

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, May 9, 2006
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent: Rex Burkholder (excused), Susan McLain (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:03 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, MAY 11, 2006/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AND CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Tim O'Brien, Planning, reported on an urban growth boundary (UGB) land-swap in the Stafford Basin area of Lake Oswego. This would be going forward in a few days. Councilor Liberty asked whether such "trades" were done administratively. Mr. O'Brien said it was small enough not to require legislation, and the local jurisdictions were supportive.

Joel Morton, Metro Attorney, reported on a court ruling. The good news was, that we won the prevailing wage case; the bad news was that the judge did not provide any direction. He ruled from the bench, finding Portland Development Commission's (PDC) arguments more persuasive than Boly's. An appeal to the Court of Appeals was almost certain. This would probably take another 18 months. Councilor Newman said PDC would proceed under the current ruling under existing projects as if they were not prevailing wage. Council and staff discussed next steps. Council President Bragdon said the committee did not support staff recommendation. They talked about some of the players and the background of the case. There was some feeling that it should be taken to the legislature.

Council President Bragdon reviewed the May 11, 2006 Metro Council agenda. The main event was to be the Nature in Neighborhoods grants. There might be a good turnout. Councilor Park said Public Affairs was preparing some events. They discussed some of the other public relations outreach pieces. Stacey Triplett, Nature in Neighborhoods program, said that Thursday would be the big news day. Individual Councilor interviews could take place on Friday.

2. 2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) UPDATE

Kim Ellis, Planning Department, distributed two handouts (a copy of each is included in the meeting record). The three main questions for Council were: 1) was staff on the right track in terms of technical work as well as public participation? 2) did Council support wider distribution of the current work? 3) was Council ready to move into the Phase 2 work with ECONorthwest? Council had previously stated that they wanted better integration of the RTP with the New Look. Ms. Ellis felt they had made a lot of improvements in that area; for example, the mayors' and chairs' forums were to include an RTP component. She reviewed the five phases of the update process. The current phase was Phase 1: Scoping. Future phases were 2040 research and policy development, system development and policy analysis, adoption process, and post-adoption federal and state consultation, with the end date for the final phase to be March 2008.

Councilor Hosticka had some questions about revenue sources, forecasting, and the financially constrained system. Ms. Ellis said they were doing the federally-required 20-year forecast. Andy Cotugno, Planning Director, recalled that, in the past, they were done as a series of five-year programs. Currently, they were trying to work with a more flexible process. With the financially constrained system, it was important to see what strings were attached.

Councilor Liberty was interested in the possibility of using 2040, instead of 2035, for the RTP, since this was the year being used in the New Look, and we wanted to bring the two projects closer together. Ms. Ellis indicated that Metro's demographic information was oriented around 2035. Council and staff talked about the various timeframes that were used in planning, for different projects and policies.

Brian Scott, MIG, delivered a slideshow presentation (a copy is included in the meeting record). His role was more on the public involvement side of the project. He described the team members and reviewed the process to date. The scoping phase was ending. At Council direction, they have integrated the RTP more closely with the New Look. He talked about stakeholder engagement, its opportunities and challenges. We really needed to be focused on outcomes and to be realistic about the constraints facing the region. Finally, his understanding was that Council wanted the outreach to the general public to be through local jurisdictions and agencies. He thought Council said that Metro was often better at engaging the public directly than in working with the jurisdictions. Council was not sure about this. They discussed whether they wanted the consultants to go closer through the local jurisdictions or not. Council agreed that, at the forum, the local jurisdictions gave the message that Metro needed to work more closely with them, but that did not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of the Council or of individual Councilors.

Mr. Scott described the three parts of stakeholder engagement – 1) initial outreach and education, 2) agency and jurisdiction coordination, collaboration, and outreach, and 3) formal review and comment. Outreach components would include targeted workshops, newsletters, and focus groups. In sum, he felt Council wanted more focus on outcomes, more focus on constraints, and on working with local agencies and jurisdictions.

Councilor Newman wanted to know how the outreach would be done, would the local jurisdictions be doing the outreach and just reporting back? They weren't so sure that was what they wanted. Council discussed the relationship of Metro to the local jurisdictions, who would do what and where the buck would stop. Councilor Liberty thought that the quality of the informational materials that Metro put out there would really help drive the quality of the results. Council thought we had an opportunity to educate the region about alternative approaches that have not worked. They did not want to change their vision but did not think the current plans necessarily were getting that direction.

Councilor Liberty said asking the right questions was important. The 2040 outcomes had never been tied to the transportation projects. The links had not been analyzed or compared to each other, in order to draw an educated conclusion. We needed to present some alternatives, including costs and beneficiaries, to help people understand, and to realize that maybe the projects being considered were not the right ones.

Council President Bragdon argued that the local jurisdictions did not always necessarily reflect the citizens' will. Councilor Hosticka asked about the scenarios—what had changed from one scenario to another? Ms. Ellis said they were currently more of placeholders. Council overall wanted to see more connections between existing project scenarios and 2040 goals. They wanted

to see proof that jurisdiction-proposed projects had the support of their citizens. They also discussed the different flavors of the 2040 scenarios, as well as assumptions, such as density, that could be considered bedrock items. Mr. Scott said he heard loud and clear that Metro needed to closely monitor the jurisdictional discussions to include citizen participation.

Council President Bragdon emphasized that there were certain jurisdictions that did not share the vision, even though they would be the implementers. There was a need to read between the lines; the local jurisdictions wouldn't always say exactly what it was they really meant. Mr. Scott continued to ask for clarification on how he should proceed. Did Council want a jurisdictional- and agency-based outreach, as he had supposed? Council President Bragdon wanted a holistic, regional, non-fragmented view of transportation as an integrated component of greater regional issues. He wanted everyone to be aware that the projects were all regional and that they would benefit everyone in the region. He wanted to see a strategy that would educate people about this.

Mr. Scott said, in breaking it up as an exercise, should one component include the relationship of the projects across jurisdictions? Councilor Liberty thought more than the usual suspects ought to be included, especially with a very clear educational component. The quality of the discussions will depend on the quality of the participants; he would like to have people with big-picture, open-minded thinking.

Mr. Scott summarized that Council was looking for educational outreach, more regional thinking and understanding of other people's perspectives, partnership with local jurisdictions in public outreach (rather than just leaving it up to them), and integrating land use, transportation, and urban forum components. We wanted to make the case that the projects might not achieve the vision.

Ms. Ellis asked for feedback on the original three questions. Council supported the overall direction, especially in technical work, with a few tweaks to the public participation piece; they supported wider release of the current work; and they supported proceeding with ECONorthwest onto Phase 2. Councilor Liberty asked that an outline of the changes accompany the next draft.

3. BREAK

3.5 Unscheduled agenda item: Andy Cotugno made a surprise visit re: transportation mega projects; he distributed a memo (a copy is included in the meeting record) and advised Council to be prepared to see him again soon at a work session near you.

4. GOLF PROJECT AT BLUE LAKE PARK

Teri Dresler, Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department, said that the golf learning center idea has been in development since 2001. Blue Lake Park loses around \$300,000 a year, and many revenue enhancement ideas have been considered. She described the vision for the course—9 holes, with chipping and pitching, a driving range, and concessions. The idea was to provide an environment for golf where people wouldn't feel pressured by people yelling at them for being too slow. It was also to be as environmentally sound and organic as possible, with the least use of pesticides and most concern for the aquifer. It would have native grasses, for people to come and study, kind of an outdoor lab. They would like to exceed the Audubon standard if possible. The Oregon Golf Course Superintendents Association has embarked on an environmental stewardship management plan; Metro should easily be able to meet those guidelines. Since these principles are being incorporated from design onward, it might well be easier and cheaper than a retrofit of

an existing course. It might be more expensive at first but should save money in the long-term. Target date was to open in Fall 2009. Ms. Dresler described the work that has been done so far. She was pretty certain it could turn a profit. The site analysis was good; although fairly degraded, the site included a 20-acre wetland with restoration potential. Plans included the development of a fitness trail as well as wildlife viewing.

As far as land use considerations, the area is primarily residential with a community service and parks overlay, and also a significant environmental concern overlay that relates to the riparian areas and the wetlands. The property was located in the City of Fairview. There was a cultural issue; an archaeological study years ago indicated there may be some ancient remains on the site. That might require protection and certain areas might be off-limits. The big community flash-point was the hydrogeological study, which looked at the permeability of the soil and the concern about pesticides or fuels getting into the aquifer. Our hydrogeologist thought there was good potential to comply with all "green" guidelines that could avoid this.

Councilor Park emphasized that the use of native grasses, along the Scottish model, really lent itself to low use of pesticides, and the use native plants with proper labeling would help people become educated about their environment. Councilor Liberty wondered about including guarantees for the rights of Indian tribes to gather native plants. Councilor Newman asked about who would run the operations. Ms. Dresler said most work would be done by a management firm. They were reviewing six responses to the request for proposals. They were considering several different funding options.

Jim Desmond, Parks Director, said there were certain funds, about \$1 million, from when Metro took possession of the property, that could be bonded or borrowed against. That could be used to attract a substantive financial partner. The City of Portland has indicated some interest in partnership. Councilor Park wanted a fallback position, a Plan B, just in case the golf didn't work out. Also, to show the neighbors that there were certain uses that definitely would be off the table.

5. REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY NETWORK (REIN) TOOL

Stacey Triplett and Lori Hennings, Nature in Neighborhoods (NiN) Program, described the REIN online mapping tool to be used in the NiN monitoring. They distributed two handouts (a copy of each is included in the meeting record). Hennings said the REIN tool was designed to help the monitoring coordinator evaluate the state of the watershed reports. The first one was due at the end of this year; that would be used as the baseline report. Under Title 13, there were compliance requirements, including what other sorts of things they were doing. Adding the education category, we could have some straightforward reporting forms. It would have its own searchable website, REIN.org. It should increase local capacity to do a better job of coordinating and finding funding and partners for the work being done in the environment.

Ms. Hennings said she had had a lot of serious interest from local organizations. Several had already heard about it but weren't sure how to get it going. Another Metro convener success story! We would be able to import GIS files. The tool would be keyword-searchable, with the ability to sort and narrow searches. Users should be able to pull their own reports. The goal was to go live on June 12 for an internal test and rolled out to public soon after. Councilor Liberty asked what screening or validation would be done. Ms. Hennings said she would be the administrator of the website. There would be various levels of access. Users could search, members could enter information; Ms. Hennings would be notified of all new projects and would review them. The public would have the ability to flag areas of concern. Vancouver and Clark

County were very excited, they were willing to share information and give Metro the credit. Metro's Data Resource Center and Creative Services and webmaster were very helpful.

Councilor Liberty asked about links to photographs. Ms. Hennings said there would be some photographs included, but she wasn't sure of the resolution. Councilor Newman asked about who would be doing some of the work. Ms. Triplett said it was a card catalog plus a map. A lot of changes would be made after the testing round. Since it was being developed in-house, we could make the changes ourselves. Councilor Park asked if there were ways to measure water quantity as well as quality. Ms. Hennings said there were some sub-categories that could be included. Flow was its own category. Basically, it was to be pretty flexible and could provide a lot of data, links, photos, maps, and other items. Ms. Triplett said there was an opportunity to include this information in the Councilor newsletters. If you would like to see a demo, contact Ms. Hennings!

**6. EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD PURSUANT TO ORS 192.660(1)(e)
DELIBERATIONS WITH PERSONS DESIGNATED TO NEGOTIATE REAL
PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS**

Time Began: 4:05 p.m.

Time Ended: 4:36 p.m.

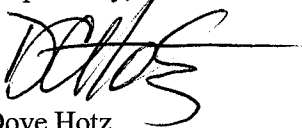
Members Present: Jim Desmond, Alison Kean Campbell, Hillary Wilton, William Eadie, Chris Carlson

7. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Council Hosticka reported that most people involved in the Bull Mountain dispute seemed indifferent. Tigard would like to annex it. The people that wanted to incorporate needed to work out their differences with the city of Tigard.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Deputy Council President Hosticka adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

Prepared by,



Dove Hotz
Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
MAY 9, 2006**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	5/11/06	Agenda: Metro Council Regular Meeting, May 11, 2006	050906c-01
2	RTP update	5/4/06	To: Metro Council From: Kim Ellis Re: Discussion Draft, Appendix B, Recommended Public Participation Plan	050906c-02
2	RTP update	5/9/06	To: Metro Council From: Kim Ellis Re: Metro's New Look at Transportation	050906c-03
2	RTP update		To: Metro Council From: Brian Scott, MIG Re: Regional Transportation Priorities for the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan	050906c-04
3.5	Unscheduled	5/1/06	To: Metro Council From: Andrew C. Cotugno Re: Follow up on Council Worksession on Mega Projects	050906c-05
5	REIN Tool	3/19/06	To: Metro Council From: Lori Hennings Re: Categories for REIN Tool	050906c-06
5	REIN Tool	3/19/06	To: Metro Council From: Lori Hennings Re: Regional Environmental Information Network Project Entry Flowchart	050906c-07