

Robert Liberty

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

Robert Liberty
represents
District 6, which
includes portions of
Northeast, Southeast
and Southwest
Portland.



The 345

Since 2000, the Metro Council has added 20,301 acres to the regional urban growth boundary to accommodate projected growth, as required by state law. That is about 30 square miles.

And since 2000, we have certainly grown. An estimated 126,000 more people lived in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties by July 1, 2006 than did on April 1, 2000.

About 91% of that growth, about 115,000 people, occurred inside the Metro urban growth boundary (UGB).

And how much of that new population settled in the UGB expansion areas?

Permits for 138 new homes have been approved in all of the expansion areas from 2000 to 2006. Assuming 2.5 persons per home, that comes out to 345 people living in the UGB expansion areas, out of a total of 115,000 new residents.

In other words, over the first six years of the 21st Century 99.7% of the growth occurred inside the UGB in existing urban areas and only 0.03% settled in the areas added to the boundary, to accommodate new growth.

In the last decade (all the years after 1997) Metro has added 23,490 acres to the UGB. Housing for only an estimated 6,500 new residents has been approved in the UGB expansion areas, a negligible share of the total growth inside the UGB during that decade.

There are two obvious explanations for this pattern of development: (1) It's what people want; and (2) No government has found a way to pay for all, or even most, of the cost of the new roads, schools, parks, sewers lines and treatment plants, water lines, and fire stations needed to support development in the expansion areas. In many parts of the region we now have a taxpayer-enforced boundary on urban development because taxpayers in established communities are resisting paying for infrastructure for new development.

The old debate regarding how much land to add at the edge is over; the real debate is how existing communities can grow in ways that complement and improve those places.

That, not urban growth boundary expansions, should be the primary focus of Metro's new look at the region's 2040 plan.

– Robert Liberty

Carlotta Collette appointed to Metro Council

The Metro Council voted unanimously to appoint Carlotta Collette as Councilor for District 2 at its Nov. 6th meeting. District 2 covers most of urban Clackamas County, including the cities of Gladstone, Johnson City, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Oregon City, Rivergrove and West Linn. It also includes a portion of Southwest Portland in Multnomah County.

Collette replaces Brian Newman who resigned in October. Eleven residents of District 2 applied for the open position. Collette's term will run through Jan. 5, 2009. There will be an election in 2008 to fill the remainder of the term, from January 2009 to January 2011.

Collette was elected to the Milwaukie City Council in 2004. She has managed her own communications consulting business and worked for 14 years on the staff of the Northwest Power Planning Council.

District 6 Councilor Robert Liberty welcomed Councilor Collette as "an energetic advocate for sustaining and revitalizing the region's communities and downtowns".

Metro-supported projects receive awards

Two of Metro's projects recently received recognition.

Multi-Housing, a national publication focusing on news and analysis of events related to the multi-housing industry, chose The Crossings at Gresham Station as the 2007 Annual Design Excellence winner for Transit-Oriented Design. The Crossings combines retail, residential and office activities to create a high-density and mixed-use community. Located near the Gresham Civic Station light rail station, the development encourages the use of transit and promotes urban living.

The Oregon Downtown Development Association selected Milwaukie's North Main Village as the 2007 Pioneering Award winner in its Physical Improvements category. The project, supported by Metro's Centers program, features a rain garden and landscape features to manage storm water.

Restoration and enhancement grants open for pre-application

Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods program is now accepting pre-applications for restoration and enhancement grants. A total of \$250,000 is available.

The grants are open to a variety of groups. Projects must be within the metro region and applicants must match their grant request with outside funding, in-kind services or volunteer hours.

Pre-applications are due Jan. 16. Selected pre-applicants will be asked to submit a final application due in March. Funding will be announced in May.

Free grant writing workshops are offered. To reserve a spot at an upcoming session, call Janelle Geddes at 503-797-1550 or email geddesj@metro.dst.or.us.

For more information, visit the Metro website at www.metro-region.org/nature.

Action scheduled for Lake Oswego to Portland corridor

Metro Council will take public testimony and vote on which alternative to forward for an Environmental Impact Study to improve transportation between Lake Oswego and Portland at its Dec. 13 meeting.

The alternatives recommended for further study include: streetcar to Lake Oswego; streetcar to the vicinity of SW Nevada Ave. with enhanced bus service to Lake Oswego; enhanced bus service to Lake Oswego along SW Macadam Ave.; and no new transit investments.

Contact Karen Withrow, withrowk@metro.dst.or.us or (503) 797-1932 for further information.

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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
Carlotta Collette, District 2
Carl Hosticka, District 3
Kathryn Harrington, District 4
Rex Burkholder, District 5
Robert Liberty, District 6

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