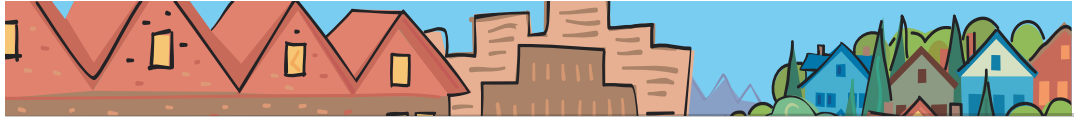


Carl Hosticka

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

Carl Hosticka represents District 3, which includes portions of Washington and Clackamas counties and the cities of Beaverton, Durham, King City, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin and Wilsonville.



I-5 to 99W Connector tough questions

Happy New Year! Transportation and managing growth will continue to be a focus for Metro as we move into 2007. Transportation projects directly affect and shape how an area will develop. One of those projects is the I-5 to 99W Connector (see related article).

I take as given that we need some kind of new connection between I-5 and Highway 99W. Whether something is needed is not an issue. Where it will be located and what type of roadway is the question. Metro and our partners are considering a range of options including a “Roy Rogers

Road-on-steroids” type of connector, an expressway highway (such as Highway 224 that connects Milwaukie to Clackamas County) or a full-fledged limited-access freeway.

As we begin to plan this new connector, we need to ask ourselves what this roadway is really for. Is it to handle direct, through traffic? How will it serve traffic to and from the local area? Where and how will it connect to I-5? Should a new I-5 interchange be built, or use an existing interchange? How does that relate to I-205 and areas east of I-5? How will it affect freight movement and industrial areas? How will it shape growth? How does it fit with Metro’s 2040 plan for growth focused in town and regional centers? Where will we find an estimated \$500 million to pay for it?

These are tough questions, and we will rely on your thoughts, vision and involvement as we move forward.

— Carl Hosticka

600 attend I-5 to 99W Connector open houses

More than 600 people attended one of three I-5 to Highway 99W Connector project open houses held in Sherwood, Tualatin and Wilsonville the evenings of Nov. 29 and 30 and Dec. 6. 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 show and presentation displays about the connector process, schedule, project area physical and environmental constraints, cultural resources, existing (year 2005) 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 described in words and drew their ideas on maps 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. At the Tualatin event, Metro Councilor Carl Hosticka was pleased to talk with many attendees about their thoughts and questions.

Next steps will include review of the many citizen maps and comments, and creation

continued

I-5 to 99W Connector open houses

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of a summary. This summary will then be reviewed with the Stakeholder Working Group, Executive Management Team and Project Steering Committee (elected officials and representatives of the Oregon Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration). After this review, 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. Future project and public participation updates will be provided in this newsletter.

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, nonprofit organizations, school groups, neighborhoods, government agencies and service organizations must submit their applications by January 18.

The \$1 million grant program is designed to fund nature-friendly projects within the Metro jurisdictional boundary. The grants are part of the Nature in Neighborhoods initiative, the Metro Council's commitment to protecting fish and wildlife habitat in the region. Grants will be awarded for projects focusing on restoration, conservation education and other innovative ways to motivate communities to protect the nature of our region.

In its first round of grants, announced in May, the Metro Council awarded \$560,000 to 28 local organizations for 32 projects throughout the region. Projects chosen for funding linked participants and citizens to their watershed through education and active restoration, and focused on neighborhood- and larger-scale, multi-partner education and active restoration projects.

Grants were awarded to six organizations working in District 3. Sherwood's Raindrops to Refuge program is restoring a wetland in the Woodhaven Development, where dozens of volunteers are pulling

blackberry and other invasive species, and will plant trees, shrubs and other vegetation in spring. The Wetlands Conservancy also received a grant for restoration of an area within the 57-acre Hedges Creek Marsh in Tualatin. The city of Beaverton received two grants – one to restore Golden Pond and another for Camille Park, and the Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District received a grant to create a 4.5-acre native Oregon white oak habitat and restore 1.5 miles of riparian areas along Fanno Creek. Other grantees working in District 3 include Friends of Trees for general tree planting and the Tualatin Riverkeepers for invasive Japanese knotweed inventory and removal.

Applicants meeting grant criteria will be invited to submit a final application due in late March; grants will be awarded in May. It is anticipated that funding will be available by summer 2006.

Grant applications can be found on Metro's web site at www.metro-region.org/nature or by contacting Janelle Geddes at (503) 797-1550 or NINrestore@metro.dst.or.us.

Metro native plant center Volunteer Saturday

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. Help maintain beds where volunteers planted 24,000 native plugs last fall. Plant seeds, bulbs, trees and shrubs. All ages are welcome. Come prepared to get a little dirty and have lots of fun in any kind of weather. 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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David Bragdon

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