

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Wednesday, February 21, 2007
Multnomah Room, Portland International Airport

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Kathryn Harrington, Carl Hosticka, Rod Park, Robert Liberty, Rex Burkholder, Brian Newman

Councilors Absent:

President Bragdon introduced the New Look agenda. He discussed past processes and events of the work session. He was interested in getting more in-depth with the investment strategy and substance of arriving to a result. Robin McArthur, Regional Planning Director, introduced New Look meeting plans. She talked about the start of the “New Look” road map. She discussed guiding principles and engagement strategies. President Bragdon discussed talking about the ‘what’ instead of the ‘how.’ He presented scenarios to frame future development in the region’s future, and achieving optimal spatial outcomes into the future. He discussed subtlety scenarios as well as chaos theory scenarios. He talked about the built environment as a product of the past fifty years of development, and what components would be included and involved in planning for the next forty years. He talked about tools that would need utilized, including collaborative government and regional stewardship methods.

Ms. McArthur discussed the overall goal was to inspire and provide infrastructure funds to move ahead. President Bragdon discussed attracting other investment. Councilor Harrington discussed helping stakeholders understand the scope of the problem of growth. She wanted to inspire and gain partnerships across jurisdictions. Councilor Burkholder said it was important to reinforce, and it was important to not undermine market value, and to devise a relevant framework. Councilor Park talked about the unpredictability of development and the chaos theory, and subsequent reactions to infill. Councilors discussed problems associated with collaborative vision and goal setting. Councilor Newman discussed an overall goal should be creating a firm collaborative decision-making process.

Councilor Liberty said the investment strategy was boring and uninspiring, and he had carried such an opinion for a few months. He also said he disagreed with various focal points. Councilor Harrington discussed choosing a vision would ultimately affect the investment strategy. Councilor Hosticka discussed a performance-based urban growth boundary (UGB). Councilor Park talked about residential location options. Councilor Liberty stressed the importance of making investment decisions instead of thinking everything could be funded. He said regional linkages were very important in considering investment strategies. Ms. McArthur stressed Council agreement on strategy discussions. Councilor Burkholder said he was not looking to redesign but instead focus on how to achieve certain components and visions. Councilor Hosticka talked about influencing the market by giving behavioral clues. He talked about influencing the centers strategy. Councilor Liberty talked about prioritizing

corridors and centers. Ms. McArthur talked about aspirations and capacity. Local jurisdictional strategies were discussed regarding infrastructure funding and collaboration. Councilor Burkholder talked about different sources of money for different needs in different development areas. Councilor Hosticka asked whether there were different infrastructure funds. Ms. McArthur talked about clear visions of the New Look task force. Councilor Liberty said it was not possible to support every strategy, therefore it was important to put all strategies together, and recognize investment scenario priorities. He talked about visions being consistent and whether visions could happen concurrently. President Bragdon said there was not a lack of infrastructure in most centers, but it might be outdated and there might be additional forms of “amenity” infrastructure to implement. He said strategies needed added up and evaluated.

Councilor Hosticka asked about a regional facility plan. Ms. McArthur talked about reconciliation of next steps. She discussed various regional infrastructure analyses, and funding gaps for respective types of infrastructure, and discussed the importance of outlining why Metro was getting involved in infrastructure funding, and what Metro’s role was. She said infrastructure was a large component of implementing the 2040 growth plan.

Councilor Harrington reviewed language and made suggestions. Councilor Hosticka said it could be argued that lack of funding crippled any sort of growth. Councilor Newman discussed political and fiscal needs. Councilor Park talked about conflicting results of subsidizing and priority setting, by way of cheapening market values and matching funds. Councilor Newman talked about what direction discussions should go at such an early stage. Councilor Liberty discussed parallels to the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). Councilor Burkholder discussed true costs of development scenarios. President Bragdon talked about political aspects of stakeholder collaboration. He discussed different cost-effective components of the 2040 Growth Concept, and the importance of relative regional investments. Councilor Hosticka noted the importance of identifying subsidizers early on, rather than identification occurring down the road after decisions had been made. Councilor Harrington talked about the importance of identifying what can be done into the future, but also identifying what should stop being done into the future. Councilor Liberty talked about investment scenarios.

Ms. McArthur talked about target areas. Councilor Liberty talked about discrepancies in the analysis in connection to various target areas. Councilor Newman noted that people should feel they might benefit from such investment to gain widespread support. Councilor Hosticka discussed options for future results, and stressed the mission of the 2040 concept, which was to improve quality of life, rather than just “throw” money at a certain area and hope that the area can improve from a livability perspective. Michael Jordan, COO, noted the importance of engagement levels. He said he wanted to know who this engagement would occur with and specifically how. Councilor Harrington talked about descriptions at the “high level.” Mr. Jordan discussed the extensive processes involved in jurisdictional and community vision collaboration. He shared his experience with local community collaboration.

Councilor Park asked about information needed to adequately provide answers to different communities. Mr. Jordan discussed the importance of posing the right questions to the right audiences. Councilor Burkholder talked about including private groups in infrastructure conversations.

Tim O'Brien, Planning Department, introduced his discussion on rural and urban reserves. He discussed key focal points, including key funding sources. Councilor Newman asked about discrepancies in reserves studies. Councilor Liberty discussed the importance of identifying land that was "off-limits" in order to properly meet land-use goals. Councilor Hosticka asked about joint-designation processes. He discussed statute specifics to include. Dick Benner, Metro Attorney, discussed statute specifics in reference to Councilor Hosticka's questions. Mr. Benner and Councilors discussed language addressing Metro's role in the urban and rural reserves process.

Councilor Newman identified and forecasted problems in ambitious timelines. Mr. O'Brien agreed with various problems, but noted it was still realistic. Councilor Burkholder stressed the importance of citizen participation. Councilor Liberty discussed the time involved in waiting for intergovernmental agreements. Councilor Newman asked about information available. Mr. O'Brien discussed various discussion information available. Councilor Hosticka discussed the possibility of drafting a preliminary concept plan. Ms. McArthur explained the urban and rural reserves adoption process.

Councilor Liberty discussed the legislature's role. He talked about cloudiness in reserves content, and requested clarity. Councilor Park talked about outreach and getting reserves information out there "naturally," so that feedback could then be received. Councilor Newman said he did not think productive feedback would be received at such an early stage in the process. He further discussed lack of current interest and experience with the topic. Councilor Liberty talked about using scenarios to generate discussion. Councilor Burkholder said "edge" issues would only be interesting to certain communities, whereas if a discussion is framed around where and how to grow, more communities become included in the overall dialogue.

President Bragdon said he would like a ballpark figure for infrastructure costs. Councilor Newman said he did not want to spend a whole year discussing a work plan and engagement process. He wanted to start discussing the future of the region. Councilor Harrington said the process was lacking engagement tools.

President Bragdon said he interpreted small group sessions as "ground trooping." He said his interest was that the group sessions be meaningful, and there be a continuum for individuals to feel engaged and part of the process. Mr. Jordan summarized what he had heard in the meeting, including the Council's desire to accelerate the process. He said that was what he deduced from the Council from a conceptual perspective. Mr. Jordan talked about putting a map on the first page of the Oregonian as an extreme tool to generate engagement and public interest. President Bragdon talked about knowing the purpose of events, with clear objectives and agendas to gauge the success of an event.

Ms. McArthur summarized meeting notes and decisions.

Prepared by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Andersen', written in a cursive style.

Tony Andersen

Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
FEBRUARY 21, 2007**

Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
2/13/07	To: Metro Council From: Robin McArthur Re: Draft "Road Map" for Regional Choices, 2007-2011	022107c-01
2/20/07	To: Metro Council From: Robin McArthur Re: 21 st Century Infrastructure Analysis	022107c-02
undated	To: Metro Council From: Robin McArthur Re: New Look Milestones 2007	022107c-03
2/5/07	To: Metro Council From: Robin McArthur Re: New Look Focus Groups Event Brief	022107c-04
undated	To: Metro Council From: Robin McArthur Re: Purple Box #1	022107c-05