

# Rex Burkholder

## METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 5 NEWS



**METRO**

PEOPLE PLACES  
OPEN SPACES

**Rex Burkholder**  
represents District  
5, which includes  
Northwest Portland,  
North Portland,  
Northeast Portland,  
downtown Portland,  
a portion of  
Southwest Portland  
and a portion of  
Southeast Portland.



### A message from Rex Burkholder

Things were on the move this past month with a lot transportation related activities that I would like to share with you.

First, the month began by taking a trip to Washington-DC that is—with a group from the Metro area. We met with all of our Oregon congress members to talk about what our needs are and what we think the federal government should be doing to help us be more successful. We were well-received as was our message about linking investment to outcomes like safer communities, economic development and a cleaner environment.

Upon our return, the Metro Council made two important decisions. The first was approving the 2008 [Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program](#) (MTIP). The MTIP funds two years' worth of federal transportation funds in the metropolitan region. This year, nearly \$45 million for 32 projects were allocated; 66 projects totaling \$132 million in funding were considered.

MTIP funds are spent on highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the region. The portion administered by Metro may be used for a variety of transportation projects, such as trail planning, regional transportation options, transit shelters or street improvements.

Projects in District 5 that were awarded funds are:

- 82nd Avenue-Columbia intersection improvements
- Cully Boulevard: Northeast Prescott to Killingsworth
- Portland Road-Columbia Boulevard
- Northeast-Southeast 50s bikeway: Northeast Thompson to Southeast Woodstock

For a full project list or to learn more about the projects, visit [www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org) and search for "transportation priorities process 2008-11."

The second important decision made by the Metro Council was to enter into "Phase 3" of the Regional Transportation Plan update (RTP). I am excited about this step forward. Phase 3 is built on community input and research we gathered over the last 6 months. Some of you provided us with valuable input and we thank you. We used this to develop goals and objectives for how we invest in our regional transportation system that will guide development of the rest of the plan and selection of projects into the RTP.

In Phase 3, we will evaluate projects based on the goals and prioritize them for funding over the next 20 years. In addition, we will analyze existing as well as potential new funding sources and define strategies for raising new revenue. By September, a slate of projects to be included in this new RTP, as well as the policy portion of the RTP, will be released for public comment from September to November. To find out more detail, go to the RTP's website: [www.metro-region.org/rtp](http://www.metro-region.org/rtp).

On a totally different note, I would like to urge you to take part in [TV-Turnoff Week](#), April 23-29, 2007. With the days getting nicer and longer, spend your time outside instead of inside. Instead of reaching for the TV Guide, reach for a [GreenScene](#) and learn about the nature in your neighborhood!

*continued*

Lastly, I would like to let you know about an upcoming conference happening on April 14th. The Mazama's are hosting a [Melting Mountains conference](#) in Portland. Topics to be covered at this conference are:

- What is happening to the Mountains?
- How does that impact our community?
- What are policy makers planning and implementing?
- What can we do?

I will be participating on a panel, along with Oregon State Representative [Ben Cannon](#) and City Commissioner [Dan Saltzman](#) to discuss efforts at the local, regional and state level to offset global warming. I encourage you to attend. For more information and to register go to: [www.eventbrite.com/event/50845079/Mazamas](http://www.eventbrite.com/event/50845079/Mazamas), call: (503) 227-2345, or send e-mail to [adventure@mazamas.org](mailto:adventure@mazamas.org).

— *Rex Burkholder*

## **Metro Council partners with PSU, OEC to host 2007 economic development speaker series**

The [Metro Economic Development Speaker Series](#) brings to the region some of the leading economic development thinkers in the United States. Speakers offer their insights into the national and global forces affecting regional competitiveness and provide counsel for business and government leaders and the residents of the Portland metropolitan region.

The series includes a diversity of viewpoints and expertise designed to challenge the region's residents and leaders to rise to new levels of thinking about the region's economy, the market dynamics affecting our global competitiveness and the strategies required to position us for success.

This year's series is presented in partnership with Portland State University's [School of Business Administration](#) and the [Oregon Environmental Council](#).

### **Global Green Services: Oregon's Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy**

7:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 24

**Multnomah Athletic Club, 1849 SW Salmon, Portland**  
Businesses are increasingly finding that reducing their impact on the planet is not only the right thing to do for the environment, but that it also benefits their bottom lines. This event will feature a panel of area professionals who specialize in helping businesses around the world "go green" including Phil Welker from Portland Energy Conservation Inc., Walter Van Valkenburg from Stoel Rives, Dennis Wilde from Gerding Edlen and Steve Kokes of Coates Kokes. \$25 (\$20 for OEC members and

employees of non-profit and government agencies). To register, visit the web site: [www.oeconline.org/business/businessforum](http://www.oeconline.org/business/businessforum) or call (503) 222-1963, ext. 100.

### **Quality of Life: Creating a Globally Competitive Regional Economy**

7:45 a.m. Thursday, May 31

**Multnomah Athletic Club, 1849 SW Salmon, Portland**

Bob Yaro, Regional Planning Association, will speak on the role that quality of life plays in creating a globally competitive regional economy and the potential to work with other Northwest cities as a "mega-region" to capitalize on the quality of life niche. Continental breakfast begins at 7:15 a.m., presentation takes place from 7:45-9 a.m. Free; reservations required, register at [www.foundation.pdx.edu/busbriefings](http://www.foundation.pdx.edu/busbriefings) or call (503)725-4763.

## **Metro Council studies headquarters hotel feasibility**

The Metro Council has recently become involved in a proposal to develop a publicly owned, privately operated 600-room headquarters hotel at the [Oregon Convention Center](#) (OCC). A hotel has been discussed since before 1990, when the OCC opened. Studies have shown that such a hotel could significantly enhance the OCC's operations by enabling it to attract up to 17 additional conventions each year, possibly bringing millions of dollars to our economy. These same studies have shown that without a headquarters hotel, the OCC will lose some of its current national conferences.

The [Portland Development Commission](#) (PDC) initially led the project, selecting a development team and obtaining land on which to build. The PDC sought to attract private development of the hotel, but it quickly became clear that private ownership of a convention headquarters hotel would require up to \$80 million in public subsidy, with no public ownership or public return on its investment.

Rather than publicly subsidize a private hotel, the feasibility of a publicly owned and privately operated hotel is now being analyzed, with Metro, as the owner of the OCC, as the potential public owner and lead on the project. On Feb. 8, the Metro Council voted to take the lead on investigating the public ownership concept, and committed \$250,000 to complete a thorough and rigorous analysis of the expected financial performance of the hotel, the effect it could have on the local hospitality industry, the benefits it might bring to the OCC's operations, the stability of its revenue sources, and dedicated funding to pay for it.

The Metro Council is committed to making a decision on this project, one way or another, by the end of this summer. We need to give the tourism industry and the public some certainty as to whether this project

will move forward. We are also committed to doing our homework and will move forward with the hotel only if we are reasonably convinced that it can deliver significant benefits to the region, withstand inevitable down cycles in the economy, and pay its debts while minimizing the risk to existing programs.

## **Portland to Milwaukie light rail supplemental draft environmental impact statement begins**

Metro hosting an open house meeting to design options being considered for the [Milwaukie to Portland light rail project](#) on Monday, April 9, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the [Oregon Museum of Science and Industry](#) (OMSI).

Communities in the Milwaukie to Portland corridor selected light rail through an extensive public process during South Corridor Project between 1999 and 2003. Metro will conduct an environmental analysis of the proposed line beginning this spring. The analysis will study many factors including design, costs, land use and travel time.

The six-and-one-half mile alignment would provide additional transportation options for fast-growing communities with high traffic congestion in north Clackamas county and southeast Portland. The line would connect an estimated 20,000 daily riders to the existing MAX system, creating access to central eastside, south waterfront, downtown Portland, Hillsboro, Gresham and the Portland airport. Nine to ten stations and a new bridge across the Willamette River would be part of the line.

Metro and its regional partners will complete the analysis, called a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS), in the summer of 2008. Along the way, there will be numerous updates and opportunities for public participation and comment. A citizen committee will advise Metro throughout the analysis.

Following the SDEIS, the next step will be preliminary engineering and a funding agreement between the federal government and local governments. Construction could begin as soon as 2011 depending on federal and local funding agreements.

Project partners include the Oregon Department of Transportation, Tri-Met, Clackamas and Multnomah counties and the cities Portland, Milwaukie and Oregon City.

OMSI is located at 1945 SE Water Avenue; the open house will take place in the auditorium on the north end of the building. Take TriMet bus lines 4, 6, 10, and 14. For more information or to be added to the project mailing list, contact Phillip Kennedy-Wong in Metro's Public Affairs and Government Relations Department at (503) 797-1755 or go to [www.metro-region.org/transportation](http://www.metro-region.org/transportation).

## **Events of note in District 5**

For a complete list of events, check out our online calendar at [calendar.metro-region.org](http://calendar.metro-region.org).

### **9 a.m. Sunday, April 1**

#### **Bicycle the Springwater Corridor**

*Join Jim Labbe from Audubon Society of Portland and Christine Steele from Johnson Creek Watershed Council for a 21-mile bike ride to Gresham's Linneman Station and back via the Springwater Corridor. Stop at several urban natural areas along the way and learn about future opportunities to protect and enhance the Johnson Creek watershed. Participants are responsible for bringing and maintaining their own bicycles; helmets are required. Directions and other details will be mailed to registrants. Free. Register online at [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) or by calling (503) 292-6855 ext. 116.*

### **7 p.m. Thursday, April 5**

#### **Spring birds identification class**

*Get ready for great spring birding action with this crash course in identifying spring migrants and summer breeders. Metro naturalist James Davis will show photos, play recordings of bird songs and simplify what seems like a confusing variety of birds to many beginners. This class is excellent preparation for bird walks at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Avenue in Portland. Registration and payment of \$10 per person are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715.*

### **9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 7**

#### **Oregon Zoo's Rabbit Romp fun for entire family**

*Rabbit Romp features a traditional candy "egg" hunt, which begins at 9:20 a.m. and repeats every 20 minutes. Children ages 3 to 10 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 and photo opportunities. Learn about the zoo's conservation efforts to protect our regional endangered pygmy rabbits. Games, petting zoo and fun for everyone. Free with zoo admission. For further information, call (503) 226-1561.*

### **9 a.m. Saturday, April 7**

#### **Arbor Lodge Park work party**

*Come to Arbor Lodge Park in North Portland to join in a new effort to replace the use of pesticides in parks by weeding. Snacks, gloves and tools will be provided. Meet at North Bryant Street and Greeley Avenue. For more information, call Megan at (503) 423-7549.*

### **9 a.m. Saturday, April 7**

#### **Columbia Slough stewardship Saturday**

*Work to improve habitat within the Columbia Slough watershed. Help with a variety of activities, including invasive species removal, native tree planting, and trail maintenance. Advance registration required; call Melissa at (503) 281-1132.*

### **9 a.m. Saturday, April 7**

#### **Spring bird walk at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area**

*Spring brings more than 25 different songbirds to join the resident birds nesting at this wetlands area, along with lingering winter waterfowl and many birds of prey. Meet Metro naturalist and expert birder James Davis in the*



parking lot on North Marine Drive. Learn to identify birds by sight and songs. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Suitable for adults and children 10 and older. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 797-1715.

**9 a.m. Saturday, April 7**  
**Wild foods of Forest Park**

Join wild food expert John Kallas and explore blooming wildflowers and wild greens in Forest Park. Learn plants like wild violet, Solomon's seal, fairy bells, nettles, wild ginger and others. Meet at the entrance to the Wildwood Trail off Germantown Road. \$22. Advanced registration required; call (503) 775-3828.

**1 p.m. Saturday, April 7**  
**Painted turtle walk, Smith and Bybee Wetlands**  
Oregon's turtles are rare, shy and hard to find, but this wetlands area is home to one of the largest populations of Western painted turtles in the Northwest. See these beautiful reptiles with the help of Metro naturalist James Davis, who will have small telescopes for a close look. Suitable for adults and children 5 and older. Meet in the parking area on North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 797-1715.

**9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 14**  
**Animal tracking practice at Smith and Bybee Wetlands**  
Metro volunteer naturalist and experienced tracker John Halsell is starting a new, monthly tracking program at this wetlands area in North Portland on the second Saturday of each month. Metro's 2,000-acre Smith and Bybee Wetlands offers tracking on sand, mud, trees and the forest floor, often finding evidence of a variety of urban wildlife including beaver, deer, coyote, raccoon and rabbits. Most of the time will be spent walking on sand or paved trail to find and discuss tracks and other wildlife evidence. All skill levels are welcome; suitable for adults and teens. Meet in the parking area on North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 797-1715.

**10 a.m. Saturday, April 14**  
**Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery tour**  
The tour highlights Portland's founders, early pioneers and nationally recognized figures, as well as interesting headstones and monuments. Explore 30 acres of mature trees and a very special rose garden. Suitable for all ages. Meet at the main entrance at Southeast 21st Avenue and Morrison Street. Advance registration not required. A suggested donation of \$10 goes to headstone restoration and educational programs. For more information, call (503) 775-6278.

**10 a.m. Saturday, April 14**  
**Tax break bike ride**  
Forget about the bottom line. Come ride the trails from the Willamette River to the Columbia River. Members of npGREENWAY will host

this ride highlighting the future connectivity that the Willamette Greenway trail system will provide. Families with trailers and cargo bikes are welcome. For more information, visit [www.npgreenway.org](http://www.npgreenway.org) or call (503) 823-4099.

**7 p.m. Thursday, April 19**  
**Warblers of Oregon**  
One of the most colorful and musical groups of birds to arrive in spring is warblers. Species in the Portland area can be quite confusing to beginning and experienced birders alike. Let Metro naturalist and expert birder James Davis make warbler identification easier for you. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Avenue in Portland. Registration and payment of \$10 per person are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715.

**9 a.m. Saturday, April 21**  
**Fanno Creek bike ride**  
Join [Audubon Society of Portland's](http://Audubon Society of Portland) Jim Labbe and representatives from [Tualatin Riverkeepers](http://Tualatin Riverkeepers), [Bridlemile Creek Stewards](http://Bridlemile Creek Stewards) and [Fans of Fanno Creek](http://Fans of Fanno Creek) for a bike ride along the Fanno Creek Greenway. This is a great opportunity to explore and learn about new and future sections of the greenway including the newly opened bridge over the Tualatin River at Cook Park. Participants are responsible for bringing and maintaining their own bicycles; helmets are required. Free. Register for the bike trip online at [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) or by calling (503) 292-6855 ext. 116.

**noon Sunday, April 29**  
**paddle trip, Smith and Bybee Wetlands**  
Traveling by canoe or kayak is the best way to explore this wetlands area in North Portland. Meet at the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Bring a kayak or canoe and personal flotation device. The new water control structure is helping to restore the natural area to a seasonal wetland. The changes are great for wildlife but they make paddle conditions difficult to predict, so the trip leader will contact participants if it is necessary to cancel because of low water levels. Advance registration required; call Troy Clark at (503) 249-0482 or send e-mail to [brillobrain@ureach.com](mailto:brillobrain@ureach.com).

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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

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