

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, December 4, 2007
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Kathryn Harrington, Carl Hosticka, Rod Park, Robert Liberty, Rex Burkholder, Carlotta Collette

Councilors Absent:

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:05 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 6, 2007/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Bragdon reviewed the December 6, 2007 Metro Council agenda.

2. COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT RESULTS BRIEFING

A powerpoint presentation accompanied the presentation; it has been included with the minutes.

Councilor Burkholder introduced the Columbia River Crossing Project (CRC). The project was a bi-state evaluation of highway and transit alternatives to replace or supplement the existing I-5 bridge across the Columbia River while improving congestion and safety for automobiles, public transit, bicycles and pedestrians. It was currently in the draft stage; the work session allowed the Council to provide feedback and comment on the information.

John Osborn, CRC Director, introduced the project, outlined major project milestones, listed the five project alternatives and presented a project development schedule. The key choices involved decisions around the I-5 Bridge, transit modes and transit alignment.

Councilor Hosticka asked about toll charges. He asked if tolling was a choice or if it was already built into the alternatives. He was informed that tolling would most likely be included in the recommendation under the finance plan. Councilor Park asked about legal issues and when Metro would need to have reached a decision. He asked if this would be a Council and JPACT action or if it was a land use action the Council was reviewing. Councilor Burkholder asked if it was a transportation only action or if it included land use implications. Councilor Liberty asked if this was within the existing safety loop bill. The expected date that construction could begin was clarified for the Councilors.

Ron Anderson, CRC, presented bridge and highway options. Project alternatives were outlined and showed bridge renderings of: bus rapid transit or light rail alongside the I-5 Bridge, a bus, rapid transit and light rail inside the southbound bridge and a SR 14 interchange. A powerpoint slide showed the amount of traffic that travels between the Vancouver and Portland metro region. Mr. Anderson informed the Council that only one

quarter of I-5 traffic continues past the metro region. Councilor Liberty asked if the data described existing traffic.

A slide compared current and predicted future vehicle trips on the I-5 and I-205 bridges under the project alternatives. Councilor Liberty asked about toll assumptions. Mr. Anderson informed the Council of pricing, calculations and inflation adjustments. Councilor Liberty asked about the no-build option, he was told that option did not include tolling. Data on improved mobility, safety improvements and local street impacts were provided. A slide provided a list of scenarios and the hours of congestion associated with each option. Mr. Anderson provided a background on Oregon I-5 BIA crash history between 2000-2004. Councilor Liberty asked about the relation between crashes and congestion.

The transit mode key findings were presented, including travel times, frequencies, annual transit crossings, capital and operating costs. Councilor Harrington asked about light rail and bus transit; she wanted to know if the prediction for increased light rail ridership was based on rider preferences or faster transfer times. Councilor Park asked about changes in fuel costs and the impact it would have on the bus or light rail transit.

Jeff Heilman, CRC Environmental Manager, covered community livability factors: air quality, climate change, noise, land use, biking and walking. Councilor Liberty asked if emissions reductions were because of emission improvements or reduced congestion. He also asked if the assumption was that the volume of traffic would remain steady regardless of congestion delay times.

Councilor Park asked about MetroScope assumptions around bridgeheads and the level of land use protection to current land. Mr. Heilman informed the Council that an interchange area management plan was being developed between ODOT and Portland. Councilor Hosticka asked about secondary land use factors and asked if actual tests had confirmed the predictions. Mr. Heliman replied that tests had not been conducted. Councilor Liberty and Councilor Park questioned the limits of the data utilizing MetroScope. Councilor Hosticka didn't see the land use impact. Mr. Heilman said there wasn't a lot of secondary land use impact. Councilor Liberty asked about volume during peak transit.

Danielle Cogan, CRC Communications Manager, presented public involvement information. She reported on the June-October public involvement, advisory group activities, transit roundtable and October open houses. Ms. Cogan presented data from the open houses and outlined the next steps.

Mr. Anderson presented the cost evaluation. He covered the draft EIS cost risk assessment results that provided a preliminary cost estimate and a cost breakdown by component. Councilor Liberty felt transit uncertainty was high. The information assumed that construction would occur between 2010 and 2017. The cost range was between 3.1 and 4.2 billion.

Mr. Anderson opened the presentation to Council questions. Councilor Burkholder said he would like to identify data the Council would need, discuss the role of the Metro Council and address questions that were not covered in the presentation.

Council President Bragdon asked how induced demand was treated in the forecasts and wanted additional information on management techniques. He was particularly interested in management techniques that would preserve capacity for the priority users, such as freight. He noted that increased road capacity would invariably lead to induced demand and an increase in single occupancy commuter automobiles would utilize most of the increased capacity.

Councilor Collette felt the chart showed that pedestrian use wouldn't increase with the no-build option, but that congestion would increase. She felt the data was unclear. Councilor Collette questioned if a large portion of the budget would be used to construct the interchanges. Councilor Park asked about reliability and the freight community. He asked about increased travel times and wondered if the project was being handled differently because it was an interstate project. He talked about the outsourcing of labor and felt it should be examined. He also wondered about traffic changes that would occur from a wider bridge and if that was the best decision. He mentioned the I-405 loop.

Councilor Liberty said he would like to hear from the public and his constituents before a March decision. He felt the open houses served a different function than a hearing would. He felt it was the responsibility of the Council to compare projects and look at the return on investment and that the Council now had enough data to make comparisons. He noted that this project was focused on congestion relief, particularly commuter problems. Councilor Liberty discussed land-use analysis and commented that he had wanted a different study because this report would not yield the information he wanted. He wanted to look at the cost and benefit analysis of tolling, transit and interchanges. He questioned the relation between accidents and congestion and wanted to know the impact of fixing the Hayden Island ramps. He commented that he hadn't heard a prediction of total costs and the cost split with other government institutions. He felt further information on that issue would be useful and that Metro now had the in-house capacity to look at those items.

Councilor Hosticka talked about the counter-intuitive data that was being presented. He would be interested in looking at data from a variety of scenarios; he favored tolls and was interested in hearing the expected effects of a bridge without a toll. He felt that spending roughly \$3 billion resulted in a few hours less congestion time. He wanted to look at the trade between cost and benefit. Councilor Harrington appreciated the information that was provided, she mentioned tolling but felt the preliminary cost estimate wasn't clear. She didn't understand if tolling was addressing needed costs or if the costs provided were in addition to funds generated through tolling. In the future she would need to see additional information on the cost to build, maintain and operate the I-5 toll side bridge. She felt that specific data would be useful. She said that I-405 served as a bottleneck for commuters traveling from the Westside to Portland. She talked about moving the bottlenecks and wanted to hear more about those effects.

Councilor Park and Councilor Burkholder commented on I-205 congestion. Councilor Liberty commented on congestion times and suggested some additional information staff could provide which would be helpful. Councilor Harrington wanted clarity on Council actions and the direction given to committee members. Councilor Hosticka calculated the project cost and revenue generated by adding a toll. Councilor Park asked about the ability to begin charging a toll prior to the start of construction.

Councilor Liberty talked about equity and who would absorb the cost of construction. He wanted to identify the project beneficiaries. Councilor Collette asked about public outreach. Ms. Cogan provided a summary of outreach efforts. Councilor Burkholder informed the Council there would be another work session in January. He would organize the questions raised by the Council and identify which staff members would be most able to answer those questions. Councilor Park mentioned Metroscope and asked about tolling. He was interested in knowing the cost reductions to the project if tolling were started earlier. Councilor Burkholder asked if the Council would be interested in a Metroscope run of various alternatives. Councilor Liberty said that the transportation model was more expensive to run than the land use modeling. He commented that the Council had discussed increasing the transportation model to analyze investments. Councilor Burkholder asked if the Council would want a cost and time estimate before a decision would be made. Councilor Park said in addition to cost and time, it was important to identify what was being tested. Council President Bragdon said that in addition to data it was important to identify the assumptions behind the data; he mentioned induced demand. Councilor Burkholder then provided a timeline of presentations.

3. BREAK

4. COUNCIL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Council President Bragdon felt good progress was being made on the Urban and Rural Reserves. He felt there were project components that could be revisited. He had sent an email to Councilors that listed existing and active projects. The email also listed inactive projects. He mentioned the infrastructure and finance issue. He felt the Council hadn't addressed it or had a Councilor designated to lead the issue. He also commented on standing committees. Councilor Liberty had made a proposal that was related to investing in communities and development within the UGB. He had provided a brief description of activities and reasons for his interest. He summarized the work that he felt was needed on urban reserves and transportation. Councilor Park talked about sustainability and the changing labor pool. Councilor Burkholder talked about Metro Vancouver and their focus on sustainability. He feels that sustainability is gaining visibility. Councilor Park felt there was a natural fit with the performance-based approach. He talked about the benefits of that approach. Council President Bragdon talked about the causes of climate change and the ability that Metro had to impact the change. He felt there was a change in public perception. Councilor Liberty mentioned Vancouver, Canada; their urban form and design. He questioned how the environmental footprint of a region was determined. Councilor Collette expressed interest in projects with the Zoo Foundation and MPAC.

Councilor Park mentioned examples of green infrastructure. Councilor Liberty felt all of the Councilors should have the opportunity to lead a project. Councilor Harrington talked about her experience since talking office. She would like to get more involved with transportation; she talked about the Greatest Place program. She said it was important for the Council to remember their commitment to the reserves project and Council work across the region.

Council President Bragdon talked about Councilor Liberty and Councilor Collette's experience and interests, and suggested what programs he felt would be the best fit for them. He wanted to include Councilor Collette in projects. Mr. Jordan talked about infrastructure, progress that had been made and future work that would need to be completed. Councilor Liberty said some projects would have pieces that overlap and felt that a follow up on housing work should be included in the paper. He talked about general issues related to funding mechanisms and backlog. Councilor Collette voiced interest in community investment and infrastructure. Councilor Burkholder felt the temptation was to become project managers and that the strength was providing direction as a group. He felt that policy level energy was lost when management roles take over.

Councilor Harrington talked about data gathering and the evolution of focus. She felt that information sharing was handled very well, and she talked about reviewing the level of policy work and the organization of energy and efforts. Councilor Liberty talked about transportation and mentioned items he would like discussed at a future meeting. Councilor Bragdon agreed with the importance of making a distinction between project manager and policy director. He talked about the benefits of sharing Council labor. Councilor Liberty was interested in discussing 2040. He talked about growth, objectives, and the importance of a more clear definition of 2040. Council President Bragdon said that Councilor Harrington would lead the reserves project. Councilor Liberty commented on the reserves project. He was worried that the neighboring communities weren't receiving adequate attention. Councilor Park talked about concerns with coordination and industry disconnect. Councilor Harrington listed the responsibilities of a SWAC chairperson. She mentioned transfer and waste station responsibilities. Councilor Park talked about solid waste. Council President Bragdon summarized the discussion and gave closure to the conversation. He questioned if the monthly Wednesday meetings were held frequently enough. Councilor Harrington felt that time was being used more efficiently. She felt that time allocation was allowing enough time for Council discussion. Councilor Liberty wanted to talk about timing and different approaches.

Council President Bragdon mentioned he would like Councilor Harrington to join JPACT and mentioned that the chair position didn't have to be held by a Councilor. He suggested assigning Lynn Peterson as chair. Councilor Burkholder clarified that the Council president nominates three people to chair JPACT; if a non-Council member were nominated then two Councilor members would be nominated. Dan Cooper, Metro Attorney, informed the Council that there wasn't currently a restriction on the non-Council consideration but the Metro representative must be an elected official. Councilor Park had reservations because he felt this was a major move that needed significant instruction. Councilor Hosticka mentioned Ms. Peterson's other commitments. He

mentioned rotation and that people could start to expect that a non-Council member would always fill the third position. He felt this needed heavy consideration before he would support the change to any non-Council member. Council President Bragdon felt that it was an intriguing idea but that he was not inflexible regarding this. Councilor Burkholder wondered if it would be necessary to be a JPACT member to maintain his Council project position. Councilor Hosticka asked about the Council role in the RTP and mentioned communications with JPACT. Councilor Burkholder talked about JPACT. Council President Bragdon again talked about assigning the third position to a non-Council member and asked for feedback from the Council. Councilors Hosticka and Park were against the change. Councilor Park felt it was the wrong time. Councilor Collette could understand Councilor Park's concerns and felt it would set a precedent. Councilor Liberty felt that MPAC could have a larger role and that the roles of JPACT and MPAC could be revisited. Councilor Burkholder talked about perception of the change. He felt continuity was important.

Council President Bragdon talked about MPAC and suggested that Councilor Collette could become involved with it. Councilor Collette talked about scheduling issues between MPAC and her current position on a school board. Councilor Liberty said he would be willing to fill in for Councilor Collette if she were unable to make some meetings. Councilor Burkholder talked about the power of JPACT and MPAC. He wondered about the necessity of two advisory committees. Councilor Hosticka offered his assistance with MPAC and felt the organization's involvement would increase in the future. Council involvement with various committees was next mentioned. The Zoo was discussed and Councilor Liberty offered to continue his involvement.

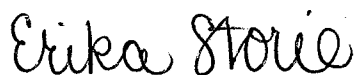
5. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Council President and Mr. Jordan discussed an open position.

Councilor Harrington asked when the retirement/Social Security question would be closed. Each Councilor had a briefing on the issue. Councilor Liberty summarized his analysis of the question and his response. He questioned the accuracy of some of the calculations. Councilor Park said that it was important for the issue to be correctly perceived. Mr. Jordan would check on the status of the issue and would report back to the Council.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Prepared by,



Erika Storie
Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
DECEMBER 4, 2007**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	12/6/07	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, December 6, 2007	120407cw-01
2	CRC	12/04/07	CRC Project Update	120407cw-02
3	CRC		CRC Public Involvement	120407cw-03
4	Council Roles		Council Committee Appointments 1998-2007	120407cw-04
5	Council Roles		"Council Projects" as of Dec. 2007	120407cw-05
6	Council Roles		Growth Management Council Policy Dev. Projects as of Nov. 2007	120407cw-06
7	Council Roles		Towards a Sustainable Region	120407cw-07
8	Council Roles		Concept Development Summary	120407cw-08
9	Council Roles	12/04/07	Investing in Our Communities	120407cw-09
10	Council Roles	12/04/07	Project Work Plans	120407cw-10