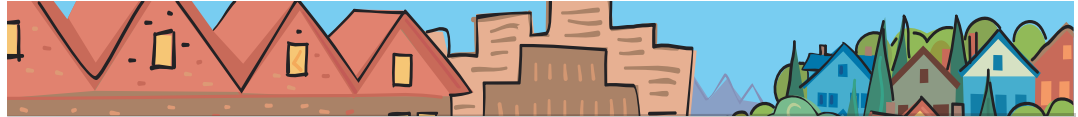


Rod Park

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

Rod Park represents District 1, which includes Fairview, Gresham, Happy Valley, Maywood Park, Troutdale, Wood Village, Damascus and portions of East Portland.



A message from Rod Park

The Metro Council is currently updating the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), with the understanding that we have limited resources and prioritized investments in our total transportation system. In order to get the best understanding of what the public desires in a transportation system, we commissioned a public opinion survey.

In general, what we're hearing from the public is that they desire a balanced transportation system – one that allows people to choose safe, affordable, reliable and environmentally sustainable ways to get around.

The survey said we need a good system balance, keeping the burden off of any one mode.

This survey also told us that the public expects a disciplined fiscal approach in our transportation system. Specifically, they cited supporting maintenance of our existing system over expansion, that we take advantage of existing roads and services when building new housing, and that we fund the kind of transportation that encourages community development bringing housing, jobs and stores into close proximity.

As we transition into the policy development phase of the RTP, we will be using this information to help the region form what we believe to be very innovative transportation policies that will further the needs of the citizens.

To see the full results of this survey, visit: www.metro-region.org/rtp.

— Rod Park

Metro Council makes first purchase with 2006 bond measure funds

The Metro Council's purchase of a one-acre parcel in Sellwood with frontage on Johnson Creek kicks off the program voters approved in November for natural area and water quality protection. Located directly adjacent to the Springwater Corridor trail and Johnson Creek Park, this purchase provides opportunities to restore native vegetation, enhance water quality and protect fish and wildlife habitat.

The area can be seen by users of the Springwater Corridor trail when they cross the recently opened bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Johnson Creek. The bridge is part of the Springwater Corridor trail's "Three Bridges" project completed this fall.

Johnson Creek is the most densely urbanized creek in the region and is one

of 27 target areas identified in the bond measure for habitat and water quality protection efforts. The Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation will manage the site through an intergovernmental agreement with Metro, and already has plans to restore the stream with native vegetation that will improve water quality.

The Metro Council's 2006 natural areas bond measure, part of its Nature in Neighborhoods initiative, funds land acquisition and capital improvements that protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, enhance trails and wildlife corridors, and provide greater connections to nature in urban areas throughout the greater Portland region.

Metro to hear public testimony on 2008-11 MTIP final draft list

The Metro Council and the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) invite the public to comment on the final draft list of projects to be funded in the flexible funding portion of the 2008-11 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). MTIP is the biennial program for federally funded transportation projects in the metropolitan region.

Every two years, Metro selects projects to receive funding from the flexible funding part of MTIP, referred to as Transportation Priorities. Projects fall into categories that include bike/trail, boulevards, Green Streets, pedestrian, planning, transit, road modernization and construction, highway, and transit oriented development. The amount of flexible funds available in this round is approximately \$45 million, which is about 4% of the total funds available during the 2008-11 funding cycle.

Jurisdictions and transportation agencies submitted 66 projects for funding consideration, totaling \$132 million in funding requests. To see a full list of the proposed projects, visit Metro's website at www.metro-region.org, and search for "Transportation Priorities Process 2008-11."

Testimony is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13 in the Metro Council Chamber, 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland. To ensure the accuracy of testimony, participants are asked to bring a written version of their spoken comments, and to be certain that contact information and affiliation (if any) are included. Testimony forms will be available at the hearing. Testimony may also be submitted by e-mail, US mail, fax, or over the website as long as it is received after the final draft list is released (Feb. 3) and before midnight on Feb. 13.

For technical questions about the Transportation Priorities process, programs or projects, call Ted Leybold, MTIP project manager, (503) 797-1759. For questions about public involvement, call Pat Emmerson, (503) 797-1551.

Studies help Metro, partners work on New Look at Regional Choices

In its ongoing work on New Look at Regional Choices, the Metro Council, along with its partner governments, released research results at a regional symposium on January 19. The research considered how the agricultural economy, natural features and urban areas contribute to the region, and identified new factors for determining how growth should occur while maintaining the livability of our region.

The agriculture study included an inventory and assessment of agricultural land close to and outside the urban growth boundary to determine the land's feasibility and viability for commercial agriculture. The study identified factors that affect agriculture in addition to soil quality and water availability, including adjacent land use and agricultural use patterns, parcel size and location, and transportation.

The natural landscape features study was meant to address three issues – which natural resources are essential to the health and welfare of the region, which define the sense of place for the region, and which are essential to creating an ecologically sustainable region as well as preserve biodiversity. The study team identified 27 areas in the region that should be considered when making growth decisions.

The third study, focusing on urban issues, was undertaken to define and describe characteristics necessary to create great places to live, work and play. The study defined a set of eight characteristics that relate to community design and land use, governance, urban services and finance.

Information about the outcomes of the forum can be found on the Metro website: www.metro-region.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.

Your Metro representatives

Metro Council President
David Bragdon

Metro Councilors
Rod Park, District 1
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Carl Hosticka, District 3
Kathryn Harrington, District 4
Rex Burkholder, District 5
Robert Liberty, District 6

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