

January 2006

Robert Liberty

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
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**Robert Liberty
represents
District 6, which
includes portions of
Northeast, Southeast
and Southwest
Portland.**



A message from Robert Liberty: Looking back, looking forward

My first year as a Metro Councilor passed in a blur, from the highly original swearing-in ceremony choreographed by Council President Bragdon to the frenetic meeting schedule during the short days of December. Here are some of the projects that absorbed me during 2005:

- Becoming better acquainted with the many neighborhoods and the quarter-million residents of District 6, by hosting, participating in and attending community meetings and events from Lents to Gateway and Sellwood to Multnomah.
- Helping my colleagues and staff to complete a five-year effort to create a program to protect nature in our neighborhoods. (The Nature in Neighborhoods program was adopted in September.)
- Co-chairing Metro's Housing Choices Task Force, focusing particularly on a pilot program to increase the range of affordable housing in Wilsonville. We hope this effort will provide lessons for other communities across the region.
- Developing a proposal to address the challenges of Measure 37 in the context of addressing broader issues of fairness while simultaneously protecting farmland and finding funding to build the new roads, water lines, parks and schools needed for new neighborhoods.
- Examining how we analyze and make major investments in transportation across the region and whether those investments help or hinder our efforts to build and restore great communities.
- Getting to know my colleagues and fellow local officials, who provided so much of my education in this first year. Along the way I learned more about all of Metro's various efforts and enterprises, including latex paint recycling, hosting conventions, breeding condors, building trails and crunching the numbers that quantify our future.

During 2006 I expect to continue many of those efforts while adding new ones:

- The Council will be shaping the New Look, a multi-year effort to determine how to implement our long-range regional plan for growth, especially how we can reinvest in existing neighborhoods, community centers and main streets, rather than spending more taxes to spread development out into farmland. (See related story.)
- Metro's proposed natural areas bond measure will give the voters a way to invest in protecting water quality and wildlife in undeveloped areas. I will be looking for ways to use these tax dollars to also help us improve water quality and add greenery

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Take a new look: Liberty hosts January meetings on development

Councilor Robert Liberty will host a series of public meetings in January to discuss growth trends in the region and how Metro should respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by that growth. This re-evaluation of the regional growth plan is called the “New Look.”

Councilor Liberty is particularly interested in hearing from residents and businesses about how Metro’s regional plan can help build stronger community centers and how we can revitalize commercial streets. Topics will include:

- What kind of development should we have in the Lents, Hillsdale and West Portland town centers, and in the Gateway Regional Center?
- What development should take place along important main streets and corridors, including 122nd Avenue, 82nd Avenue of the Roses, SE Division Street, SW Barbur Boulevard and SE Hawthorne Boulevard?
- How might the regional plan address natural resources, jobs and housing?
- What are the important things to conserve?

A message from Robert Liberty

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in our older urban neighborhoods. These reinvestments could help us carry out our regional plan for the future and improve our quality of life, especially in neighborhoods that are home to fellow citizens of more modest means.

- Last spring the Council approved my budget amendment to fund a speaker series on economic development that broadens the discussion of economic development, to address regional and qualitative dimensions of economic development. That speakers series will be held in the first half of 2006.
- I will be spending some time on Metro’s Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, particularly the waste reduction element.

I am sure we will have many other projects in what promises to be another busy, productive year. I am happy to have served as your councilor last year, and look forward to working with you in 2006.

— Robert Liberty

The Portland meeting schedule follows:

- **6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24**
St. Philip Neri Church, The Paulist Center, St. Paul Rm., 2408 SE 16th Ave.
- **6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26**
Multnomah Center, Capitol Rm.
7688 SW Capitol Hwy.
- **6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 30**
East Portland Community Center,
Multipurpose Rm. 1, 740 SE 106th Ave.

For further information, visit Metro’s website at www.metro-region.org or contact Linnea Nelson at (503) 797-1886 or nelsonl@metro.dst.or.us.

Metro hosts public forums on natural areas bond measure

This spring, the Metro Council will develop and refer to voters (for consideration at the November 2006 election) a bond measure proposal for the protection of natural areas, clean water, and fish and wildlife habitat. In January and February, Metro will host public forums to explain the bond measure proposal and receive your ideas on what elements should be included.

- **1-3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25**, Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland
- **9-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28**, Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland

For more forum dates and information, please visit www.metro-region.org or contact Ken Ray at (503)-797-1508 or rayk@metro.dst.or.us.

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About Metro

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region’s economy.

Your Metro representatives

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David Bragdon

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