

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, March 25, 2008
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent: Carl Hosticka (excused), Carlotta Collette (excused)

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

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, MARCH 27, 2008/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Bragdon reviewed the March 27, 2008 Metro Council agenda. President Bragdon and Councilor Liberty discussed placement of agenda items on the March 27, 2008 Council Meeting agenda.

2. CONNECTING GREEN: TRAILS

President Bragdon introduced Connecting Green. Mike Wetter, Policy Advisor, Janet Bebb, Parks Manager, and Mike Kloster, Planning Manager, said they would like to propose "Connecting Green: Trails" as a project. Mr. Wetter introduced the draft and stated Councilor Burkholder would be the lead and President Bragdon would be Council liaison. Councilor Harrington asked why trails had taken on a "life of its own." Mr. Wetter and President Bragdon talked about the multi-jurisdictional role of the trails project. President Bragdon discussed Metro's leadership role in the project. He also talked about the requirements of securing funding. Councilor Harrington talked about the Regional Transportation Plan's (RTP) connection to the trails project. She said trails had graduated from a recreational solution to a legitimate mode of transportation. President Bragdon said they were working to make it a mainstream idea. Councilor Liberty talked about examples of trail transportation abroad. President Bragdon discussed strategies to advance trails as a valid transportation strategy.

Janet Bebb, Parks Manager, introduced the visual timeline (see attachment) showing the timeline of trails movements through the 20th century. She discussed events on the timeline, including citizen input and participation (like the Blue Ribbon Committee). Councilor Liberty talked about dangers involved in pedestrian and bike traffic coexisting too closely, with Tom McCall Waterfront Park as an example. Councilor Harrington talked about the complexity in regulating the coexistence of the two, especially in a park setting, and gave examples from Germany in regulating such practice. Ms. Bebb talked about different visuals as representations for the trails effort. Tom Kloster, Planning Manager, discussed how "Connecting Green: Trails" could be included in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) funding package. He said it was important to look at networks and how they could be complemented by a systems planning model.

Councilor Liberty asked about mode-split centers and how this could fit into the trails project. Mr. Kloster said there were strategies for networks to serve as bike highways. Councilor Liberty asked about safety in the region, and noted that trails segments that endorsed safety could provide better cost efficiency. Mr. Kloster said when pitching trail improvement funding, safety could act as a selling point. President Bragdon asked about shared modal facilities. Mr. Kloster talked about shared bike boulevards, and the avoidance of cars. Mr. Wetter went through the Trails Blue Ribbon Committee, members, and objectives of the committee. Mr. Wetter said major

funding strategies and policy opportunities would be primary objectives for the committee group. He said there would be eight meetings held, which would conclude the group members' formal commitment to the committee.

Councilor Liberty asked about environmental benefits of the trails, more specifically reducing impervious surfaces. Ms. Bebb said those ideas would definitely be included in design elements. Mr. Kloster talked about including wellness and active living aspects in transportation planning. Councilor Liberty talked about access and how that could transfer to trails planning. Councilor Park asked about twenty-four hour access and its relation to securing federal funding. Mr. Kloster said lighting was critical. Councilor Harrington talked about transporting during the evening hours. Mr. Kloster said there was still work to do regarding best practices. Councilor Park talked about the Connecting Green project's connection to where development would occur, and where people would locate in the region's future. President Bragdon said there was support in the business community for the trails project. Mr. Wetter talked about Charlotte, North Carolina's 500-mile trail connection.

3. NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS GRANT UPDATE

Janelle Geddes and Stacey Triplett, Nature in Neighborhoods, introduced the grant program, provided history and an outlook for the future. Ms. Geddes talked about specific events related to the grants program. She explained numbers relating to grants awarded and returns on grant investments (see attachments).

Councilor Park asked about capacity building in relation to the grants program. Ms. Geddes said she felt the program has matured and expanded. She said there was great interest in the grant workshops she had held. Councilor Park asked about capital grants. Ms. Geddes discussed capital grant distribution and process. Councilor Liberty asked about the "agreement" section on the "Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration and Enhancement Grant Update" handout. Ms. Geddes explained the grant agreement process. She talked about organizational collaboration with Metro. She explained organizational capacity building.

Ms. Geddes talked about grant funding for private property owners and subsequent partnerships that result. Councilor Park asked about industrial sites. Ms. Geddes said some industrial sites run into permitting issues. Ms. Geddes talked about links to Connecting Green, and furthering next steps of the program. Councilor Liberty talked about the capital aspect of the grants program and how best to implement such strategies.

4. BREAK

5. TITLE 4 INDUSTRIAL AREAS COMPLIANCE

Sherry Oeser, Planning Manager, and Ray Valone, Planning Manager, introduced the Title 4 process. She provided background information, compliance circumstances, and subsequent process results. She explained jurisdictions that wanted extension requests. She explained the proposal to the Council and processes involved.

Councilor Park asked about downsides involved in taking certain options. He asked aside from timeline issues, what were other issues involved. Councilor Park talked about periodic review and how Metro was being asked to do different jurisdictional work. Dick Benner, Metro Attorney, answered Councilor Park's questions about different consequences involved, and processes involved in implementation and subsequent actions. Mr. Valone talked about plan

implementation and zoning ordinances. Councilor Park asked how many jurisdictions had adopted ordinances. Councilor Liberty had concerns with deadline extensions and the amount of time required. Ms. Oeser said many jurisdictions were not aware of deadline dates and there was also high staff turnover involved in the compliance process. Mr. Valone said implementation processes were complicated and priorities changed, and therefore compliance issues arise. Councilor Harrington talked about timeline "crunches." Councilor Harrington asked about extensions, and how much time jurisdictions were asking for. Councilor Burkholder said requests seem arbitrary and unneeded. Councilor Burkholder requested drafting a resolution regarding extensions. Councilor Park agreed to co-sponsor the resolution.

**6. METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (MTIP)
TWO STEP PROCESS**

Andy Cotugno, Planning Director, discussed the handout (see attachment "Regional Program applications for Regional Flexible Funds"). He described funding processes and timelines. Councilor Liberty asked about bridge funding categories. Councilor Park asked about looking at regional bridges, and past processes he has seen changed over time. Councilor Liberty talked about the Sellwood Bridge, and different bridge discussions. He asked if it would help to label the discussion "Other Regional Bridges." Councilor Harrington said she would also like to see "Other Regional Bridges: TBD." Councilor Burkholder talked about identifying methodology for identifying bridge priorities. Mr. Cotugno said there would be information with different bridge categories. He talked about allocations. He explained numbers in the hand-out (see attachment). He said they could only speculate on federal funds. Mr. Cotugno talked about proposed new funding (see attachment). He talked about project funding, and guided Councilors through categories, including different programs like Transit Oriented Development (TOD).

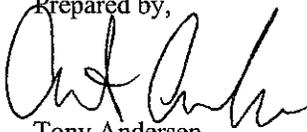
Councilor Harrington asked about TOD Center programs in Washington County and phrasing of language. President Bragdon asked to include the language "unincorporated Washington County." Mr. Cotugno discussed and explained different requests (see attachment). Councilor Burkholder talked about the allocation process and described objectives of the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) process. He said it was important to ask what other objectives were. Councilor Park talked about gaining "sign-off" on the two-step process. He requested that changes to the process be documented so that when collective memory fades, there was still a record of objectives and processes. President Bragdon asked about assumptions on future actions. Mr. Cotugno said there were no assumptions on any future actions. Councilor Liberty talked about trade-offs. Councilors Harrington and Burkholder suggested revisions to the worksheet "Historic Allocation of Transportation Capital Project Funds, Metro Area."

7. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m.

Prepared by,



Tony Andersen
Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
 MARCH 25, 2008**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	3/27/08	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, March 27, 2008	032508cw-1
2	Visual	3/24/08	Connecting Green: Trails timeline visual	032508cw-2
2	Roster	3/25/08	Trails Blue Ribbon Committee Members, Roster	032508cw-3
2	Proposal	3/25/08	Metro Council Project Proposal/Work Plan, Part One: Council Project Proposal, March 25, 2008	032508cw-4
3	News Articles	3/25/08	Newspaper articles relating to Nature in Neighborhoods grants, various dates	032508cw-5
3	Update	3/25/08	Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration and Enhancement Grand update, March 25, 2008	032508cw-6
6	Memo	3/20/08	To: TPAC and Interested Parties From: Ted Leybold: MTIP Manager Re: Regional Program applications for Regional Flexible Funds Date: March 20, 2008	032508cw-7
7	Map	3/25/08	Regional Map distributed by Councilor Kathryn Harrington	032508cw-8