

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Thursday, November 30, 2006
Rm 370A

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

Councilors Absent: Rex Burkholder (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 3:35 p.m.

1. LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Randy Tucker, Public Affairs and Government Relations Department, provided a list of issue papers. He noted that Councilor Hosticka had been appointed legislative liaison. He said the big change in the last couple of days had been changes in the Governor's Office. He shared some of those changes. He said the most interesting change was the two-deputy chiefs of staff. He said we didn't have any sense of committee and chairman assignments yet. His advised since the election was that what Council wanted to accomplish was still what needed to be accomplished. He said there was a legislative briefing scheduled for next week on November 7th. They had about 10 that had been confirmed. Council President Bragdon asked about the climate in the legislature. Mr. Tucker said they were interested in demonstrating that they could govern. They were trying to set a business like tone and govern from a relatively moderate posture, to operate the legislature in a professional way. They were trying to repair the perceptions. He was working with Rachel Coe on a legislative tracking system. He urged Council to operate in such a way that he always knew what was going on. He asked that Council to let him know if they were communicating with legislators.

He talked about the issue papers. He wanted to end this afternoon with what the legislative agenda ought to be. He noted the draft Metro legislative agenda – first cut document (a copy of which is included in the meeting record). He noted top priority items, other proposed items, and new or unresolved items. Councilor McLain commented on Exhibit B of Metro's Legislative Principles (a copy of which is included in the meeting record). Mr. Tucker explained why he handed out the principles page. This was something adopted last session. He explained the Council had adopted a set of principles to guide Metro's lobbyist in his activities. Councilor McLain felt that the general principles were important for this session as well.

Mr. Tucker said he wanted to clear away the easy stuff which included: Eliminate statutory conflicts to clarify Metro's unique status as a "home rule" special districts, the Boundary Appeals Commission repeal, public funds collateralization, e-waste, bottle bill, and prevailing wage. Dan Cooper, Office of Metro Attorney, clarified some of these bills. Councilor McLain commented on the boundary appeals commission repeal and shared her concerns about the backlog of issues at Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) and Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA). Dick Benner, Senior Metro Attorney, talked about the complications of boundary law. He felt LUBA was a better way to go. Councilor Liberty said there was uncertainty about the prevailing wage law. Mr. Tucker explained what the position was that had been proposed. Councilor Liberty talked about current litigation. Councilor Hosticka suggested revisiting this issue after court decisions. Michael Jordan, Chief Operating Officer (COO), asked clarifying questions. Mr. Tucker suggested a revision in the "other proposed items" on prevailing wage by getting rid of the first clause in the sentence. Mr. Cooper said they don't anticipate any decision

from the Court of Appeals during the legislative session. Councilor Hosticka suggested that before we do anything on this issue, they needed to discuss it further. Councilor Hosticka shared his concerns about the prevailing wage issues. Councilor Liberty said the reason Metro was interested was because of the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) program. Mr. Tucker talked about strategizing and positioning Metro as legislation moved forward. He said he would reframe the prevailing wage language and focus on TOD. Councilor Park asked Mr. Tucker to clarify the bottle bill. Mr. Tucker said he was not yet familiar with what was being proposed. He talked about the guiding principles of the bottle bill.

Mr. Tucker then suggested moving to the Housing Alliance legislative agenda and noted Councilor Liberty's issue paper he had shared with Council. He moved that issue to the new and unresolved items list.

Mr. Tucker focused on the proposed priority items. He talked about the five to seven year Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) cycle. He noted the proposed bill. Metro would prefer to have a permanent extension but everything could change over the next several years. His understanding was that he should pursue a seven-year cycle. He also noted that they could get a one-time extension to complete the New Look process. Mr. Benner said you couldn't get an extension for the Urban Growth Report (UGR). Councilor McLain talked about the proposed bill on the extension and her concerns about some of the bullets. Mr. Tucker explained this was not a policy proposal of the Council. Councilor Liberty said there were a number of individuals who were interested in this proposal.

Mr. Tucker reviewed the transportation finance issue. There was no proposal from Metro or from the region yet. They had talked about funding ideas. It was suggested that there should be a general policy statement to pursue additional funding for transportation projects. The question was what Metro's stance would be on what the governor's proposal. Mr. Tucker summarized the concerns of the finance package for transportation. Councilor Liberty asked how Mr. Tucker got direction from the Council when there were differing opinions on an issue. He would contact Councilor Hosticka about the issue and Councilor Hosticka, as the liaison, would convene a meeting of the Council. Councilor Hosticka said a transportation package would go through at least four committees. There were many opportunities to weigh in at different points. Mr. Tucker said there was an expectation about earmarking projects but there was no transportation package yet. Mr. Tucker talked about Metro's supporting seeking lottery bonds to fund south corridor phase two, Portland to Milwaukie light rail.

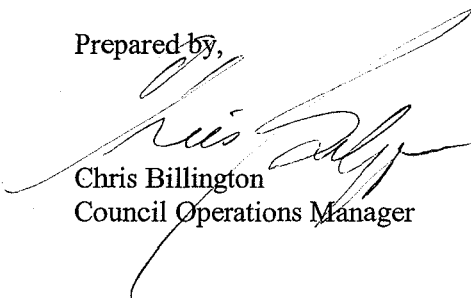
Mr. Tucker said the other two concepts were much less developed: the urban/rural reserves concept. He noted that Council felt these were linked. He noted Mr. Benner had drafted ideas on how to do this. The Urban/Ag group had also been talking about this issue. The general objective was to clearly link urban and rural reserves. Councilor Park suggested that this item should be in the new and unresolved items. Councilor Newman suggested that they wanted to get more clarity on what they wanted and needed. Mr. Tucker said this may or may not be doable in the 2007 session but it would be useful for telling the story of what the region was doing. It was important as part of the New Look effort to talk about the challenges. Councilors commented about the importance of this issue and how it furthered the conversation on the ag/urban issue. Councilor Newman thought it was a useful endeavor to map those areas. Mr. Tucker said there was something in existing state law that would prevent Council from designating rural reserves, the 20-year land supply rule. Mr. Benner explained Metro would say, "you were not going to go there". It could only be accomplished if other entities shared that same philosophy. He spoke to achieving greater certainty for long-term protection of rural reserves.

Mr. Tucker then reviewed the financial tools priority items. There was a lack of money to accomplish urbanizing areas. Mr. Cooper had been looking at a concept to authorize funding mechanisms targeting areas that were expecting growth such as centers, corridors and expansion areas. The mechanism should be regional in scope and not be just focused on expansion areas. He noted that he had modified some of the language by using a dual approach. Mr. Cooper said this was a brainstorming idea that would require consensus building on where the money would get spent and how the money would be collected. Councilors felt there was value in having the conversation. It was good that they were explicit to about the need to keep it regional in nature and help fund the expansion areas. Councilor Newman wanted more information on why we were the funder. Mr. Cooper said Metro was the only entity that could provide regional equity and had broad geographical jurisdiction. Councilor Park said he was unsure as to whether this would foster 2040. Mr. Tucker said he would add that this should foster 2040.

Mr. Tucker said he wanted to raise the issue of Affordable Housing. He would leave the unresolved items for another discussion. He quickly reviewed some of the unresolved and new items.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Prepared by,



Chris Billington
Council Operations Manager

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
NOVEMBER 30, 2006**

Item	Topic	Doc Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	Draft Metro legislative agenda –first cut	11/30/06	To: Metro Council From: Randy Tucker, Public Affairs and Government Relations Department Re: Draft Metro legislative agenda – first cut 2007	113006cw-01
1.0	Exhibit B to Resolution No. 04-3512	2004	To: Metro Council From: Randy Tucker, Public Affairs and Government Relations Department Re: Exhibit B to Res 04-3512, Metro Legislative Principles	113006cw-02
1.0	Issue papers	11/24/06	To: Metro Council From: Randy Tucker, Public Affairs and Government Relations Department Re: Issue papers for 2007 legislature	113006cw-03