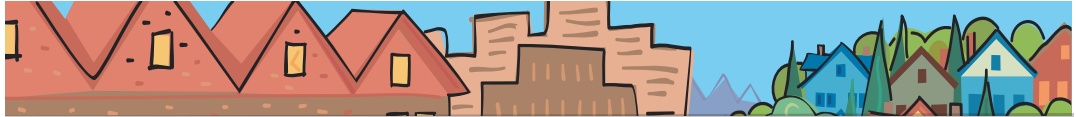


Carl Hosticka

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

**Carl Hosticka
represents
District 3, which
includes portions
of Washington and
Clackamas counties
and the cities of
Beaverton, Durham,
King City, Sherwood,
Tigard, Tualatin and
Wilsonville.**



Collaboration yields success at legislature

The 2007 Oregon Legislature adjourned in late June, marking the close of a remarkably successful session for Metro and the region. An unprecedented coalition of Metro, local governments, business leaders, agricultural interests and environmental advocates outlined a set of desired legislative goals for the entire region. Throughout the session, Metro worked closely with these partners in support of this regional agenda. Working together, the region was able to achieve an outcome that no single entity could have achieved alone.

House Bill 2051 extended Metro's urban growth boundary (UGB) evaluation cycle from five years to seven years, with the next review now set for 2009.

The passage of Senate Bill 1011 authorized Metro and the counties of the region to create rural reserves that will be off-limits for urban development, and to facilitate the simultaneous designation of urban reserves that would be first in line for UGB expansions over the next 40 to 50 years.

These two concepts represent a new way of doing business — a new way of making growth management decisions that provides greater flexibility for the development of vibrant communities. It will provide greater certainty for how and where our region will grow.

Our third regional goal of transportation funding was partially met. I was disappointed that the legislature failed to provide new revenues to maintain and improve our roads and bridges. The lack of road funding is forcing us to explore other funding options in the face of mounting transportation needs. On the positive side, however, the legislature designated \$250 million of lottery funds for the Portland-to-Milwaukie light rail project and \$100 million for "Connect Oregon 2," a multi-modal package that provides funding for transit, rail, marine and air transportation. Both of these investments should benefit our communities and our regional economy.

Taken together, these legislative actions clear the way for Metro and our partners to take a new look at how we want the region to grow and develop. Now we have to continue to work collaboratively to plan for a desired quality of life. The next step is to develop administrative rules to implement SB 1011, allowing Metro and local counties to designate urban and rural reserves outside the UGB. This represents the biggest challenge yet to our ability to work cooperatively.

The new level of regional collaboration that we achieved with the legislative work demonstrates the power we can exert as a coordinated group, and serves as a model for future successful regional endeavors. I look forward to continuing to work with our partners to achieve the most livable region possible.

— Carl Hosticka

Metro's design competition supports nature-friendly development

Rapid growth in our region is triggering the need for thoughtful, environmentally-sound building designs that protect or enhance our environmental assets. In order to promote the use of nature-friendly designs, Metro is sponsoring an international competition that will inspire builders and architects to create developed and natural spaces that maximize biodiversity and water quality.

This June, Metro unveiled "Integrating Habitats. A Design Competition" to challenge participants to balance development in the region with conservation of our much-loved natural areas.

Sponsored by Metro's Nature In Neighborhoods program, Integrating Habitats will generate greater awareness and implementation of designing the built environment with nature in mind. The competition is open to individuals from a variety of disciplines including landscape architecture, urban design and planning, stormwater management, architecture, engineering, water quality, ecology, wildlife biology and development.

A world-renowned, international jury from a wide range of disciplines will select the best designs, which will then be included in a design guide. In addition, citizens and communities will select their favorite designs through the People's Choice Awards, a web-based gallery voting system.

An online registration form and further information are available at www.metro-region.org/integratinghabitats. Interested organizations and businesses can take the opportunity to be part of this unique competition by joining as a sponsor. A sponsor registration is also available on the web page.

Metro Council and leaders discuss region-wide system of parks and natural areas

The Portland region has a well-deserved reputation for natural beauty. Our forested uplands, rivers, streams, buttes, clean water and mountain views are a rare gift — indeed they are gems sprinkled around this spectacular region. Much of our way of life is based on this natural inheritance,

from the way we enjoy the outdoors to how we make a living.

The Metro Council has taken a series of steps to acquire, protect, restore and reforest more natural areas and open new parks for recreational use. The ultimate extension of these efforts would be the creation of an interconnected system of ecologically healthy natural areas and parks overseen cooperatively by current park owners and managers.

This was the subject of a day-long "Connecting Green" summit last month, at which 150 political, parks and business leaders gathered to discuss a regional effort to link our rivers, parks, forests, streams and buttes.

"Today is not just about what nature gave us. It's mostly about what we do with nature. About not squandering the gift," Metro President David Bragdon said at the opening of the summit. "Today is about making natural connections — not just connections with nature — but connections among human organizations."

Our region currently has more than 50,000 acres of parks and natural areas in public ownership. A few years ago, Metro's Greenspaces Policy Advisory Committee (GPAC) envisioned what they hope will be one of the best interconnected systems of natural areas and greenspaces in the world.

The Metro Council is committed to the spirit of GPAC's vision and creating a region-wide parks network that would surpass any other. Strong participation from leaders of local governments and businesses will be paramount to this effort. Metro looks forward to this challenge and invites you to join in connecting our individual gems into a necklace of green surrounding our region.

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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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