

Council News

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

District 2 includes a portion of Southwest Portland and much of urban Clackamas County including Gladstone, Johnson City, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Oak Grove, Oregon City, Rivergrove and West Linn.

A New Look: updating the metro region's long-range plan

The Metro Council is taking a new look at the way we carry out the region's long-range vision in order to keep this a great place to live in the 21st century. The council will invite the public's views about growth and the tools needed to create great communities and a great region. Citizens of the metro region will help to determine:

- choices about where to live, work and play – and about how to get there
- the future of agriculture and other industries
- how the region should invest billions of tax dollars on highways, transit, and neighborhood streets
- where the main streets, sidewalks, schools and parks will go in new communities
- how we protect nature in neighborhoods throughout the region

The Portland metropolitan region is admired across the nation for its path-breaking approach to planning for the future. One example of this foresight was the Metro Council's adoption of a long-

range plan designed with the participation of thousands of Oregonians in the 1990s.

Since the adoption of the long-range plan ten years ago, the region's population has increased by 200,000 residents. This rapid growth brings jobs and opportunity, but it also creates new challenges:

- New forecasts show that within the next 25 years, about a million more people will live in the five-county Portland metropolitan region.
- Time has exposed some of the shortcomings in implementing the long-range plan, as well as tensions and tradeoffs between different objectives.

Metro has conducted initial public opinion research and will continue to talk with the region's residents and leaders to help identify the critical choices we face and develop policy recommendations. At the end of 2006, the Metro Council will adopt updated "New Look" policies, which may include proposals for the 2007 Oregon Legislature.

Housing Choices Task Force presents draft report on affordable housing

The Housing Choices Task Force (HCTF) has drafted a preliminary report that discusses affordable work force housing as a primary component of regional livability; the role of Metro, local jurisdictions and other organizations in ensuring housing choices; and the status of today's housing market. In 2000, Metro required cities to adopt affordable housing production goals and consider changes in policies and codes to support affordable housing development.

The Metro Council charged the Task Force with identifying courses of action for increasing the supply while decreasing the cost of affordable housing. Examples

of their recommended solutions include a regional fund for housing financed by a construction excise tax and either a real estate transfer fee or a document recording fee, and an easy-to-use housing survey that would simplify the way the region reports on housing status. The HCTF also recommends that Metro convene a similar group to work with local jurisdictions through a technical assistance program.

Metro advisory committees and the State Housing Council will hear a presentation of the draft report in February, and the Task Force will present its recommendations to the Metro Council in March.

Public forums continue on 2006 natural areas bond measure

With help from scientists, citizens, local park providers and community leaders, the Metro Council is crafting a bond measure to preserve natural areas, improve water quality and protect fish and wildlife habitat. Public comment at these forums and hearings will help the council finalize the elements of the bond measure before it is referred to voters for consideration on the November 2006 ballot.

The Metro Council invites the public to learn more about the bond measure at two public forums in February:

7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2
Tualatin Hills Nature Park “Beaver Den,”
15655 SW Millikan Blvd., Beaverton
(co-hosted by Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District and Tualatin Riverkeepers)

Metro completes Springwater Corridor Three Bridges Project

Construction of the last of three bridges in the Springwater Corridor Trail is underway. The 200-foot McLoughlin Blvd. bridge is one of three in the trail’s Three Bridges Project.

The project includes construction of part of the trail and bridges over McLoughlin

Events of note in district 2

10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, 11, 18, and 25
Guided winter hike at Tryon Creek State Natural Area

Free. Advance registration is not required. For more information, call (503) 636-9886.

5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14
Lake Oswego to Portland Transit Alternatives Analysis Project Advisory Committee; call for meeting location and directions

Call Karen Withrow at (503) 797-1932 or send e-mail to withrowk@metro.dst.or.us.

9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 18
Willamette Narrows paddle
Boat rentals can be arranged through Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe at (503) 285-0464 or Portland Kayak Company at (503) 459-4050. Register for the free paddle online at www.audubonportland.org.

1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26
Winter trees of Mt. Talbert; call for meeting location and directions
Payment of \$5 per adult is required in advance; children are free. Call (503) 797-1928 to register.

9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 4
Deep Creek School
15600 SE 232nd Drive, Boring

The Metro Council will also hold three public hearings to receive public testimony on the proposed bond measure:

5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23
Hillsboro Civic Center Auditorium
150 E. Main St.

2 p.m. Thursday, March 2
Damascus City Hall
19920 SE Hwy. 212

4 p.m. Thursday, March 9
Metro Regional Center
600 NE Grand Ave., Portland
(final consideration and referral vote)

Call Ken Ray at (503) 797-1508 or send e-mail to rayk@metro.dst.or.us for more information.

Boulevard, the Union Pacific Railroad and Johnson Creek. The Springwater Corridor Trail, nearly 20 years in the making, extends 17 miles from SW 4th Ave. and Ivon St. (near OMSI) in Portland east to the city of Boring.

The McLoughlin Blvd. bridge will welcome users to the city of Milwaukie, and connect the city to Sellwood and neighboring communities. The bridges are scheduled to open to the public by fall.

The Three Bridges Project cost nearly \$4.7 million, with 90 percent of the money coming from federal dollars allocated through Metro’s Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program. Portland Parks and Recreation, the city of Milwaukie and TriMet supplied the remaining 10 percent. The land on which the bridges are sited was purchased with funds from Metro’s 1995 open spaces bond.

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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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February 2006 dch
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