

Carl Hosticka

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

**Carl Hosticka
represents
District 3, which
includes portions
of Washington and
Clackamas counties
and the cities of
Beaverton, Durham,
King City, Sherwood,
Tigard, Tualatin and
Wilsonville.**



Local needs, regional resources

As a Metro Councilor for the past seven years, I have worked with our local cities and counties on a wide variety of issues. I have observed that needs often exist at the local level, but the ability to raise revenue to meet those needs exists at the regional level. The local needs exceed the revenue capacity of any independent unit of government (such as an individual city or county).

One example of this is local government's need to pay for the planning required to develop new areas brought into the urban growth boundary in 2002 and 2004. Cities and counties did not have adequate funds to pay, so they, along with developers and business groups, asked Metro to find a solution. Metro worked with developers, land use experts, government officials and concerned citizens to find a funding source. In agreement with the local cities and counties, the Metro Council approved in March 2006 a temporary construction excise tax on large construction permits throughout the region. The tax will be rescinded when \$6.3 million dollars is collected, anticipated to take three years from its implementation in July of 2006. Because this tax is levied across the whole region, it raises the needed revenue. Each individual city or county with UGB expansions could not raise it on its own.

Another example of local needs being met with regional resources is the local governments' lack of available funding to pay for all the desired new parks, trails and natural areas, and Metro's Natural Areas bond measure. Passed by voters in 2006, the \$227.4 million measure to acquire and protect natural areas includes two local components. It includes \$44 million to be distributed to local jurisdictions to fund local projects and \$15 million for a new Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants program through which local organizations can apply for funding for community projects. Metro is now in the process of accepting applications for those funds (see related article).

Both of these programs raise funds on a regional basis, but provide money locally to meet local needs. They are collaborative responses, coordinated by Metro, that directly benefit local governments and citizens of the region. Both efforts were developed with the approval of the local partners.

The Metro Council has ongoing discussions about how we can apply these same principles to raising revenues for other local needs, such as transportation, infrastructure (sewers, water, power, etc.) and even possibly outdoor education. We are looking at applying it to both areas where new growth is expected to occur and to our existing urban centers. The revenue raising capacity is uneven across the region, but when the whole region participates, everyone benefits.

As your Metro Councilor, I will continue to seek ways that our regional resources can help meet local needs.

—Carl Hosticka

Metro launches new Nature in Neighborhoods grants

Metro is now accepting grant applications for capital projects that re-green and re-nature neighborhoods. The Metro Council's 2006 Natural Areas bond measure established \$15 million for the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grant program. It includes projects that acquire land for public ownership or result in a fixed capital asset on public land.

Letters of interest can be submitted at any time. Projects that meet the general eligibility requirements will be invited to submit a full application. In addition, Metro staff will give feedback on how to develop a strong project plan.

Metro is offering two workshops in Washington County on the capital grants program. Participants can learn about the goals of the grant program, criteria, project eligibility, application procedures and tips on how to put together successful capital projects. Participants will also have an opportunity to ask questions about specific project ideas.

9 – 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 12
Clean Water Services training room
2550 SW Hillsboro Hwy, Hillsboro

7 – 9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13
Metzger Park Hall
8400 SW Hemlock St. Metzger/Tigard

To RSVP, please contact Mary Rose Navarro at 503-797-1781 or navarrom@metro.dst.or.us. Workshops in Clackamas and Multnomah counties are also planned. For more information, including the grant handbook and application instructions, visit www.metro-region.org/capitalgrants.

Join the "Connecting Green" gathering Jan. 8

An interconnected system of ecologically healthy natural areas, parks and trails in the metropolitan region will be discussed 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8 at the Lucky Labrador Beer Hall, private party room, 1945 NW Quimby Street in Portland. The public is invited.

Called "Connecting Green," the initiative brings together park advocates, nonprofit

organizations, elected officials and citizens to discuss the momentum building around the development of a unified trails priority, a funding strategy, restoration of natural areas, identification of regional "special places," and building a coalition of agencies, foundations and nonprofits called the Connecting Green Alliance.

Regional Transportation Plan update moves forward

Metro's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is the long-term blueprint that guides investments in the region's transportation system for all forms of travel – motor vehicle, transit, bicycle and pedestrian – and the movement of goods and freight. The RTP is updated regularly to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations and to address changing demographic, financial, travel and economic trends.

On Dec. 13, the Metro Council and the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) approved the federal component of the RTP, pending an air quality analysis. The air quality analysis considers projected population and job growth, then determines whether the region would meet requirements of the federal Clean Air Act over the long term if all the projects in the plan were built.

The air quality analysis report will be on Metro's web site www.metro-region.org for public review and comment from noon on Jan. 18 until noon on Feb. 19. Printed copies can be obtained from the Metro Planning Department. Comments may be submitted by mail to Metro Planning, 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, Oregon, 97232; or by e-mail, rtp@metro.dst.or.us.

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

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