

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.



Metro Council updates Regional Transportation Plan

Among its many roles, the Metro Council is elected to set the region's transportation policy. In doing so, it's a top priority of the Metro Council to invest your limited public dollars where they can produce the best return through an efficient, reliable and safe transportation system for this region's businesses and residents.

Metro does this through the [Regional Transportation Plan](http://www.metro-region.org/rtp) (RTP; see www.metro-region.org/rtp), a report we update every four years with prioritized programs and projects. The RTP also allows the region to compete for state and federal funding to invest in transportation projects and maintenance.

Shortly after the new year, Metro will identify how much the public is willing to invest, then strategically prioritize and balance capital projects with ongoing operations and maintenance needs.

Because money is limited, the Council hopes to pursue transportation investments that take advantage of existing – or encourage new – urbanized areas with efficient housing and commercial development, and provide people with more choices of how to get around. This discourages sprawl that requires vastly more expensive transportation needs.

The Metro Council will develop the RTP along with the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT), a 17-member committee of elected officials and representatives of agencies involved in transportation. The final RTP will be adopted jointly by JPACT and the Metro Council in early 2008, and then must be approved by the federal government.

600 attend I-5 to 99W Connector open houses

More than 600 people recently attended one of three I-5 to Highway 99W Connector project open houses. Metro, Washington County and the Oregon Department of Transportation are leading the project in cooperation with the cities of Sherwood, Wilsonville and Tualatin; Clackamas County; and the Federal Highway Administration.

Each meeting included a PowerPoint presentation and displays about the connector process, schedule, physical and environmental constraints, cultural resources, existing traffic and year 2030 baseline traffic. Information from the open houses may be seen at the project web site located at www.i5to99w.org. For a copy of

the PowerPoint, please call (503) 595-9915 or send e-mail to info@i5to99w.org.

At the open houses, participants shared their ideas regarding possible solutions to the transportation challenges in the project area. Ideas gathered from the Stakeholder Working Group (comprised of citizens) and the Executive Management Team (senior project staff) were displayed and the public's comments about these ideas were also solicited.

Next steps will include review of the many citizen maps and comments as well as creation of a summary report. The complete list of alternatives will be reduced - during a public process - to a workable number that should represent a reasonable range of transportation choices. Additional public participation opportunities will be provided before the number of alternatives is reduced.

Second round of Nature in Neighborhoods grants closing soon

The pre-application phase for grants through the second round of Metro's [Nature in Neighborhoods](#) program is coming to a close. Interested citizen groups, businesses, non-profit organizations, school groups, neighborhoods, government agencies and service organizations must submit their applications by January 18.

Projects must be within the jurisdictional boundary of Metro and focused on watershed restoration and community building through hands-on restoration, education and outreach.

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 (503) 797-1550.

Oregon Zoo Foundation program supports conservation efforts

Through its [Future for Wildlife](#) grant program, the Oregon Zoo Foundation has recently awarded nearly \$40,000 to 14 conservation efforts around the world. The program helps protect threatened and endangered species and their habitats by funding field conservation work that directly contributes to their survival. The foundation awards grants twice annually.

Local programs include supporting the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly population, which has declined significantly due to loss of its native grassland habitat. The zoo raises them in its conservation lab and is funding studies to determine the best time to release developing larvae to the wild.

The zoo also is involved in studying western pond turtles' aquatic and nesting habitats, as recent surveys suggest that the survival rate of eggs and hatchlings may not be enough to maintain the fragile population.

Another local program supported by the foundation is development of nonlethal management techniques to prevent conflicts between people and cougars. According to 2001 statistics, almost 2,100 cougars are killed each year.

The foundation will also continue its support of an AmeriCorps volunteer whose main responsibility is to conduct and coordinate fieldwork on endangered and threatened species in the area of the Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge near Glenwood, Washington and the Columbia River Gorge.

In other areas around the world, foundation funds support a number of projects to protect endangered species:

- Borneo – orangutans
- Nepal – Indian one-horned rhinoceros, Bengal tiger and others
- Guatemala – scarlet macaws
- Peru – Humboldt penguins
- Uruguay – maned wolves
- South/Central America – giant anteaters and endangered parrot species
- Brazil – tapirs
- Zimbabwe – cheetahs, leopards and striped hyenas

The Future for Wildlife Conservation Fund receives support from the ZooParent program, Dine and Discover, donations and other sources.

Events of note in District 2

12:30 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14
Clackamas River salmon refuge project tour
Learn more about this exciting habitat enhancement. Suitable for adults and children 9 and older. Registration and fee of \$10 required in advance; call (503) 797-1928.

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27
2661 SW Borland Rd., Tualatin
Volunteer Saturdays are a great way to see what's growing at Metro's native plant center in Tualatin. Plant seeds, bulbs, trees and shrubs. All ages are welcome. Gloves, light snacks, water and warm beverages will be provided. Advance registration is preferred; call (503) 797-1733.

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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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