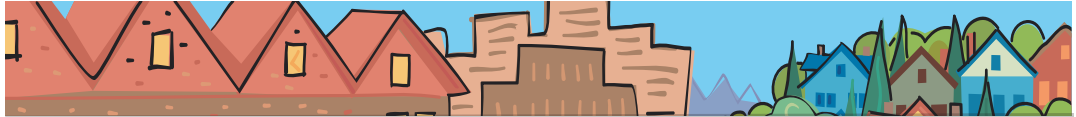


Rex Burkholder

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

Survey finds thousands are driving less and saving more

The Air Pollution Advisory issued at the end of October was a sobering reminder of our personal responsibility to reduce the pollutants we put into the air. In their advisory, one of the recommendations made by the Department of Environmental Quality was limiting driving and vehicle idling.

Luckily, the Portland metro region offers a range of transportation options we can use to reduce our driving (and pollution) as well as many ways to learn about our options. One such program is the Drive Less/Save More Campaign. The Drive Less/Save More Campaign is a unique public awareness initiative developed cooperatively by Metro, the Oregon Department of Transportation, TriMet, Washington County and other public and private partners. The Drive Less/Save More Campaign informs the public about transportation choices and encourages simple, convenient actions that every person can take to save time and money. The campaign is modeled after Oregon's anti-tobacco and recycling campaigns to help people successfully contribute to a better environment. The Drive Less/Save More Campaign is a good example of what can be achieved at a regional level when we work together.

This is a new program and we wanted to make sure that it actually helped people understand the consequences of their choices and to make positive changes. So we had Moore Information, Inc. conduct a scientific survey that found that the Drive Less/Save More campaign is really making an impact. We found that 43% of metro area residents recall hearing the Drive Less/Save More messages, 27% recall the campaign specifically, 18% sought information about reducing their car trips, and 14% were motivated to reduce single person auto trips as result of what they saw, read or heard. In addition, results showed that 91% of metro residents recognize that reducing their car trips will help reduce air pollution and nearly eight in ten agree that reducing single car trips is a way to 'help reduce global warming'.

So when you start thinking that your individual choice doesn't really matter when it comes to getting stuck in traffic or when the gas prices get you feeling a financial pinch at the pump, think again. Join the thousands of people who have discovered that they can save time and money by reducing car trips and taking advantage of travel options.

Learn how you can drive less and save more at www.DriveLessSaveMore.com.

— Rex Burkholder

Council votes to continue studying building headquarters hotel

On September 27, the Metro Council voted to authorize the creation of a funding plan for the potential development of a 600-room publicly owned, privately operated headquarters hotel near the Oregon Convention Center (OCC).

Council did not make a final decision on the actual development of a hotel, instead it requested a comprehensive financing plan for the project including details of sufficient funding to minimize risk to Metro's general resources. Without this, the hotel will not be developed.

This newest decision allows another seven-month period to identify additional funding before a final decision to occur in spring 2008. Metro staff will negotiate with other public entities and potential beneficiaries of OCC to secure additional funding for the hotel project. Metro staff has been in contact with potential public and private partners to discuss their involvement in the discussion regarding the funding plan. Metro's chief operating officer will report to Council by Nov. 1 regarding the progress of these partnership discussions. The council could take action based on the staff report, if necessary, as early as Nov. 8.

More information on the Convention Center hotel project, including all of the studies and analyses commissioned by Metro, can be found online at www.metro-region.org/hotel.

Regional Transportation Plan open for public review

One of Metro's key regional roles is to lead the discussion on transportation planning and allocating limited funding for transportation projects. The long-range blueprint for this effort is called the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which is currently in a four-year update. From Oct. 15 through Nov. 15, the public will have the opportunity to weigh in on the part of the plan that must fulfill federal requirements.

Metro asks that residents and businesses either provide feedback on the information posted at www.metro-region.org/rtp, or attend one of four public open houses to have questions answered or to submit testimony. Public input will help the Metro Council make major decisions about transportation investments that will have a profound impact on our region's economy and quality of life.

Comments may be submitted via a comment form on the project web page, by e-mail to rtp@metro-region.org, or by US mail to RTP Comments, Metro Planning

Department, 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232. Hard copies of the draft plan are also available from the Planning Department.

There are still two public open houses/hearings are scheduled:

Nov. 8 - Hillsboro Civic Center Auditorium
150 E. Main Street
Hillsboro 97123
Open house starts at 4 p.m.; hearing starts at 5 p.m.

Nov. 15 - Metro Regional Center
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland 97232
Open house starts at 1 p.m.; hearing starts at 2 p.m.

For technical questions about the transportation priorities process, programs or projects, contact Kim Ellis, RTP project manager, at ellisk@metro.dst.or.us or (503) 797-1617. For questions about public involvement, contact Pat Emmerson at emmeronp@metro.dst.or.us or (503) 797-1551.

Metro issues draft request for proposal to transport waste

Metro has issued a draft request for proposals (RFP) to transport waste from the region 150 miles east to the Columbia Ridge landfill in Gilliam County, Oregon. The process is open to the public, government officials, community groups and transportation industry representatives to comment on the draft until Nov. 7, 2007. After comments are received, the draft will be revised and a final RFP will be issued by early 2008.

In addition to the opportunity to review and comment on the draft RFP, citizens are invited to learn more about the waste transport contract process and provide input at a final public meeting on Nov. 7 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 600 NE Grand Ave., in Portland.

The Metro region generates 2.6 million tons of waste each year. Approximately 532,000 tons comes through Metro's Oregon City and Northwest Portland transfer stations and is trucked to the Columbia Ridge landfill. The current contract expires Dec. 31, 2009. This gives the Metro Council and the region's citizens an opportunity to evaluate different options - including truck, rail and barge or a combination of these modes - for moving waste to Gilliam County.

After the Metro Council, along with outside experts, examines and evaluates proposals based on elements such as cost effectiveness, reliability and community and environmental impacts, Metro will then enter into contract negotiations with one or more firms. Following a public hearing process, the Metro Council will award the contract(s).

Regional Housing Choice Revolving Fund

With a step towards seriously addressing the region's growing need for moderately priced housing, the Metro Council voted to invest \$1 million of seed money to create a permanent regional resource for affordable housing. Championed by Councilor Robert Liberty, the Regional Housing Choice Revolving Fund (RHCRF) would provide the incentive for a variety of public, private and charitable partners to invest in a \$10-\$20 million partnership to protect affordable housing in the region. It would be managed by an experienced non-profit community based administrator and governed by a regional board of directors.

The RHCRF aims to protect affordable housing in two ways. Through a new preservation initiative, it would provide the financial resources and impetus for a regional or local partnership to buy almost expiring affordable housing developments and maintain the affordability of the units within them. In addition, the fund would play a crucial role in catalyzing affordable housing development in the region by offering low-interest loans to development projects that include affordable housing.

Finally, the Housing Choice Fund is designed to help implement Metro's 2040 Growth Concept by promoting mixed-use, mixed-income patterns of development in regional centers, town centers and transit corridors. In keeping with the 2040 Growth Concept, the RHCRF would also promote best practices in green and sustainable design.

Metro's contribution of \$1 million seed money is contingent on a few conditions, including the establishment of a fund of at least \$10 million; Metro representation on the governing board; and Council confidence that the funds will fulfill predetermined objectives. The Metro Council has set aside a period of two years during which these conditions must be met and committed partners must raise at least \$10 million.

Looking to the future, the Metro Council envisions the Regional Housing Choice Revolving Fund as a powerful tool in the active and successful pursuit of affordable housing in the region.

Events of note in District 5

7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov 7
Raptor ID at Metro Regional Center
Metro naturalist James Davis will show you how to tell the key points for identifying the most common species of raptors. This program is suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center in Portland. Registration and payment of \$10 per person are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715.

9:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov 10
Intermediate Animal Tracking Practice at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area
Join volunteer naturalist and experienced tracker John Halsell to learn tracking on sand, mud, and the forest floor. This program is suitable for adults and teens. Meet in the parking area on North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 797-1715.

9:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov 17
Autumn and Winter Birds at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area
Observe the wintering waterfowl and raptors that have arrived for the winter. Meet naturalist James Davis in the natural area parking lot on North Marine Drive. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. This program is suitable for adults and children 10 and older. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 797-1715.

9:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov 24
Paddle Trip and Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area
Meet at the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Bring your own kayak or canoe and personal flotation device to explore the area. Advance registration required; call Dale at (503) 285-3084 or send e-mail to dsvart@earthlink.net.

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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

Metro Council President
David Bragdon

Metro Councilors
Rod Park, District 1
Brian Newman, District 2
Carl Hosticka, District 3
Kathryn Harrington, District 4
Rex Burkholder, District 5
Robert Liberty, District 6

Auditor
Suzanne Flynn

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