

# Kathryn Harrington

## METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 NEWS



**METRO**

PEOPLE PLACES  
OPEN SPACES

**Kathryn Harrington  
represents**

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



### **A message from Kathryn Harrington**

It is an honor to represent you on issues related to regional land use and transportation, air quality, water supply and conservation, plus recycling and solid waste handling. I look forward to working with the citizens, businesses and governments of District 4. I anticipate attending neighborhood and public meetings in the future, to share Metro Council and program information, and to hear your thoughts and concerns.

You have likely seen information in the news about the increase in population growth that our area is expecting over the next 25 years. Metro is working this year on a major project to plan for this growth. The “New Look at Regional Choices” is the Metro Council’s collaborative effort to find new, creative ways to absorb the arrival of a million new residents in this region, while preserving the values of our long-term vision.

One of three main components is determining how we steer growth into existing commercial areas and promote vibrant mixed-use centers that use land most efficiently, and also provide more housing and transportation options for residents. The second is determining how we manage expansion of the urban growth boundary in a way that protects valuable agricultural land, but also allows for responsible growth in outlying areas.

Last but not least, we are updating our Regional Transportation Plan, using an outcomes-based approach to identify and prioritize transportation investments that are crucial to the region’s economy and that most effectively support our overall land use, economic, environmental and transportation goals. With limited funding for improvements, careful planning of our transportation system is vital.

These will be very visible projects, and the public will be invited to contribute on several occasions. I can’t emphasize enough the importance of getting involved in our regional planning discussions. I am delighted to report that the recent public comment period for the 2008-11 Transportation Priorities list drew more than 1,200 comments from people who attended four public “listening posts,” phoned, used the Metro web site or sent letters, e-mail or postcards. I am also delighted that Washington County’s North Bethany Concept Plan open house on January 9 drew more than 250 people to review and contribute to the earliest stages of planning for that recent urban growth boundary expansion area.

With this kind of committed involvement from an informed public, I am confident that our regional planning work will reflect the goals and aspirations of our residents. Please, get involved and stay involved!

As the new Metro Councilor for District 4, I can be reached in the Metro office at (503) 797-1553 or via e-mail at [harringtonk@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:harringtonk@metro.dst.or.us). Please let me know your thoughts on our region’s future. I look forward to representing you.

— Kathryn Harrington

## Studies help Metro, partners work toward 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, undertaken by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, 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, conducted by Metro staff in association

with biologists, ecologists and other experts in the field, was meant to answer three areas – 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 work was completed by a consultant team led by the firm Cogan Owens Cogan, Inc. 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](http://www.metro-region.org).

## MTIP comments sought, hearing Feb. 13

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).

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](http://www.metro-region.org), and search for "Transportation Priorities Process 2008-11."

## Zoo attendance highest in 120-year history

The Oregon Zoo broke its all-time calendar-year record in 2006, with 1,447,116 visitors – the highest attendance in the zoo's 120-year history. This is a 7 percent increase over the previous record, set in 2004, when the zoo attracted 1,350,952 visitors.

The Oregon Zoo continues to have the highest attendance of any fee-based tourist attraction in Oregon. Only Multnomah Falls, which does not charge an admission fee, has more annual visitors.

Testimony is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13 in the Metro Council Chamber, 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland. 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 on 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.

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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.

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