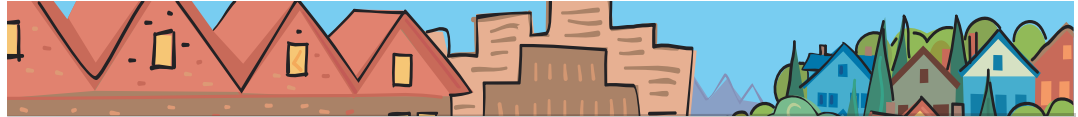


Brian Newman

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.



A message from Brian Newman

I am happy to report some very positive budget news from Salem. On March 22, State Senator Kurt Schrader and Representative Mary Nolan, the Co-Chairs of the Ways and Means Committee, released their budget blueprint for the next biennium. The budget included \$250 million in lottery-backed bonds for the Milwaukie light rail project. While most of the project will be funded by the federal government, the allocation in the co-chairs' budget will help fund the local share of the project.

Needless to say, their budget represents a strong vote of confidence in the project and the communities served by the project.

The co-chairs budget also included a \$100 million package to support affordable housing, another priority of the region. With rapidly escalating housing costs, we need to do more for seniors and young people to afford housing.

Finally, we are still hopeful that the legislature will adopt a road funding package to address congestion and the backlog of maintenance on our major arterials and highways. We are hopeful that this issue will gain traction in the second half of the legislative session.

— Brian Newman

Metro councilors, staff meet with congressional representatives on transportation funding

In March, Metro Councilor Brian Newman joined a group of about 25 representatives from Metro, other public agencies and various cities and counties from throughout the region in an annual trip to Washington, D.C. to discuss transportation policy and funding with members of the U.S. Congress and the federal government.

This annual trip has become a very valuable tool for the region. In keeping with our well-tuned practice of thorough planning, the participants of this trip identify the most important transportation priorities that absolutely need attention from Congress and the federal government before traveling.

This strategic focus has a very strong effect. When members of Congress can see and hear representatives from this region making a

unified case and even cross-advocating for each others' needs, it sends a very positive signal to them that this region is unified, collaborative and very worthy of attention and priority from them. Not all metropolitan regions have been able to do that as well as we have.

As this region and the federal government update transportation policies to respond to 21st Century challenges, we feel this annual trip helps this region immensely. By keeping open, positive channels with key members of Congress, we are able to help influence their transportation policy making so that it can benefit our region even more.

Metro Council approves list of transportation and related projects

The Metro Council recently voted to approve the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation's recommendation to fund projects through the flexible funding portion

continued

Transportation projects

continued from page 1

of the 2008 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). MTIP is the biennial program for federally funded transportation projects in the metropolitan region.

MTIP funds are spent on state and federally approved highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the region. The flexible fund portion, administered by Metro, may be used for a variety of transportation projects, and for those that do not have another source of funding, such as trail planning, regional transportation options, transit shelters or street improvements.

Jurisdictions and transportation agencies were awarded nearly \$45 million for 32 projects; 66 projects totaling \$132 million in funding were considered.

Projects funded in Clackamas County include:

- Harmony Road: 82nd Avenue to Highway 224
- OR 99-E bridge at Kellogg Lake
- Trolley Trail: Arista Street – Glen Echo

For a full project list or to learn more about the projects, visit www.metro-region.org and search for “transportation priorities process 2008-11.”

Portland to Milwaukie light rail open house Monday April 9 at OMSI

On Monday, April 9, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Metro will host an open house at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) to present and discuss design options for the Milwaukie to Portland light rail project. The six and one-half mile line would include up to ten stations and a new bridge across the Willamette River. OMSI is located at 1945 SE Water Avenue. Take TriMet bus lines 4, 6, 10, and 14 to OMSI. For more information: Phillip Kennedy-Wong at Metro: (503) 797-1755 or www.metro-region.org/transportation.

Events of note in District 2

1 pm. Fridays, April 6, 13, 20, 27

Story and a stroll: Rocks at Tryon Creek State Natural Area

Join a park naturalist for nature story time followed by a stroll through the park. This

program is geared toward families with children ages 3-6, but all are welcome. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 636-9886, ext. 25.

9 a.m. Saturday, April 14

Willamette Narrows paddle

Destination: Rock Island, where the river scenery abounds. Join Willamette Riverkeeper at Willamette Park in West Linn for this 4-mile paddle trip around the island complex and back. Bring your own boat, or become a member for \$35 and use Willamette Riverkeeper's canoes and gear at no additional charge at this and other events. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 223-6418 or send e-mail to amy@willamette-riverkeeper.org.

12:30 pm. Sunday, April 22

Clear Creek Canyon tour

Join Metro naturalist James Davis for a natural history tour of one of the most beautiful new sites protected by Metro's natural area acquisition program. This forested tributary of the Clackamas River has excellent water quality and significant wild fish runs, with frequent signs of deer, coyote, beaver and river otter. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. The trip includes leisurely walking for two to three miles over uneven terrain on old dirt roads. Suitable for adults and children 10 and older. \$5 per adult. Advance registration required; call (503) 797-1715.

9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 28

Songbirds of Mt. Talbert

Forested hills like Mt. Talbert are hot spots for migrating songbirds such as warblers, tanagers, orioles, flycatchers, vireos and others. Join Metro naturalist and expert birder James Davis to be among the first to catch the bird watching action on Mt. Talbert during the peak of spring migration. Bring binoculars or borrow some of ours if available. Suitable for beginning and experienced birders from teens on up. Trails are informal and can be muddy or steep in places. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 794-8084 by April 20.

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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
Brian Newman, District 2
Carl Hosticka, District 3
Kathryn Harrington, District 4
Rex Burkholder, District 5
Robert Liberty, District 6

Auditor
Suzanne Flynn

April 2007 dch/final

Printed on recycled paper