

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.**



Planning your regional transportation system for the next 25 years

You're driving to work, to shop, to your kids' school, or you're moving products produced here for shipment to global markets. You're focused on getting to your destination, and you want the most efficient route possible. Without knowing it, you are likely using a combination of roads that are separately the responsibility of the local city, of the county and of the state. You are using the roads as a system to get where you need to be.

The fact is, our approach to planning hasn't always matched your use of the roads as a system. Transportation planners throughout our region really do want to make the roads work for you. This year, Metro, your local governments and the state are looking at the transportation system as a whole, regardless of governmental boundaries — identifying missing links needed for a more effective road network, and highlighting bottlenecks. We then will direct funding to the projects that will most significantly improve the system as a whole, to benefit your everyday use of our roadways. This will also ensure that as we improve existing roads and build new ones, we are being efficient with your tax dollars.

In March, the Metro Council signaled the completion of Phase 2 of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update. This phase included researching the current transportation system; analyzing relevant usage, demographic, land-use, environmental and financial trends; and gathering input on public priorities through the project website, scientific public opinion research and stakeholder workshops.

Over the next several months, Phase 3 will use the Phase 2 research and input to update the plan's strategies and performance measures, and will prioritize the most critical transportation investments to best deliver desired outcomes. During this time, you may hear or read about how your local elected officials and staff members are working with Metro, grappling with the analysis data, how different scenarios will play out, and how we might make selections to give you the best experience given the funding that we can expect. This will be done using an outcome-based approach tied to existing fiscal realities. At the same time, we will strive to secure additional funding at the federal, state and local levels so we can improve the system even more.

All of this work will lead to a discussion draft of the Regional Transportation Plan, which will be released in the early fall for a 45-day public comment period that also includes public hearings. You will get to see the proposals, the choices we have made to help your travels, and comment on them. We want to make the system work for you and your family, for your work and personal trips and for the businesses in our area to thrive.

To learn more about the 2035 RTP go to www.metro-region.org/rtp.

— Kathryn Harrington

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 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 which 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 Washington County include:

- East Baseline Street, Cornelius
- Fanno Creek Trail
- Highway 217: Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway to Southwest Allen Boulevard
- Main Street: Rail corridor to 99W, Tigard
- Rock Creek path: Orchard Park to Northwest Wilkins
- Pedestrian network analysis: region-wide
- Transit Bus Emission Reduction: region-wide
- Westside Corridor Trail: Tualatin to Willamette rivers

For a full project list or to learn more about the projects, visit www.metro-region.org and click on "Transportation Priorities process 2008-11" in the highlights column on the left.

Oregon Zoo's Rabbit Romp fun for entire family

The Oregon Zoo invites families to celebrate spring during Rabbit Romp on Saturday, April 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rabbit Romp features a traditional candy "egg" hunt, which begins at 9:20 a.m. and repeats every 20 minutes. Children ages three to ten are divided into four age

groups, with each group having a chance to find a "magic" egg that contains a special prize. Toddlers two and under can participate in a candy hunt organized especially for them.

Other activities include a petting zoo, games, storytelling, photo opportunities and the chance to learn about the zoo's



conservation efforts to protect our regional endangered pygmy rabbits. Several lucky Rabbit Rompers may also win a chance to hide special "eggs" (treats

such as apples and yams) for the zoo's elephants to find. The event is free with zoo admission. For further information, call (503) 226-1561. For advance admission tickets (skip long waits at the gate) and other April zoo events, visit www.oregonzoo.org.

Free household hazardous waste collections in District 4

Friday and Saturday, April 13 and 14
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Century High School
2000 SW Century Blvd., Hillsboro

Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Intel Ronler Acres Campus
2501 NW 229th Ave., Hillsboro

Dispose of your household's toxic trash and learn about safer alternatives at these free Metro household hazardous waste collection events.

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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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