

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Thursday, September 13, 2007
Metro Council Annex

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Rod Park (Deputy Council President), Kathryn Harrington, Robert Liberty, Brian Newman

Councilors Absent: Carl Hoskicka (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 3:18 p.m.

1. BUDGET AMENDMENT DISCUSSION

Councilor Burkholder discussed Planning 1. He noted what was missing was the energy issue having to do with carbon dioxide production. Councilor Park asked when we do other air quality emissions like Carbon Monoxide (CO), how would this be proportioned? What were the trade offs? Councilor Burkholder said this was coming. This would be establishing a base line. It was coming down the pike. No one knew what Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would decide on enforcement. Councilor Newman asked what the end point looked like? Councilor Burkholder said it would be a map based on energy footprint. It was a rough estimate of what conditions were today. Councilors continued the discussion about this amendment. Councilor Liberty suggested a regional carbon footprint. Councilor Burkholder said the idea was to see how the data would provide information. Councilor Harrington said she liked the creative thinking. The situation she was in was she wanted to spend the least amount of money possible and they had already committed Metro staff to such as issues as the New Look. Councilor Park said his question was if you think about other ways of looking at 2040, were we framing the data correctly? He wanted to make this data more useful. Councilor Burkholder noted that this was an emerging issue. He suggested spending a little bit of money to get started. Council President Bragdon felt this was creative and a good idea. Four Councilors supported the amendment.

Councilor Burkholder discussed Planning 2, which was about bike model refinement for \$50,000. They needed to know if their investments in bike modes were working. Councilors Liberty and Newman said they were supportive of this amendment. Councilor Park asked if they could use this in future years. Councilor Burkholder said this was not a stand-alone. The work would continue and would be ongoing. Five Councilors supported this amendment.

Councilor Newman talked about Planning #3, the Transportation Finance ballot measure. This request was prepared for last spring but the reserves discussion was put off. They had done some fund raising for this measure. They were going out for a poll. If they found there was no interest then they would table the region effort. Then, they would take this to the State if they felt it made sense to continue the effort. Councilor Harrington asked about the thinking for the funds. Councilor Newman responded to her question. Councilor Park felt they should leave it in contingency and see what happened. Margo Norton, Deputy Chief Financial Officer (CFO), said they understood that this was an earmark but would take additional action on the part of the Council. Councilor Liberty said he felt it was important to pursue. Councilor Newman suggested that one of the Councilors would have to lead the charge.

Councilor Burkholder talked about Planning #5, Transportation Implementation Scenarios. The idea was to do scenario testing. This amendment would allow them to run two scenarios over time. It was in addition to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) project. Councilor Liberty

asked for clarification on what they were trying to do. Councilor Burkholder said this was post RTP adoption. Andy Cotugno, Planning Director, said the current budget provided for two modeling processes. This proposal was to look at the land use effects. They would be looking at urban form patterns. Councilors asked clarifying questions. Mr. Cotugno said this provide information about growth patterns. Mr. Jordan said they didn't current do this. We hadn't gotten to that level. If we were to do this, it might make a lot of sense to do this around those projects that people really cared about. Councilor Liberty said this was something he supported. Mr. Cotugno said there were real situations like I-5 corridor that would have some degree of land use effect. Mr. Jordan said if you could find something that people really cared about you might get specific understandings of the land use effects. Councilor Park wondered if they were going to get good results for the money. Councilor Harrington said this was not modeling for the RTP but for understanding better land use effects. Mr. Cotugno said they needed a broader discussion. Councilor Harrington said she would like to see modeling used to inform the public about choices. Ms. Norton said they would set these funds aside until 07-08. Mr. Cotugno said he would rather do it after RTP. Ms. Norton summarized that this would be put in contingency for this year.

Councilor Liberty discussed Planning #7, Regional Affordable Housing Revolving Fund. He talked about what this fund would do in regional centers, town centers and transit stops. This was a load revolving fund. He spoke to the conditions of the funds. He noted this was a key recommendation of the Housing Choice Task Force. This would be implementing 2040. There was no commitment for staffing or administration. He felt others would support and help fund this initiative. Councilors asked clarifying questions. Councilor Newman asked how confident was he that they would reach the contributions? Councilor Liberty explained additional components of the plan. He was pretty confident of raising the money. Councilor Burkholder said he was very supportive of this initiative. This was one component of 2040 that they had not done anything with. This was based on a national model. They had been successful in raising private investment dollars. He felt it was a good model and there was minimal risk to Metro. He felt it could really have an impact. Council President Bragdon felt this engaged other parties and it was an implementation component. Councilor Newman was comfortable supporting this amendment more so than Planning 8.A, the Opportunity Fund. Councilor Harrington said she was uncomfortable about supporting this one until they reviewed the Strategic Work Plan. She said they couldn't fund everything. Councilor Liberty said the \$1 million for the opportunity fund didn't leverage other money. Councilor Park said he had been uncomfortable about talking about affordable housing versus housing affordability. He felt the creation of an abundance of housing created affordability. Councilor Liberty said he didn't know a place that could produce levels of housing to get the volume to reduce the cost of housing. Four Councilors supported the amendment.

Councilor Burkholder said staff had learned some things about what they needed to do. They were realizing that they needed to do more. He wanted to hear what they were doing. This was really part of a single effort.

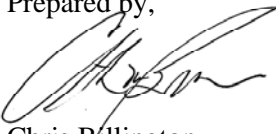
Robin McArthur, Planning Department, said there was a beefing up of public affairs components. They were launching three major initiatives. Councilor Newman summarized Planning 8 and how they would be broken out. Councilor Liberty talked about phasing. He wanted to know what was the department's recommendation. Mr. Cotugno responded to his question. Councilors raised questions about public affairs dollars. Ms. McArthur and Mr. Cotugno explained where the dollars were going. Councilor Harrington said the Council had asked staff to figure out how to implement goals and objectives for the New Look Project. Mr. Cotugno shared what was firm

and what was soft. He felt urban and rural reserves work was essential. The opportunity fund was more flexible. He shared what this fund was intended to do. It was seed money to produce additional Transit Oriented Development (TOD) projects. Councilor Liberty explained the 2040 Story amendment. Councilors questioned the amount of money for this amendment. Councilor Liberty suggested coming back and talking about the capital finance portfolio. He shared what he supported. Council President Bragdon said he saw two categories: B, C. and H were critical. He saw these closer to essential. He recognized that communicating about the project was important but he would like to see more targeted communication plan. The success or failure of the real work came down to specific targets. He felt D, E, F, and G seemed mushy. He wanted to see a strategic plan on communication. Councilor Liberty provided additional information on the web project. He seconded Council President Bragdon's proposal. Council President Bragdon asked who was the audience. Councilor Burkholder said these were multi-year proposal. He was comfortable to support urban and rural reserves and asked how do you do a better job of communication? These were all multi-year, not one-time pieces. They could come back. Councilor Newman clarified that they had planned for those multi-years. Ms. McArthur said that was correct. She said the urban and rural reserve funding was essential to our statute requirements. She did not want to skimp on the communications component. Councilor Harrington said she wanted to see additional assessments. The communications strategy was very important. Councilor Burkholder said they were still within the reserves they had available. Councilor Harrington talked about her goal of not spending \$5 million.

Councilors discussed issues I and II of the COO's proposals. Michael Jordan, COO, said they wanted to create a Chief Information Officer (CIO) position. They wanted to create an Information Technical (IT) project management position. He also spoke to the TRIM initiative. He then talked about the third floor renovation. They discussed the renewal and replacement issue. Council President Bragdon said he was not crazy about the cubicles. Councilors supported Issue I but questioned Issue II. Council President Bragdon said he was asking staff to amend Ordinance No. 07-1160A.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Prepared by,



Chris Billington
Clerk of the Council

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
SEPTEMBER 13, 2007**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
4.0	Worksheet	9/13/07	To: Metro Council From: Margo Norton, Deputy CFO Re: Worksheet for use of undesignated General Fund Balance – Council Consensus	091307cw-01
4.0	What & why	9/13/07	To: Metro Council From: Councilor Liberty Re: What and Why of Regional Affordable Housing Revolving Fund	091307cw-02