

METRO POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING RECORD

July 25, 2007 – 5:00 p.m.

Metro Regional Center, Council Chambers

Committee Members Present: Nathalie Darcy, Andy Duyck, Rob Drake, Dave Fuller, Bernie Giusto, Richard Kidd, Charlotte Lehan, Alice Norris, Wilda Parks, Sandra Ramaker, Martha Schrader, Bob Sherwin, Chris Smith, Erik Sten

Committee Members Absent: Ken Allen, Richard Burke, Jeff Cogen, Judie Hammersted, Tom Hughes, Margaret Kirkpatrick, Tom Potter, Larry Smith, Steve Stuart

Alternates Present: Shirley Craddick, Paul Savas

Also Present: Robert Austin, Mayor of Estacada; Bill Bash, City of Cornelius; Carol Chesarek, Forest Park Neighborhood; Danielle Cowan, City of Wilsonville; Jonathon David, City of Gresham; Markley Drake, City of Happy Valley; Denny Egner, City of Lake Oswego; Don McCarthy, Rockwood Water PUD; Steffeni Mendoza Gray, City of Portland; Pat Ribellia, City of Hillsboro; Sven Svensen, City of Uppsalla; Derrick Tokos, Multnomah County

Metro Elected Officials Present: Liaisons – Kathryn Harrington, Council District 4; Robert Liberty, Council District 6 others: Council President David Bragdon; Rod Park, Council District 1.

Metro Staff Present: Miranda Bateschell, Dan Cooper, Andy Cotugno, Kim Ellis, Robin McArthur, Marta McGuire, Heidi Rahn, Ken Ray, Malu Wilkinson

1. SELF-INTRODUCTIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Dave Fuller, called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. Chair Fuller asked those present to introduce themselves. Chair Fuller mentioned the joint MPAC/JPACT meeting for September 26th would need to be rescheduled to accommodate the League of Oregon Cities meeting the following day. He said that Kim Bardes would work with MPAC members to find a suitable alternative date.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was none.

2.1 COUNCIL UPDATE

Councilor Kathryn Harrington made some brief announcements. There was an Enhanced Dry Waste Recovery Program public hearing on July 12, 2007. Action on that program had been postponed until August 2, 2007. Final action was slated for August 16, 2007. The Metro Council was investigating funding for conservation education and maintenance of regional parks and natural areas. She announced that the RTP performance measures working group could use participation from MTAC members to coordinate land use and transportation decisions.

3. PROMOTING VIBRANT COMMUNITIES WITH SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

Malu Wilkinson, Senior Regional Planner, gave a PowerPoint presentation on system development charges (SDCs) and how they could be used to promote vibrant communities. A copy of the presentation will be attached as part of the official record. Ms. Wilkinson handed out a newsletter on the topic, which will also be attached as part of the official record.

Chair Fuller asked if Metro staff would be willing to go out and work directly with the planning departments of local jurisdictions to help them change their SDC policies. Ms. Wilkinson said yes.

Chris Smith, Multnomah County Citizen Representative, asked if SDCs were typically calculated as a percentage of the cost of development or as a dollar amount per unit.

Ms. Miranda Bateschell, Associate Regional Planner, answered that it was typically a fixed dollar amount per unit of development.

Mayor Alice Norris, City of Oregon City, asked how often SDCs should be revisited. Ms. Bateschell recommended SDCs should be revisited every five years or every time there was a significant policy shift associated with development.

Mayor Charlotte Lehan, City of Wilsonville, asked about other jurisdictions where SDCs were charged for additional systems other than schools and safety services.

Ms. Bateschell answered that dollar amounts were difficult to compare with jurisdictions that charged SDCs for a wider variety of systems.

Councilor Robert Liberty suggested that jurisdictions might be hesitant to alter their SDC calculation policies because of fear of litigation.

Councilor Harrington asked what the Metro Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) thought about this presentation.

Ms. Wilkinson said MTAC had suggested the conversation on SDCs be continued with city managers and finance officers.

Several MPAC members expressed an interest in Metro presenting this information to a wider audience in the future.

4. RTP INVESTMENT POOL & FINANCE - TRANSIT

Kim Ellis, Principle Transportation Planner, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update. The purpose of the presentation was to focus on the performance measures framework for the RTP update. A copy of the presentation is attached as part of the permanent record.

Mr. Smith felt that the factors for measuring Human Health and the Environment were focused heavily on environment but did not adequately measure health factors. Mr. Smith also said that in the future it should become easy to calculate "walkability scores" for a given address or neighborhood.

Councilor Shirley Craddick, City of Gresham, asked if greenhouse gas emissions would be measured by these performance measures.

Ms. Ellis said yes. She stated that it was important to have benchmarks that could be both measured and predicted. For example, travel time reliability cannot be adequately predicted for the future.

Mayor Norris suggested that travel safety and security was another example of a benchmark that could be measured but not adequately predicted.

Chair Fuller asked about public safety on mass transit. He said that some people would not ride mass transit because there was a perception that it was unsafe.

Ms. Ellis said that TriMet collected this data and it could be tracked as a benchmark.

Councilor Liberty mentioned a report of consumer satisfaction on transit choices. This was data that was collected regularly and could be used as a benchmark.

Chair Fuller stated that accessibility to mass transit was another big issue. Some people had to drive for several miles just to reach a Max station.

Bernie Giusto, Tri-Met Board of Directors, stated that TriMet did not have the resources to expand bus system operations until 2014, and this would have serious implications.

Mayor Richard Kidd, City of Forest Grove, discussed the balance between regulating traffic flow, safety and greenhouse gas emissions.

Councilor Harrington mentioned that Vancouver, B.C. had blinking green lights at certain intersections that allowed through traffic to travel unimpeded, but allowed pedestrians to cross safely.

Councilor Liberty stated that some European countries were setting goals for zero traffic fatalities. Councilor Liberty also stated that traffic fatality was now one of the leading causes of death worldwide.

Mr. Giusto discussed bicycle fatalities and the problems with multiple modes of transportation sharing the same system.

Andy Cotugno, Planning Director, focused on the transit element of the RTP update and discussed financing. Mr. Cotugno stated new transit project ideas had to be tied to financing plans. An outline of this discussion will be attached as part of the official record.

Mr. Cotugno stated that expansion of light rail and streetcar service in upcoming years would leave limited resources for expanding the bus system. Funding for bus service was forecasted to grow at 1% per year until 2014. The annual increase in funding was less than the forecasted population growth rate.

Mr. Giusto also discussed how expanding streetcar service used financial resources that would otherwise be available for expansion of bus service.

Mr. Cotugno added that even though there were no resources to expand regional bus service until 2014, the system was not static. Bus routes were flexible and service could be allocated across the region to

account for improved light rail and streetcar service and to accommodate areas with the greatest demand for bus service.

Chair Fuller asked about increasing fares or abolishing fair-less square to increase funds for bus system operations.

Mr. Cotugno stated that fares would have been increasing over time and would continue to increase, but it was not enough to generate substantial revenue for expanding bus service.

Mayor Rob Drake, City of Beaverton, said he would not take any options off the table right now and would like to see a more fleshed out proposal in the future. Mayor Drake spoke about Washington County efforts to pay for multi-modal transportation options. He added that too many government initiatives to increase funding for transportation could lead to voter fatigue.

Councilor Craddick suggested applying the concept of co-payment for services from the health care industry to transportation. She expressed the need for public transit to adequately serve employment areas.

Mr. Giusto emphasized the serious implications of a bus service operational fund that was constrained to an annual growth rate of 1%. He spoke about how bus routes might be reallocated to compensate for expanded light rail service.

Mr. Smith spoke on the topic of elderly and disabled. He suggested a programmatic look at getting those populations onto the general transit system. He spoke about tradeoffs that come with mode shifting behavior.

5. SOLID WASTE – BUSINESS RECYCLING

Councilor Harrington gave an introduction on the topic of increasing the region's recycling recovery rate.

Marta McGuire and Heidi Rahn, Associate Solid Waste Planners, gave a PowerPoint presentation on proposed strategies for increasing business recycling rates. A copy of the presentation will be attached as part of the official record.

Commissioner Andy Duyck, Washington County, asked how compliance would be monitored.

Ms. Rahn said it would be through observation. Enforcement details would be expanded and clarified during debate and installment of the standards.

Mayor Norris asked what increased funding would be used for.

Ms. Rahn said that the money would go to either grants or to support technical assistance depending on which program was implemented.

Chair Fuller and Mayor Drake asked about return on investment.

Ms. McGuire said that it depended on what was included. Rates were currently set to be proportional to the rate of recycling. She said that a direct cost analysis had been conducted. Increased collection costs depended somewhat on regional capacity.

Councilor Harrington said that business would not necessarily pay more because they were already paying for recycling services and increased recycling could reduce garbage bills for businesses.

Ms. Nathalie Darcy, Washington County Citizen Representative, noted that the proposed mandatory program had a more substantial positive impact on the environment. Ms. Darcy supported the notion of local control for governments, however she also saw a compelling argument for the mandatory program.

Mr. Smith asked which business would be targeted by Metro's efforts to increase the recycling recovery rates.

Ms. Rahn responded that 97% of business in the region participated in recycling efforts. Metro targeted larger businesses in order to have a greater effect on the waste stream.

Mayor Kidd noted that it was not always cheaper for businesses to increase their recycling efforts. It was an obstacle for some business to cover the cost of additional recycling containers. Mayor Kidd suggested a policy to expand efforts to pull recyclables out of garbage dumpsters.

Mayor Norris asked about the cost to local governments for monitoring compliance.

Ms. McGuire stated that Metro would assist jurisdictions unable to monitor compliance.

Mayor Drake said that he supported the standards program versus the mandatory program, and would like to vote on the issue. At this point in the meeting, there was no longer enough MPAC members present to constitute a quorum, so no official vote could be taken. An unofficial straw vote was taken with a majority of members present in favor of a non-mandatory program of improved standards.

Paul Savas, Clackamas County Special Districts, said he would like to see more recognition for businesses that were recycling.

Ms. Rahn said Metro did this already.

There being no further business, Chair Fuller adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Popenuk
Policy Associate Intern

ATTACHMENTS TO THE RECORD FOR JULY 25, 2007

The following have been included as part of the official public record:

AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
#3 SDC	July 2007	Copies of PowerPoint presentation slides	072507-MPAC-01
#3 SDC	July 2007	Promoting vibrant communities with System Development Charges (SDC) flyer	072507-MPAC-02
#4 RTP	July 2007	Copies of PowerPoint presentation slides re: A New Look at Transportation Linking Transportation to Land Use, the Economy and the Environment	072507-MPAC-03
#4 RTP	Summer 2007	Making the Greatest Place flyer	072507-MPAC-04
#4 RTP	7/20/07	Aging infrastructure a time bomb – article from The Oregonian, dated July 20, 2007	072507-MPAC-05
#5 Business Recycling	7/25/07	Copies of PowerPoint presentation slides re: Options for Increasing Business Recycling Metro Policy Advisory Committee presenters: Marta McGuire and Heidi Rahn	072507-MPAC-06
#5 Business Recycling	July 2007	Options for Increasing Business Recycling Table 1. Program Components	072507-MPAC-07
#5 Business Recycling	July 2007	Options for Increasing Business Recycling Frequently Asked Questions	072507-MPAC-08
#5 Business Recycling	July 2007	Options for Increasing Business Recycling white paper	072507-MPAC-09
Misc.	7/28/07	Portland Streetcar Workshop flyer	072507-MPAC-10
Misc.	7/27/07	Workshops: Street Smart	072507-MPAC-11