

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent: Rod Park (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:02 p.m.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

2. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Councilor Burkholder explained steps in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Federal Component and State Component Work Program. Councilor Burkholder turned over the presentation to Kim Ellis, Metro Principal Transportation Planner.

Ms. Ellis introduced her presentation and discussion (see meeting packet). She explained the timeline and processes involved in the RTP Federal Component. She explained the state component of the RTP, including timelines and noted that previous timelines had been extended because of research and proper data needs. She talked about other agencies involved in the RTP process. Regarding the extended timeline, Ms. Ellis explained the benefits of a two-year (rather than one year) timeline for the RTP process. She talked about time allowances for additional analysis, testing, better understanding of implications of policy, and discussion and consensus building.

Councilor Collette asked if extending the one-year timeline to two years would negatively affect or conflict with current RTP actions and funding requests. Ms. Ellis said it would not. Councilor Harrington asked about information contained in visuals. Councilor Liberty asked what Ms. Ellis would like from the Council during the Work Session. Ms. Ellis said she would like support from the Council regarding moving forward with a two-year timeline instead of a one-year timeline.

Councilor Burkholder additionally explained the timeline and addressed specific questions (see meeting packet). President Bragdon expressed two concerns regarding extending the timeline: he was concerned with one-year allotted staff working two years and subsequent budgetary implications. Second, he was worried about external issues not adhering to a two-year timeline, when the initial timeline was only one year. Councilor Burkholder explained that staff would not be stretched. President Bragdon understood, but had concerns about external relations in regards to extending the timeline. Councilor Collette asked if there was buy-in externally. President Bragdon said at some point there needed to be a concrete deliverable. Councilor Liberty said this could cause earmarking problems, and there needed to be better buy-in. He talked about legislative support.

Ms. Ellis talked about prior concerns, and the amount of time needed to address them. She talked about stakeholder involvement, and the differences in stakeholder collaboration. She discussed

public involvement plans as a way to keep people informed and updated. President Bragdon talked about public engagement. Ms. Ellis said she did not feel like people were losing interest and engagement, but that people wanted more time to properly discuss and ‘roll up their sleeves.’

Councilor Burkholder explained the technical scope of change involved in extending the one-year timeline. He said maintaining a working majority takes time, and that the work necessary involves extending the timeline to two years. Councilor Harrington noted that the RTP was adopted under an outcomes-based model. She said it made sense to her, and that though it was a delay in the project, it was a necessary delay to properly complete the work. President Bragdon said the provided information and presentation swayed him to feel more comfortable with the year extension, especially in a stakeholder and collaborative situation with external forces involved.

Councilor Liberty talked about setting objectives and the need to do it quickly. Ms. Ellis said that was true. Councilor Liberty asked about current policy objectives. Ms. Ellis explained what was to be achieved. She further explained the timeline and processes involved (see meeting packet and attachment). Councilors discussed various scenarios and options for further planning and strategy development. Councilor Burkholder said the first stage was not for targets. Councilor Liberty said there would be targets at some point and that we were moving toward them. Ms. Ellis said targets would be developed in later stages. Councilor Hosticka asked what RTP milestones were most related to. Ms. Ellis said milestones were most closely related to the funding framework. Councilor Hosticka asked whether the RTP was an enabling or limiting document. Ms. Ellis said it could serve as both. She said there was a regulatory aspect, and talked about an ‘umbrella of compliance.’ Mr. Jordan talked about the difficulties involved in the proposed plan (see meeting packet visual). He said he understood why there was apprehension from a technical standpoint and that it was ambitious to a point where operations could become chaotic in the future if not properly managed and planned. Councilor Liberty commented on Mr. Jordan’s concerns.

President Bragdon talked about regional rather than local scope of transportation plans. He talked about the profile of regional transportation. Councilor Burkholder asked if Councilors would like an update on the creation of scenarios. Councilors said it was unneeded. Councilor Liberty said he would be interested in knowing what Metro Scope outputs were.

President Bragdon said it would be important to note in visual aids that there were internal and external components and that many internal components were a tool in order to more effectively manage external relations and collaboration. Ms. Ellis noted this and talked about milestones related to the project. She talked about next steps. Councilor Liberty asked about financing strategies. Councilor Burkholder talked about fiscal responsibilities so that proper infrastructure could be provided. Councilor Harrington asked about committee participation and when various committees would be visited and updated. Ms. Ellis explained. Councilor Hosticka talked about linking land-use and transportation, and the connection with funding.

3. BREAK

4. METRO TIP FEE: OVERVIEW AND FUTURE DIRECTION/COUNCIL OPTIONS

Mike Hoglund and Doug Anderson, Solid Waste and Recycling Department, introduced the hand-out distributed and the Work Session worksheet in the meeting packet. Mr. Anderson talked

about factors that drive Metro rates. He said he would like feedback from the Council on how to proceed. He said the most efficient strategy was to implement a standard rate increase over time. He talked about contracts, and other factors involved in fee setting (see attachment). Councilor Harrington asked what stage current studies were in, and how the current waste allocation process was different from the past. Councilor Liberty asked if pricing could be used to change behavior, in regards to promoting sustainability.

Councilor Liberty talked about set fees as a revenue stream for stewardship. Mr. Anderson went through the attachment section by section (see attachment). Councilor Liberty asked about the allocation between the system fee and regional fee. President Bragdon asked about bond expiration. Councilor Harrington was confused that the Council would be dealing with policy options, while the committee would be involved in long-term rate setting, etc. She said there were strong connections and she was confused about the different roles. Councilor Liberty asked about policy direction for rate changes. Councilor Burkholder said the Rate Review Committee had a particular role and he thought that was proper. Councilor Burkholder wanted to know how Metro was doing on affordability and how that affected the regional economy. He said it was important to always be cognizant of rates and their subsequent affect.

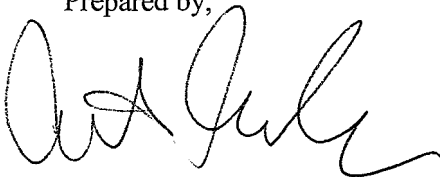
Councilor Hosticka talked about how the rate affects the community, and the importance of keeping that information in mind for policy decisions. Councilor Harrington said the Council was not just talking about 'trash.' Councilor Harrington asked about jurisdictional efforts with local governments and whether Metro had been involved in the rate process. Mr. Anderson said no, they have traditionally not been involved. Councilor Collette said in Milwaukie they were working closely with the city to set rates. Councilor Burkholder asked about next steps for review. Councilor Liberty said there was some guidance in the issue, but not a lot. He further asked where toxicity would enter the rate setting picture. Mr. Anderson said it was not directly involved. Councilor Harrington noted that regional tonnage had continued to increase both per capita and overall, and this result did not meet sustainability goals. Mr. Jordan talked about connections between Council values and solid waste strategies.

5. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Burkholder mentioned an individual from the Columbia River Crossing task force would be available to visit the Council. The task force was offering to spend more time briefing. Councilors Liberty and Collette were interested. Councilor Collette was primarily interested in environmental issues.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:21 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
FEBRUARY 19, 2008**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	2/20/08	Agenda: Metro Council Greatest Place Work Session, February 20, 2008	021908cw-1
4	Report	2/19/08	Report: Factors Affecting Solid Waste Rates over the Next Several Years, Council Work Session, February 19, 2008	021908cw-20