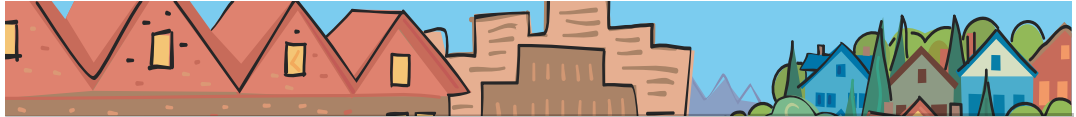


Rex Burkholder

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 5 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

Rex Burkholder represents District 5, which includes Northwest Portland, North Portland, Northeast Portland, downtown Portland, a portion of Southwest Portland and a portion of Southeast Portland.



A message from Rex Burkholder: My Year in Review

The year is coming to an end and I would like to take this opportunity to look back and reflect on the various issues I have been involved in over the last 12 months.

[Regional Transportation Plan:](#)

Perhaps the issue that I have been most deeply involved in this past year has been the Regional Transportation Plan Update. As I have mentioned in a previous newsletters, every four years, Metro is required to update our transportation plan to comply with state and federal planning requirements. We are conducting this update a little differently. Instead of providing a long (and unfunded) list of the transportation projects based on traffic projections, which past updates have done without regard for whether we can pay for them, this RTP update we have been asking the public, through stakeholder groups and public opinion research, what their transportation priorities are and what they would be willing to pay for. Over the past several months I have gone out to various groups, including business and community groups, educating them about this update and getting their feedback about what's important to them. Several articles have been written during the month of November addressing the challenges we are facing. The Portland Tribune featured transportation in their [November Rethinking Portland](#) series. In addition, the Oregonian ran a story you can find on their [website](#). Work on the RTP update will continue throughout 2007 and you can be sure I'll keep you updated.

[New Look at Regional Choices:](#)

While we are updating our transportation plan, we are also updating the region's growth management plan. The Portland Metropolitan region is expecting the arrival of a million new residents in this region in the next 25 years. The Metro Council has been working to identify new growth management tools, recommend changes to state law and local policies, and pursue financial investment strategies all in order to make our desired take hold on the ground. The Metro Council has been engaged in some very thoughtful discussions about ways to plan for our future and I look forward to the work ahead. This huge task will continue throughout 2007 so stay tuned for details.

[Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation \(JPACT\):](#)

As chair of JPACT, the 17-member committee that provides a forum for elected officials and representatives of agencies involved in transportation, my goal has been to educate my peers about the tough choices we have to make as we plan for the future. While we have had to make some specific decisions on projects, for example Highway 217, the Streetcar, among others, we have continued to engage in a broader discussion about how our transportation system should look like in the future and what choices we are going to have to make to ensure accessibility to the citizens of the Portland Metropolitan region. I also lead the region's elected officials annual visit to Congress to discuss transportation funding and policy.

continued

Year in review

continued from page 1

[Oregon Metropolitan Planning Organization Consortium](#) (OMPOC):

I am excited to report on the continued growth of OMPOC. For those of you who are not transportation geeks, Metro is one of the six Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's) in Oregon. MPO's are regional bodies that approve transportation improvement plans for major infrastructure projects, to ensure that they are consistent with federal environmental legislation and that they are fiscally sound. The 6 MPO's have come together to form OMPOC, whose mission is to work in partnership to advance interests common to Oregon's designated MPO's on matters of statewide significance. This past October we had a very successful summit that brought together experts in Oregon's history, transportation policy and economic development to address where we've been and where we're headed. In addition there were breakout sessions to address common goals, challenges and new opportunities to collaborate. This ever strengthening organization will provide leadership in addressing the transportation needs of the urbanized region's in next year's legislative session.

[Columbia River Crossing](#):

I am a member of a 39-member Task Force, comprised of leaders from Washington and Oregon communities, who are looking at options for improving the mobility, reliability, and accessibility for automobile, freight, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian users of the I-5 corridor from State Route 500 in Vancouver to approximately Columbia Boulevard in Portland. Over this past year, task force members have been discussing a range of options. At last month's meeting members voted to release the staff recommendation for public comment. This recommends the replacement of the existing bridges with a new highway bridge along with either light rail or bus rapid transit as well as bike and pedestrian improvements. If you are interested in learning more about the staff recommendation and upcoming opportunities to give your input, go to the project's website for details. I have been working with the Metro Council to ensure the task force considers a range of issues as they discuss alternatives to addressing the needs in this area.

West Coast Corridor Coalition (WCCC):

While I spend much of my time focusing my efforts in the Portland region, I have become involved in

some multi-state efforts. One such effort is the West Coast Corridor Coalition. This coalition, made up of state, local, and private interests from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California, focus on enhancing the transportation system to facilitate goods movement.

A goal of this coalition is to make a national case for increased investments in west coast transportation systems, recognizing that the highways and ports on the West Coast play an important role to the economy of our country. In particular, I am interested in how to protect our communities from air pollution, noise and inappropriate truck traffic as chair of the WCCC environment committee.

[Housing Choice](#):

This past March, the Housing Choices Task Force that I co-chaired along with Councilor Robert Liberty completed its work. Some important recommendations came out of the task force, which can be found in the Housing Choices Task Force report. These include funding and land use solutions as well as technical assistance solutions that would increase the affordable, work force housing is built and preserved. To that end, we have hired a new staff person to work with local jurisdictions to identify opportunities to preserve or build housing. In addition, housing choice will be integrated into the New Look.

[Community Enhancement Grants](#):

As you may know, Metro operates two garbage transfer stations. Transfer stations bring noise and traffic. To compensate for this, Metro has established a grant program to offer resources to the affected communities. These grants are to be used for a broad range of community improvement projects. Since 1985, when the grant program was established, Metro has invested more than \$4.5 million in projects that benefit areas directly affected by Metro's garbage disposal facilities.

There are four enhancement grant target areas, each with a committee composed of residents who provide help in promoting, soliciting, developing and evaluating projects. I chair two of these committees: Metro Central Enhancement Committee (North and Northwest Portland) and North Portland Enhancement Committee (North Portland). I enjoy being a part of these committees because I get to learn about the good work that citizens are doing to improve their communities. If you live in any of these areas and have a project that needs some funding, check out the enhancement grants webpage to find out how to apply.

continued

Year in review

continued from page 2

Streetcar/Eastside Transit Alternatives Analysis:

Another committee that I am a co-chair of is the Transit Alternatives Analysis Steering Committee. Councilor Brian Newman and I have been working with this group for over a year. This committee is reviewing the recommendations of both the Eastside and Portland-Lake Oswego transit alternatives analysis committees. To date, this committee recommended approval of a Locally Preferred Alternative for the Eastside Transit Alternatives Analysis, which was approved by the Metro Council in July 2006. This alternative would extend the Portland streetcar from NW 10th Avenue and Lovejoy Street in the Pearl District, across the Broadway Bridge and south along the Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd./Grand Avenue couplet. The first construction phase would go to NE Oregon Street, at the Oregon Convention Center in the Lloyd District. The ultimate goal is to create a loop back across the Willamette River to the Westside near RiverPlace.

As the project proceeds to environmental analysis, the Metro Council added several considerations to require coordination with ongoing planning efforts, continued work on user benefit measures, capital costs, funding sources and operating revenue sources as well as refinement of traffic and streetcar operations and emergency shared light rail and streetcar operations.

As you can see it has been a busy year. I look forward to the work ahead of me in 2007. I encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns about the work that I am doing.

Have a safe and fun holiday season.

— Rex Burkholder

Metro open spaces bond measure passes

Voters in the region told the Metro Council that they are willing to preserve local natural areas by passing Metro's open spaces bond measure last month by 58.6 percent. The \$227.4 million measure directs Metro to acquire and protect natural areas, thereby preserving some of the region's best remaining open spaces for the citizens of the region.

The approval of Measure 26-80 enables the protection of rivers, streams and creeks at the regional, local and neighborhood levels in several ways:

- Metro will use \$168.4 million to purchase up to 4,500 acres of land in identified target areas

- \$44 million will be distributed to cities, counties and park districts within Metro's jurisdiction to fund local projects that are consistent with protection of natural areas and water quality
- \$15 million will fund a new Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program through which non-profit organizations, local governments and other community-based organizations can apply for funding to support community-level projects.

The measure was modeled after a successful \$135.6 million package approved by the region's voters in May 1995. As a result, Metro acquired more than 8,100 acres of natural areas throughout the region, including 74 miles of stream and river frontage. Nearly one million trees and shrubs were planted, and more than 20,000 volunteer hours contributed to restoration efforts.

The natural areas acquisition program will operate entirely on a willing-seller basis with local property owners. Lands purchased through this bond measure will be retained in public ownership.

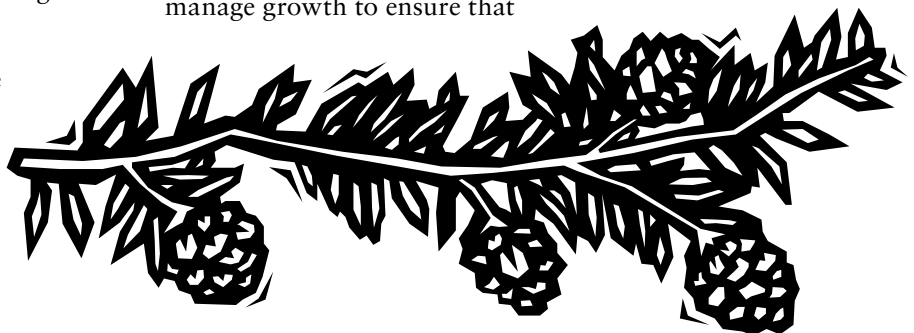
Metro is currently developing areas purchased with funds from the 1995 measure, including the 256-acre Cooper Mountain in Washington County, and the 184-acre Mt. Talbert in Clackamas. If you would like to receive updates, sign up on the natural areas mailing list by going to our website, <http://www.metro-region.org/article.cfm?articleid=16894>.

Kathryn Harrington elected to Metro Council in District 4

Former high-tech business leader and community volunteer Kathryn Harrington was elected Metro Councilor on Nov. 7. Harrington will represent District 4, and replaces Metro Councilor Susan McLain, who served on the Metro Council for 16 years.

Harrington, whose volunteer work includes serving as vice chair of Citizen Participation Organization 7 and involvement with other community organizations including transportation planning committees and the Washington County's road project advisory committee, said she will focus on growth and transportation issues.

"People are concerned about growth," said Harrington. "In order to protect our quality of life, we need to manage growth to ensure that



Kathryn Harrington

continued from page 1

we have the appropriate amount of room for housing, schools and businesses, while at the same time maintaining our superior air and water quality.”

Harrington will also focus on transportation, and said that she will work to find creative solutions to improve roads and highways and expand public transit in order to handle the increased traffic congestions caused by growth and the needs it presents, including freight movement.

District 4 includes Northern Washington County, Cornelius, Hillsboro, Forest Grove, Northwest Beaverton, Aloha, Bonny Slope, Bethany, Raleigh Hills, West Slope, Cedar Mill and Cedar Hills.



Oregon Zoo lights up for winter holidays

For the 19th winter, the [Oregon Zoo](#) comes alive with nearly a million lights decorating animal exhibits, gardens, trees and custom-designed and animated animal sculptures.

The annual celebration features choral and dance ensembles, a ride on the zoo’s brightly-lit train, conservation-themed puppet shows, a troupe of costumed animal characters, seasonal culinary treats, and the opportunity to pet the zoo’s pygora goats.

The light display includes 500,000 energy-saving LEDs (light-emitting diodes), which use only a fraction of the energy of conventional bulbs. The zoo has been using LEDs for its ZooLights displays since 2000, and continues to add more each year, replacing its conventional bulbs. LEDs use only about 1 percent of the power of standard holiday lights, and about 10 percent of the power in mini-lights.

ZooLights, presented this year by The Boeing Company and co-sponsored by KOIN News 6, Clear Channel Portland and United Rentals, is a family tradition. Gates open at 5 p.m. nightly with elves greeting visitors. The festival runs through Dec. 31. For more information, call (503) 220-3687.

Metropolitan area increases recycling rate

An annual report by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) (www.deq.state.or.us) shows that the Portland metropolitan area achieved a record-high waste-recovery rate of 58.6% in 2005, up from 57% the year prior. Metro Council President David Bragdon says the region is on track to reach its 2009 goal of 64% waste recovery.

To help reach that goal, Metro continues to develop targeted programs to help residents and businesses generate less waste and recycle more of the waste they do generate.

A “Recycle at Work” business campaign provides on-site recycling assistance and free desk-side boxes for businesses that generate a significant amount of paper.

During the campaign, nearly 200 businesses signed on as partners, pledging to start a recycling program or to increase their existing programs.

Another program is Metro’s “Construction Industry Recycling Toolkit,” a directory of more than 100 recycling and salvage facilities and businesses. A website is under development to help demolition contractors find buyers for salvaged material,

and help builders reduce costs while meeting green-building standards.

The recovery of organic waste for composting is another program launched in the region in recent years. Food waste from restaurants, grocery stores and food processors is being trucked to a Washington-based composting operation.

To help conserve resources and protect the environment in the future, the Metro Council has been planning new programs and strategies for the next decade. Earlier this year Council approved a regional waste reduction plan, which outlines strategies to achieve higher recycling levels in commercial sectors as well as programs to help residents in single and multi-family residences recycle more. The plan also outlines a significant shift from today’s practice of managing waste after it is created to a focus on new policies and practices that prevent waste from being generated in the first place. Sustainable



Recycle at Work

from Metro and your local governments

www.RecycleAtWork.com

Recycling rate

continued from page 4

business practices and product stewardship policies form the cornerstones of this new direction.

In addition, Council also is considering ways to improve the region's waste disposal system, from sustainable business practices to new standards for privately owned companies that handle commercial waste. The Metro Council will consider adoption of a new 10-year Regional Solid Waste Management Plan early next year.

Explore 30 acres of mature trees and a very special rose garden. Suitable for all ages. Meet at the main entrance at Southeast 21st Avenue and Morrison Street. Advance registration is not required. A suggested donation of \$10 goes to headstone restoration and educational programs. For more information, call (503) 775-6278.

11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 23

Winter solstice paddle at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

Traveling by canoe or kayak is the best way to explore the area, so join this special paddle celebrating the winter solstice.

Bring your own kayak or canoe and personal flotation device. The new water control structure is helping to restore the natural area to a seasonal wetland; the changes are great for wildlife, but they make paddle conditions difficult to predict. The trip leader will contact participants if it is necessary to cancel the trip due to low water levels. Meet at the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Advance registration required; call Frank Opila at (503) 283-1145 or send e-mail to franko@bevanet.com.

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

Metro Council President
David Bragdon

Metro Councilors
Rod Park, District 1
Brian Newman, District 2
Carl Hosticka, District 3
Susan McLain, District 4
Rex Burkholder, District 5
Robert Liberty, District 6

Auditor
Alexis Dow, CPA

Events of note in District 5

For a complete list of events, check out our [online calendar](#).

10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9

Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery tour

Embark on a unique history lesson while enjoying the beauty and tranquility of Metro's Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery in Southeast Portland. The tour highlights Portland's founders, early pioneers and nationally-recognized figures, as well as interesting headstones and monuments.

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