

## MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, January 22, 2008  
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent:

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 1:04 p.m.

### **1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 24, 2008/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS**

Council President Bragdon reviewed the January 24, 2008 Metro Council agenda.

Councilor Harrington asked about funding for the Public Affairs Administrative Assistant position. She asked what is lost in funding the analysis by creating a new position. Councilor Collette said there are funds for the position and the position is intended to aid in the analysis. Councilor Harrington asked additional questions about funds for the transportation ballot measure. President Bragdon asked about the ballot measure. Andy Cotugno, Planning Director, explained financing components. Councilor Collette explained the timeline for the ballot measure, and since money is not needed immediately, these funds could be used sooner. President Bragdon asked why the planning department is not managing this. Mr. Cotugno explained distribution of resources.

Councilor Harrington asked about regional transportation funding. She asked what action has been taken to wrap up different projects. Councilor Burkholder noted there will be flexibility in looking at all of Metro's current ballot measures.

Councilor Harrington asked about the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report. She said it is not clear what items are required for the TMDL report, and what items have been provided by Metro voluntarily. Michael Jordan, COO, said items outside of the Willamette watershed are most likely voluntary. Councilor Park said he has concerns with how Metro is involved in non-point source pollution.

Councilor Liberty said from his understanding, it is an extension of state mandated environmental plans. Councilor Park said it seemed like many different levels of compliance are required and a bit unclear.

Jeff Blosser, Oregon Convention Center Director, said that the Oregon Convention Center (OCC) was looking to put on a sustainable event. He said there was not any one group to examine how to house such a conference. He said there do not seem to be resources for businesses and different organizations to move in a sustainable direction, especially in a conference environment (see attachment). He said a concept would be developed by the end of the month. He was asking Metro to invest some 'seed money' to begin the conference and hopefully grow it into an institutionalized event. He said he was looking for four or five primary sponsors and investors. He said the money was primarily to hire a meeting planner.

Councilor Liberty said he had heard different sustainable strategies, but there never seemed to be a concrete directional strategy. He said he hoped this could be economic development oriented, as well as other regional issues in connection to sustainability. Mr. Blosser said a very important component was to identify what individual attendees invest and what they get out of the event. He said this was an opportunity to showcase OCC both locally and nationally. Councilor Liberty noted different clusters (i.e. tourism, business, etc.) should be invited and focused on.

Councilor Harrington said this might be an opportunity to examine how we serve our regional small businesses and to advance those businesses. Mr. Blosser said this was a challenge on how to identify different specific issues.

## **2. VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE BALLOT INITIATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT**

Ted Wheeler, Multnomah County Chair, explained they are in the process of putting a vehicle registration fee in front of the people of Multnomah County. He said these funds would aid in infrastructure maintenance, primarily the Sellwood Bridge project (see attachment). He explained the initiative in connection with other authorizations by Congress. He noted the County has settled on increased numbers. He said in addition to local matches, projected revenue is forecasted to be approximately \$260 million.

Chair Wheeler stated the roles and involvement of different regional cities. He said some cities have showed support, while others are opposed. Specifically, Troutdale is not supporting the initiative. Chair Wheeler stated that he came before the Council to ask for support and collaboration.

Councilor Burkholder asked how they settled on \$24. Chair Wheeler said they concluded \$24 would adequately meet needs. He noted this does not fulfill the Sellwood Bridge project; this only takes a bite out of capital improvement backlogs. He said they do not have the capacity locally to take care of the entire problem. Chair Wheeler said he was still open to any state-wide packages that work as well. Councilor Liberty noted that he supports this, as it maintains what we have, and he hopes that the Council will support it as well. Councilor Liberty referred to Chair Wheeler's hand-outs, and asked, beyond the Sellwood Bridge, if other bridges and projects would be looked at. Chair Wheeler noted that if the 'ask' was specifically the Sellwood Bridge, he felt it would carry more support. Chair Wheeler further noted that if the bridge were only partially maintained, it would be inefficient and a tragedy. He feels that if work were to begin on the Sellwood Bridge, work should continue until finished. Mr. Wheeler's assistants explained the funding structure.

President Bragdon asked about building on the initiative and issue. He said that, today, this does not get the job done, but it was the start of a partnership and a multi-faceted process between governments. Chair Wheeler said conversations were currently taking place, and there were different strategies for showing commitment and a direction. President Bragdon said that it was important to communicate to the voters that this will not entirely get the job done, but was a step forward.

President Bragdon said it was important that while this was being sold, that expectations be realistic. Chair Wheeler noted they are gearing up for a May ballot ask. He said that Commissioners have not yet voted and do not want to put the initiative on the ballot if it is not economically or politically feasible. He said it was still being decided whether to apply this in

May or defer it to a later date. He explained where money from the vehicle registration fee would go as far as jurisdictions. He said decisions must be unanimous across jurisdictions for this to work.

Councilor Park identified confusion surrounding the initiative and asked for clarification. Mr. Wheeler said there were still some holes in the overall plan. Councilor Hosticka asked if Troutdale's opposition could be reversed. Mr. Wheeler said he thought Troutdale would reconsider. Councilor Park said he thought there was an opportunity and the opposing arguments needed addressing and being thought through. Councilor Park said he did not think issues like Clackamas traffic using the Sellwood Bridge would ever be entirely addressed, but still should be discussed.

President Bragdon said they are trying to weigh investments, and thought Mr. Wheeler was taking a strong stand in defending infrastructure maintenance. Councilor Park talked about other projects on the eastside and hoped they would not fall through the cracks.

Councilor Hosticka asked why Metro has to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). Dan Cooper, Metro Attorney, and Richard Brandman, Transit Program Director, explained why Metro needs to sign an IGA for such an initiative. Mr. Brandman said that all governments must enter into an agreement. Mr. Cooper explained the legalities in intergovernmental agreements. Mr. Brandman went through questions and specifics of financing and subsequent agreements. He said he thought they should get more specific if they want success at the ballot.

Mr. Brandman went through language involved in the agreement. President Bragdon said conceptually it made sense. Mr. Brandman said that an agreement had not been signed yet. Councilor Hosticka asked if Multnomah County set their fee at \$24, whether other jurisdictions could do whatever they felt necessary, up to \$27. Mr. Brandman answered that that was true. Councilor Park said this was being looked at in terms of 'all or none.' Mr. Cooper said that the law does not require an agreement before the ballot initiative goes to voters. President Bragdon said that many of these issues need to be included in an agreement and part of the IGA.

Councilor Liberty said a partial use of the fund would not be precluded. He said a multi-modal plan was logical. Councilor Hosticka again asked about specifics of the IGA, regarding the 'ask' between different counties. President Bragdon agreed that this needed to be part of a larger discussion. Councilor Burkholder explained what other jurisdictions were doing to generate revenue for infrastructure maintenance as well, and how other counties and jurisdictions were responding. In response to Councilor Harrington's question, Councilor Burkholder said there would not be a regional decision on how money is spent. He said this was not a regional ballot measure.

President Bragdon said they should vote on this in the near future. Councilor Burkholder said we should vote on it first and deal with policy later, and Councilor Liberty agreed to carry it.

Councilor Liberty asked about consulting with Clackamas and Washington counties before making a decision. He asked about coordinating a formal discussion, something additional to an informal retreat discussion. President Bragdon said this could be fit in on the February 14<sup>th</sup> agenda.

**3. BREAK**

**4. CONNECTING GREEN**

President Bragdon introduced Connecting Green.

Mike Wetter, Senior Advisor to the Council President, additionally introduced the project (see attachments). He said two primary tasks thus far have been, first, definition of the project and, second, steps for implementation. He also said a primary task was creating an alliance and movement. He said this requires creating a marketing and communications strategy.

Mr. Wetter talked about different components of the framework of the project, including creating different trail packages. Janet Bebb, Regional Parks and Greenspaces Project Manager, talked about the regional system and restoration components of the Connecting Green project. She said a goal was to continue to raise Connecting Green higher. She said there was a keen interest in defining and implementing a system of regional parks.

President Bragdon noted the program was in early conceptual stages. He said it might be best that Metro was not the operator of everything. He said we were an operator of some things not necessarily geographically distributed around the region, but which could be looked at as an operation of Metro. Councilor Liberty asked how big of a system it was and what other components exist. He further asked about resources and what other sources could be tapped into.

Geoff Roach, Executive Director of the Trust for Public Land, began his component of the Connecting Green presentation (see handout). He said by April he should be able to formalize a plan for alliance operations. He explained the scope of the system involved in the Connecting Green project. He talked about leveraging resources for development and creating the alliance. Mr. Roach noted there seemed to be hunger in the community for a project such as this. He noted that overlaid on top of the Connecting Green plan is branding and communications, and said they had already begun to import marketing and branding people to be involved in the project. He said this laid a direction for gaining 'buyers' for the project. He recognized they have a short amount of time to implement operational policy and solidify financing, direction, and to securely launch the project.

President Bragdon asked about the Connecting Green operational model. Mr. Roach said that an environment must be created where it was understood that the project should not be carried alone. He thought the region could make a bold statement by using state funding and Measure 66 funding to tie into Connecting Green resources.

Councilor Burkholder said that he thought conservation education had come pretty far in terms of its component within the Connecting Green framework. Councilor Burkholder noted that the Connecting Green framework is different than usual Metro roles. He said this was asking Metro to reorient resources and departmental roles, as conveners and collaborators, rather than planners. He also asked about the allocation of resources internally; to make sure the Council was aware of costs and benefits of the project. Councilor Liberty said that at this point it was not necessarily time to decide who was going to operate what. He explained ideas for financing mechanisms, and talked about its connection to the urban and rural reserves process.

Mike Houck, Director of the Urban Greenspaces Institute, talked about target areas for restoration. He said that acquisition and leveraging was a part of this. He said that many things

not in the bubbles (see attachment) are currently going on. Councilor Collette said that she thought this was a tremendous model. She said this model had managed to convene a large group of people. She had concerns about how Metro staff and the agency fit into the model, and questions Metro's concrete role in the model.

Jim Desmond, Director of Regional Parks, answered Councilor Burkholder's questions about Metro's role in the project. Mr. Desmond said that most of this would consist of Metro property. Mr. Desmond said of course there would be challenges. He said from a capacity point of view, he did not foresee any major or out-of-the-ordinary challenges. Mr. Desmond said that the communications aspect was different than past projects. He said communications was not something the parks department could undertake alone, and that the project relied on how much the Council wanted to invest in this. He said there were many different aspects of inclusion.

Mr. Desmond said there were some investment concerns with the project. He said there were some logistical support staff issues. Mr. Desmond said that in the short term, he felt they could successfully develop this project. He said that currently they were trying to create and support a 'pie' – a group and alliance of various collaborators.

Mr. Houck said that he had given numerous presentations around the region and noted there was potential not only to grow the financial pie, but also to include members of the business and private communities. He noted that this was an incredibly exciting and innovative process. He said that the audience this was reaching and the audience that would be activated was very exciting. Councilor Liberty asked about sharing operating costs. Mr. Wetter talked about timing in regards to discussions. He said the response had been positive and the majority thought this was a perfect time for discussions and brainstorming. Ms. Bebb said that many entities were interested in not only the concept, but also the overall plan. Mr. Desmond said there was a huge amount of support for this project. President Bragdon said the responses were from high-level government officials. Councilor Burkholder said that he feels equity would be a key component of the project.

Mr. Wetter talked about the trails component of the project. He said that this involves building momentum for entities to join the 'pie.' Ms. Bebb talked about the timeline hand-out (see attachment). She explained the timeline and clarified current actions and updates, and further what the project team could use from the Council. She explained the policy outcome section and what they were looking for. She said she thinks they will get there quickly.

Mary Anne Cassin, Parks Planning and Development Manager, explained that she thought there was federal money available for a project such as this. She further explained the trail packages attachment, priorities involved, and processes for selection and funding.

Councilor Harrington asked in regards to trail packages, she noticed there seemed to be some issues with road crossings in regards to trail connectivity. Councilor Liberty asked about prioritization of trail packages, and what the connection between the Great 8 and other trail packages were. Mr. Wetter, referring to trail packages, noted that they wanted to stress the benefits of the trails and trail connectivity – the recreational, transportation, and health benefits.

Mr. Wetter said that there was not a lot of good, solid information out there regarding how to create a functioning regional trail system. He said looking at the trail system as a solution to other policy issues serves a purpose. Councilor Burkholder said that trails were multi-functional. He said he would like the transportation committee to hear this. Councilor Burkholder said he

would like to see the trails as a transportation issue, but furthermore he said this could be an opportunity to change transportation thinking in regard to road and highway crossings. He said he would like to see crossings not considered an amenity, but as a necessity.

President Bragdon asked about a blue ribbon committee. He asked whether the Council would be interested in such a committee. Councilor Collette said someone from education and parks should be included in the committee. Councilor Liberty supported Councilor Collette's idea. Councilor Liberty said people with special transportation needs should be identified and addressed. He said green design and infrastructure needed representation. He further said urban design needed representation. Councilor Burkholder said someone from the lower-income minority community needed representation. Councilor Park talked about the triple bottom-line.

Councilor Harrington had questions about guiding principles, and said she thought it might be useful for the committee to use those guiding principles. Mr. Wetter said they were more expanded objectives of the project. Councilor Liberty said it was important to consider how to operate what Metro currently owns. Councilor Harrington noted that she felt Connecting Green was moving into a 'phase two' process, and asked what else was needed. She said that this was a great stepping stone.

Mr. Wetter noted that this project obviously required staff prioritization. He wanted to get discussion on this. Mr. Desmond said that this should not just be a parks department project.

Councilor Park said he feels this was a great idea, but that he had not seen the price tag yet. He said he did not know what was being reallocated yet, and would like to know. Councilor Hosticka further explained that he did not know how this fit into the budget discussion, with all the new additions to Metro. Mr. Jordan explained operational aspects of the project, including excise tax funding. Mr. Jordan said it must be thought about where to allocate resources. He said that the reality check was that some things that used to exist may not exist anymore. President Bragdon asked about connections to other current work. Mr. Jordan said there were definitely connections, but more labor intensive. He said it was the right way, but requires many resources to do it well.

Mr. Cotugno said there was a history of transportation assisting on trail work. He said when evaluating the trail system within a transportation mindset, it was a matter of assignment and identification.

Mr. Wetter said a list of roles and functions had been created and discussed. Councilor Harrington said she saw that they had been working and she thanked them. She said now she was looking forward to seeing clarity and additional work. Mr. Cotugno said paying staff was also a matter of using appropriate funds for paying staff work. Councilor Collette asked if there would be an opportunity to revisit project objectives and mission statements.

Mr. Wetter reiterated that he would like this to not just be a parks project.

## **5. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilor Liberty talked about the Columbia River Crossing public hearings. He explained that he felt they were needed. Councilor Harrington said she would like some framing points. Councilor Liberty noted he thought other governments should be a part of initiating this process

as well. Councilor Hosticka said directions and plans should be identified. Councilor Park said including the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT ) as an entity would be plausible. He said it was important to not 'get ahead' of partners, but to collaborate and stay on the same level. Councilor Hosticka asked whether proposals would sidetrack the process.

Councilors discussed transportation funding, updates, and other concerns with the project.

Councilor Harrington said she had been thinking ahead to the next budget cycle. She asked at what point the Council would be included in budget processes. She mentioned the staff's proactivity in the process, and also staff's ability to align resources. Mr. Jordan noted there were conversations planned in the future.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Prepared by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Andersen', written over a horizontal line.

Tony Andersen  
Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF  
JANUARY 22, 2008**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Doc. Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Doc. Number</b>
1	Agenda	1/22/08	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, January 24, 2008	012208cw-1
1	Flier	1/22/08	Flier: 2009 Oregon Sustainability Summit, January 22, 2008	012208cw-2
2	Statement	1/22/08	Statement: Existing and Potential Transportation Funding in the Region, January 22, 2008	012208cw-3
4	Statement	1/22/08	Statement: Trail Packages, Metro and Partners, January 22, 2008	012208cw-4
4	Statement	1/22/08	Statement: Trails Blue Ribbon Committee Proposal, January 22, 2008	012208cw-5
4	Visual	1/22/08	Visual: Connecting Green, Initiatives, January 22, 2008	012208cw-6
2	Statement	1/22/08	Statement: 20-Year Needs for Willamette River Bridges, Sauvie Island, Broadway, Burnside, Morrison, Hawthorne, and Sellwood Bridges, January 22, 2008	012208cw-7
2	Statement	1/22/08	Statement: Multnomah County's Bridge Safety Fund, January 22, 2008	012208cw-8
4	Visual	1/22/08	Visual: Connecting Green Initiative: Trails Element, January 22, 2008	012208cw-9