkholder said they were trying to present something that was reasonable, focusing the work plan down to something that was doable as well as figuring out which pieces were more important to the citizens. Mr. Scott said the chart was their attempt to provide a beginning mode for stakeholder engagement.

Councilor Newman asked about the public media campaign. Mr. Scott said they were trying to figure out what the message from Metro should be. Councilor Newman said the RTP would be integrated into the regional forums. Would the New Look issues be integrated into the RTP processes? Councilor Burkholder said it was a question of time and trying to cover too many issues. How do they frame the transportation issue in the broader plan? Councilor Liberty said the technical work you would do were things that might not normally be done, i.e. why do they have congested highways, couldn't they just widen the highways? He felt the technical work had to be devised to engage the public. He also suggested using scenarios. Councilor Park asked if there was something being allocated in the New Look to integrate the RTP?

Michael Jordan, Chief Operating Officer, talked about realistic costs and tools that might work. What was a realistic framework? He felt there would be a public finance component, a fiscal track. Councilor Park said he also felt it was a track. We wanted to engage the public on that track early. Councilor Burkholder said one of the challenges he saw was how we capture and respond to the public input. This was a part of designing this work plan. You needed to have an avenue for getting information and responding to the citizen about what they were doing.

Councilor Burkholder said a key outcome for the meeting on April 20th was that this was a legitimate process they were going through and that they were going to be looking at a fiscally constrained plan. They wanted to get Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) started with the process. Councilor Burkholder wondered how much of this would come out in the discussion, how do you make the tradeoffs? Council President Bragdon talked about the integrity of the process. Council had a point of view in terms of urban form. Council was not a neutral party. How did they build trust while letting others know they had a point of view? Was it an objective to get JPACT beyond wanting their specific projects? There were limited pots of money. How do you change the mentality?

Councilor Liberty suggested reconsidering some of the existing projects. He said if there were only a few projects funded, there would be a lot of losers. Councilor Hosticka said he didn't get a clear sense of what difference the process makes to the final decision. Can you sit on the sidelines and still get what you want? Mr. Moore responded that you do this was because what happens if you don't do it. He said the message they wanted to get across was the thing that was different about the RTP was there was going to be more integration and more focus on outcomes. He provided an example. He suggesting getting objectives that people cared about early on so you get them engaged earlier. Mr. Jordan asked how they construct a process where no one jurisdiction got everything. How do we give the Metro Council opportunity to lead and give the process credibility? Councilor Liberty said the adoption of the growth concept engaged a lot more people. He felt they should use this as a model. Council President Bragdon said the implementers needed to be on board with the Council's process. Councilor Burkholder suggested that this discussion was exactly the kind of discussion they wanted on April 20th. They wanted to make sure that what ever comes out of the RTP was based on the New Look. He suggested explaining the direction the Council was taking. Mr. Jordan said the difference about this discussion was that it was about implementation, not about planning.

Councilor Park talked about the governance issue so that when they got through the exercise you can actually go out and do something. Mr. Scott said the Council was providing good direction for the April 20th forum. He urged Council all to attend the forum. Mr. Moore said what he had heard was that no one was saying that they had the wrong idea. They would go ahead with the April 20th forum. Second, they wanted to look at the larger objectives to the process, which was that Council had some policies that directed the process. Councilor Newman was comfortable with the direction for the April 20th forum. They needed to figure out how they confirmed that the vision was still embraced by their local partners. Councilor Hosticka reinforced the idea of Councilor Park's, that the governance structure be made clear. Council President Bragdon said this was about implementation not about planning and most of the implementation was in the hands of others. Councilor Park suggested that they let the April 20th audience know that they were thinking about some kind of a vote. Councilor Liberty said he felt people would be able to compare projects as an outcome. Second, he thought there was a lot of opportunity to educate about the New Look and RTP being the same thing. Councilor Burkholder was supportive of the consultants sharing why Metro was doing this at the forum. He felt being clear about the fact they were solving a very difficult problem was important. Mr. Cotugno said today's conversation was about having a successful April 20th forum. He suggested providing additional names to include in the conversation. They needed Council's help to encourage attendance at the forum.

II. NEW LOOK

2.1 Discussion of Specific Implementation Strategies

Ms. McArthur said they saw RTP as an implementation mechanism for the New Look. They were focusing on New Look financing and investment strategy (a copy of the document is included in the meeting record). Council President Bragdon framed the issue. They wanted to use the May Mayor's Forum to posit some ideas. Councilor Liberty shared his experience about the brainstorming session. Council President Bragdon said the political vetting was that they didn't have total control over investments. Lydia Neill, Planning Department, shared their New Look strategy on focusing investment inside the UGB. She provided an overview of the tools: Acquire fiscal resources: change tax system to value capture system (tax windfall), form a regional wide urban renewal district or capacity in places it doesn't exist, create a grant writer position, seek funding to clean up brownfields, expand legal authority to create LIDs, create a new market tax credit program, additional tax credit programs, and exploring venture capital concept. Council President Bragdon asked for clarification on venture capital component. Councilor Liberty provided an example of this issue. Councilor Newman suggested including public agencies getting involved in lending, i.e., Smart Growth revolving loan fund. Mr. Jordan explained his idea about this type of fund. Councilor Newman also suggested recruiting master developers where you offered more than one site. Councilor Park suggested capturing revenue for value increases due to what Metro was doing with such programs as Transit Oriented Development (TOD). Mr. Jordan talked about the increase in rents in downtown Lake Oswego and how you capture this to reinvest. Councilor Park talked about school funding.

Ms. Neill then moved to Focus Capital Investment: 1) change the tax structure to a value assessment structure 2) prioritize regional investments in centers 3) restructure system development charge to provide a cost incentive to centers, 4) land assembly idea, 5) focus transportation investment in areas that have the most potential for jobs, 6) invest in public amenities that catalyze development. 7) invest in structure parking in key centers and have parking management strategies 8) adopt a revenue neutral property tax, 9) pursue tax based sharing 10) expand the TOD program 11) manage all surplus public property in the region 12) coordinate all Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) investments and 13) using land trust model.

Ms. Neill reviewed Cultivate Innovative Development which included 1) interpret building codes to allow more mixed use development 2) provide education and information on market changes for smaller developers, 3) host a high profile design competition for centers and corridor development.

Ms. Neill spoke to Adapt Policy to Accommodate Viable Solutions: 1) change zoning that restricts building heights, 2) change rigid parking ratios 3) change the mix of uses in corridors to accommodate demand and 4) limit developments with regional impacts to centers such as a hospital.

Council President Bragdon summarized next steps.

Councilor Burkholder suggested a concept of neighborhood centers.

Ms. Neill provided an overview of the New Look Financing and Investment Strategy to refine an investment strategy.

ADJOURN

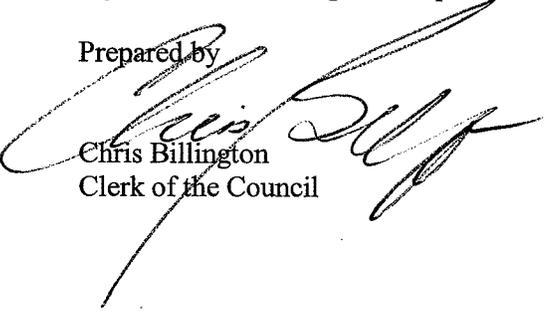
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There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Prepared by


Chris Billington
Clerk of the Council

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 6, 2006

Item	Topic	Doc Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.1	Event Summary	4/6/06	To: Metro Council From: Kim Ellis, Planning Department Re: Regional Transportation Forum	040606c-01
2.1	Work Plan	4/6/06	To: Metro Council From: Robin McArthur, Planning Department Re: New Look Financing and Investment Strategy	040606c-02
1.2	Visual of Integration	4/6/06	To: Metro Council From: Brian Scott, MIG Re: RTP and New Look updates integration	040606c-03
1.1	Chart	4/6/06	To: Metro Council From: Brian Scott, MIG Re: Metro's New Look at Transportation	040606c-04
2.1	Chart	4/6/06	To: Metro Council From: Robin McArthur, Planning Department Re: A New Look at Regional Choices	040606c-05
1.1	PowerPoint	4/6/06	To: Metro Council From: Terry Moore, EcoNorthwest Re: Regional Transportation Priorities	040606c-06
2/1	Flow chart	4/6/06	To: Metro Council From: Lydia Neill, Planning Department Re: New Look financing and investment strategy	040606c-07