

Brian Newman

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

Brian Newman
represents District
2, which 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 message from Brian Newman

When it comes to shaping the built environment, the Metro Council has only marginal influence on the quality and design of new construction. The vast majority of control is wielded by the private sector: developers, financial institutions, architects, and engineers.

Therefore, in order to advance green development practices that limit harmful impacts on wildlife habitat and water quality, we have partnered with the development community to promote education to their members. I am happy to announce our new “Green From the Ground Up” seminars.

Experts from the building industry, including engineers, contractors and landscape designers, as well as those from the marketing field, will present practical information and case studies that will show developers how they can keep green both in their pockets and their developments.

The first seminar is Tuesday, November 7. The sessions run through March of next year. Participants will learn how to add value through green development practices, market green development to gain competitive advantage, save money with smart site planning, use landscape features that double as stormwater management, and keep native vegetation to increase property values.

For more information, please see the related article in this newsletter. Thank you.

— Brian Newman

Nature in Neighborhoods offers new programs, second round of grants

Metro’s Nature in Neighborhoods initiative is offering two new programs of interest to builders, developers and property owners and is accepting pre-applications for its second round of grants.

Seminars

The “Green from the Ground Up” seminars will provide information on how to preserve natural features and get more “green” from investments. Green development practices can add value to a development and make it easier to market. Added value includes lot premiums, faster sales, increased sales volume, reduced costs and maintenance (in some cases), and improved public image.

The seminars are presented in partnership with Metro, Environmental Protection Agency, Oregon Department of

Environmental Quality, Clackamas River Basin Council, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District and the Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Portland. For a complete list and to register, go to www.metro-region.org/nature or call (503) 797-1850.

Stormwater Awards Ten-Year Retrospective

Participants of this event will hear about a decade of lessons learned from 12 sites that won the 1996-1997 Stormwater Design Award Competition. The competition was created to select and recognize projects that effectively integrated stormwater management, urban design goals, and natural resource protection and enhancement into the urban environment.

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Nature in Neighborhoods

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The Retrospective features an appraisal of the projects with site owners, engineers, designers and a group of expert panelists, as well as a discussion on how future planning can be improved to incorporate strategies that foster sustainability in both public-sector and private-sector stormwater management practices and facilities. To register for the free event, which takes place at the Metro Regional Center on Tuesday, November 7 from 1 to 4:30 p.m., call (503) 797-1555 or e-mail harlanc@metro.dst.or.us.

Nature in Neighborhoods grants

Following on the heels of an earlier round of grants is another opportunity for private individuals, groups or organizations to apply for funding. In spring of this year, Metro awarded \$560,000 in grants for 32 projects. In the late spring next year, up to \$370,000 will be awarded.

Projects must be within the jurisdictional boundary of Metro and focused on watershed restoration and community building through hands-on restoration, education and outreach. The process includes a pre-application in which successful proposals will be selected to apply for final funding. The pre-application period ends January 18.

Applicants are required to provide a level of match depending on the amount of their request. To obtain a copy of the pre-application, go to www.metro-region.org and click on the Nature in Neighborhood logo. Interested parties can also contact Janelle Geddes at geddesj@metro.dst.or.us or at (503) 797-1550.

I-5 to 99W Connector open houses

The I-5 to 99W Connector Project is a study to address the possibility of connecting these two busy roadways, which has been recognized as a need for more than a decade.

Traffic demand in the southwestern portion of the region has grown substantially, leading to increasingly congested conditions. Growth comes from more people living and working in Tigard, Tualatin, Sherwood and Wilsonville; moving freight into and out of the area; growth throughout the region; and statewide traffic.

Metro's Regional Transportation Plan, the Oregon Highway Plan and transportation plans for Washington County, Sherwood and Tualatin identify the need for a transportation solution in this area to address the growing travel demand. The Oregon Transportation Commission designated this as a project of statewide significance, further confirming its importance.

To help identify potential solutions, the project team is hosting three open houses to gather input from the public.

Areas to be discussed include:

- potential corridors where new transportation facilities could be located, and where these corridors should connect to I-5 and Highway 99W
- potential upgrades to existing roadways or intersections that could improve regional and intrastate travel
- constraints or areas that should be avoided as corridors are developed.

Open house dates:

5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29
Tualatin High School
22300 SW Boones Ferry Road, Tualatin

5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30
Middleton Elementary School
23505 SW Old Highway 99W, Sherwood

5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6
Wilsonville City Hall
29799 SW Town Center Loop E, Wilsonville

The same information will be available at all meetings. For more information, call (503) 595-9915, send e-mail to info@i5to99w.org, or visit www.i5to99w.org.

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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.

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