

**Minutes of the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement**  
**Regular Committee**  
Wednesday April 4, 2007  
Room 270

Members present: Kate Warren (Chair), Norm Andreen, Hal Ballard, Virginia Bruce, Malek Hall, JC Kizak, Mark Knudsen, Erin Miller, Gerritt Rosenthal, Skip White, Karen Wolfgang

Members excused: Chory Ferguson, Christine Roth

Members absent: Scott Seibert

Also present: Segeni Mungai

**Call to order, review of agenda, approval of March 7, 2007 meeting minutes, introductions**

Chair Warren called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The minutes of the March meeting were approved as presented.

Metro Auditor Suzanne Flynn introduced herself to the committee. She informed the group about the Metro Auditor Citizen Advisory Committee that provides feedback on audits and suggestions for new ones. They meet as needed, 3 or 4 times a year. She asked the committee to spread the word to interested people about available seats on the 11-member committee.

**Councilor communications**

Council President Bragdon reported on two major initiatives that will be surfacing for the council over the next several months. The refinement planning for the openspaces bond measure, which Heather Kent is on the agenda to talk about later, is happening now, and the Council will be very involved in this effort.

In the fall the Council will be involved with project solicitation for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update. There will be workshops and public hearings on that. He said Council's desire is to hit beyond the pro forma public hearings by having more interaction with the public in those workshops. President Bragdon responded to several questions about the public involvement and notification plans.

In response to question about more freeways being built, he said there is no chance the feds will subsidize new highways as maintenance is so badly needed on the existing ones.

Skip White asked the council's views on the convention center hotel. Council President Bragdon replied that as owners and operators of the Oregon Convention Center, we obviously want OCC to be successful and people in the industry say the convention center hotel would help. He said whether or not they would be willing to subsidize the gap is another thing. He did not think the hotel would be something the general fund taxpayers would support, nor would Metro want to do it. The hotel's success would depend on a lodging tax of some kind from the industry. If the hotel industry did not agree to that, the project is not likely to happen. He said both positions have validity. The council will be spending several months doing their due diligence to see what it would take to bridge the gap.

**South Corridor (formerly Milwaukie Light rail) Project PIP**

Phillip Kennedy-Wong reviewed the light rail alignment and responded to questions. He said there had been a very good turnout and participation for the first open house. Over 144 people signed in and there was a 50% return on the feedback forms provided at the meeting. The notification list relied on e-mail, the web site, and phone calls to key constituents in area. He provided a summary attachment to show where folks had heard about the meeting. The feedback showed that there are still some who

are not crazy about having light rail come to Milwaukie, but most people were most interested in how it will look and where it would go. There is conditional support. More meetings to confirm the best placement for the bridge crossing are upcoming. Communication with citizen began in December and is ongoing.

Mr. Kennedy-Wong was asked to return in December for an update.

### **Bond Measure Refinement PIP**

Heather Nelson Kent, public involvement project manager for the bond refinement process, responded to questions from the committee. They are using lists of stakeholders generated by staff and reviewed by the council for additional names. There are 27 target areas with a dozen names for each area. Staff goes out to interview them and if others are identified, they can choose to add those to the list. The idea is to talk to the people most knowledgeable. Three thousand notifications are being mailed to people this week, including the folks who expressed interest 10 years ago for the previous bond. The committee expressed concern that this would only inform special interest groups and not the general public. Ms. Kent said she would be happy to take contact information from committee members for anyone they think should be notified.

Norm Andreen commented that there continues to be issues with stakeholders and interested parties being the only ones initially identified to talk to, which is not the intent of the State's Goal 1, to develop a citizen involvement program that insures the opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of the planning process. Ms. Kent replied that they had talked to several types of stakeholders, government types, scientists, botanists, etc., prior to putting the areas together for the bond package. Over 40 scientists had been surveyed for the best biological areas to consider. Mr. Andreen said a good way to acquire knowledge in terms of topography and other attributes of an area that you could not see on a map would be through neighborhood associations and CPOs, which would better follow Goal 1 guidelines.

In response to a question about a separate public involvement plan to attract people to the capital part of the project, Ms. Kent said it is, in fact, their intent to develop a separate plan. There was some discussion of that in the proposal phase. There are restrictions on where the money can be spent. Mark Knudsen agreed that a separate PIP is a good idea because it might require a different set of constituents. There was additional discussion regarding public input. This method gives the impression that they are going in a round about way to get input. It seems to go against how State Goal 1 is designed. It was suggested that geographically targeted direct mailings should go to renters living in any of the properties as well as the owners. Ms. Kent said that was an issue they had struggled with over the years as the process/databases for landowners is different than that of residents, and there are budgetary issues that prevents them from doing both. There was additional discussion about compiling mailing lists. The committee thought that informing neighborhood associations and CPOs could help fill that gap to get information out to anyone who should hear about it, including non-English speaking folks.

### **Diversity**

Erin Miller and Karen Wolfgang led a discussion of the diversity issues the committee has been working on. After discussion of the latest draft, they asked for suggestions on the final version.

The committee noted that the Drive Less Save More campaign that Pam Peck in the transportation department is managing is the model of good public outreach and they are pleased with her work. They would like to encourage Metro to get some partners to carry on campaign like that for citizen involvement. Kate Marx reminded them that the level of participation they are talking about costs a lot of money.

It was noted that “non-English speaking communities” would be better described as “English as a second language (ESL)”, or “English language learners (ELL)”. It was also agreed that leaving flyers about anything without permission, no matter where, is not a good practice.

Mark Knudsen clarified that the document they have been working from encourages participation on committees, which are mostly voluntary so the discrimination laws that would affect hiring someone would not apply. He said they may want to reframe the wording of the document to say that. They would, of course, want the legal department to give their approval before Chair Warren takes it to council. The goal of this work is to make a way for citizens, regardless of their background and longevity in the community, to understand that Metro is accessible to everyone, and if they are interested, they can figure out a way to participate, and that Metro is doing all they can for that to happen.

Ms. Miller said she reread Pat Emmerson’s original diversity plan (with the blue banner), make another revision and send it to the committee via e-mail for final feedback. Chair Warren commented that this has been a great project. She noted that it seems to be easy for them to get started on things, but harder to finish. She thanked Ms. Wolfgang and Ms. Miller as well as the committee, for their good work. Chair Warren suggested that Ms. Miller and Ms. Wolfgang write 5 recommendations for the group to approve and send them along with the summary to everyone via e-mail for approval

**Roundtable**

None.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business before the committee, Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Grant  
MCCI staff