

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL GREATEST PLACE WORK SESSION MEETING

Thursday, April 10, 2008
Council Annex

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

Councilors Absent: Carl Hosticka (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:38 p.m.

Robin McArthur, Regional Planning Director, began by explaining the revised agenda and what had been improved from the original agenda. She outlined the objectives of the meeting and briefly explained work that had been done since the last work session.

Meeting Objectives:

- Update Council on stakeholder response to scenario proposal
- Final Council review of Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) scenario construct
- Council direction on “local aspirations” element of “Investing in Our Communities” track
- Council direction on Economic and Employment Trends Work Program
- Update Council on Performance Based Growth Management, Infrastructure, and Urban and Rural Reserves Work Programs

I. Using Scenarios to Frame Policy Choices (40 minutes)

- Review Revised Scenario Framework (attached)
- Review revised RTP scenario construct (attached)
- Next Steps

The nature of the comments related to frame policy that Metro had received were discussed. Ms. McArthur reported on questions that kept coming up and how the questions could be addressed. Councilor Liberty had questions about the geographic area of the policy. He questioned using zone boundaries rather than boundaries such as school zones. Councilor Park commented on the differences between using land area compared to population area. Councilor Liberty talked about inconsistencies between using zone boundaries and governmental boundaries. He saw that this might create problems when addressing other governmental agencies. President Bragdon asked about funding and taxes. He also asked about corridor centers and how accurate the scale models were. The various uses in different areas were commented on. Service levels were mentioned, market differences were discussed and neighborhood score-use was explained. Councilor Harrington asked about commercial and industrial properties. Councilor Liberty commented on unincorporated urban areas and asked about national support. It was mentioned that demand had changed back to the urban areas rather than rural areas. Councilor Burkholder asked about Clark County, the use of their assumptions and growth plan. He also commented on the connection between housing location, household budget and transportation. Councilor Park had concerns about action and infrastructure; he talked about investment patterns and what created redevelopment and infill construction. Councilor Liberty commented on density related costs and density sensitive services. He also talked about emergency costs and services.

Kim Ellis, Planning Manager, talked about the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and reviewed issues that had been discussed in previous Greatest Place work sessions. President Bragdon had questions about cost and cost effectiveness. Councilor Liberty also talked about how the return on investment could be measured. Councilor Harrington felt the work had been done in conjunction with an outcome based methodology, and questioned if this was an accurate observation. Ms. McArthur questioned whether the RTP scenario sheet was endorsed by the Council. It was decided that it received Council support. The Local Aspirations flow chart was discussed next. Some of the flow chart order had been revised; the biggest issue in the revision had been a July event. This event addressed vibrant communities and things to consider when making long-term community decisions.

Councilor Collette realized after a previous meeting that many people were unaware of the 2040 Growth Concept and the Centers and Corridors approach to planning. She wanted to increase involvement with various community members and spread awareness of various issues. Councilor Liberty talked about the expected attendance at the July event. President Bragdon felt it was important to take a “how-to” approach to outreach and the July event. He mentioned community members he felt were important to include in the event. Councilor Park talked about finance and school involvement. The level of school involvement was questioned and its importance in the event was discussed. Councilor Burkholder talked about the various groups that might attend the event, their differences and what could be gained from the diversity of attendees. Councilor Park felt it was important to integrate different groups of people that would attend the event, and Metro should look at the benefits of this. Council President Bragdon talked about codes that act as barriers to urban design, such as parking lot requirements. Councilor Harrington talked about a catalog that could be developed and Councilor Collette talked about the benefits of adding links to the Metro website. Councilor Harrington liked the title of “Place Making Summit, a how-to event.”

- II. Council Direction on “Investing in Our Communities” Work Program Elements (45 minutes)
- Upcoming Events
 - Review and Comment on Draft Work Program Outline (hand-out)
 - Event Brief for July Placemaking Summit (hand-out)
 - Brownfields Update
 - Mayors’ Institute on City Design (attached)

Miranda Bateschell, Planning, introduced the work that had been done. There were not any handouts that accompanied her presentation. She presented a map of brownfield sites and talked about various groups involved in the work program. She gave an update on the program and named some of the reasons that potential brownfield restoration sites were limited. Metro was working with the City of Portland and they were targeting smaller communities which have less funding potential for brownfield redevelopment. She sent the Council an email of brownfield site updates. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded Metro another grant to continue this program for the next two years. Ms. McArthur briefly outlined the Mayors’ Institute on City Design; the woman scheduled to present that issue was absent.

- III. Council Direction on Economic and Employment Trends Work (45 minutes)
- Framing the issues/questions

- Next Steps

An overview of the completed work was presented. Ms. McArthur explained limits to the framing of issues and the Council brought up questions and concerns they had. Councilor Liberty wanted to mention that economic development and real estate development were two different and distinct things. He talked about Metro's development obligations. Councilor Burkholder talked about location, population, transportation and the economy. He felt issues were getting mixed up. Successful case studies and revisions to outlines were discussed and how the output from previous work would shape future planning on this project. It was decided that step 3 didn't add anything to the process and that it would be more efficient and equally as effective to eliminate that step. President Bragdon did not see the importance of step 5, and felt it could also be eliminated. The discussion was then opened to Council questions. Councilor Burkholder and President Bragdon had questions and Councilor Liberty had a question related to transportation and "cheap" land. He felt that the meaning of "cheap" should be better defined. It was explained that property has different uses and that various employment categories should be identified. Councilor Harrington talked about Metro's efforts and what should be completed to reach goals that had been set. Councilors next voiced their concerns and Councilor Liberty talked about uncertainties in planning for predicted future land use needs.

IV. Updates on Other New Look Elements (30 minutes)

- Event Brief for Joint MPAC/Infrastructure Service Provider Workshop (hand-out)
- Urban Land Institute Event Brief (hand-out)
- Performance Based Growth Management – schedule update and next steps
- Urban and Rural Reserves: update on preliminary study areas; steering committee progress report

It was decided that the Performance Based Growth Management update would be covered in May and Councilor Harrington had talked about the Urban and Rural Reserves update in the previous weekly Council meeting. Ms. McArthur introduced the Joint MPAC Workshop meeting handout. The sheet was explained in more depth and the importance of having a broader audience was mentioned. Councilor Collette asked about changing the wording in Objective 1. Councilor Liberty asked about finance changes that might occur. An overview of the Urban Land Use Institute event was covered.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Prepared by,



Erika Storie
Council Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
APRIL 10, 2008**

Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
4/2/08	Making the Greatest Place Scenario Proposal, April 2, 2008	041008cw-1
4/2/08	To: Metro Council, JPACT, MPAC and Interested Parties From: Kim Ellis, Principal Transportation Planner Re: 2035 Regional Transportation Plan – “Cause and Effect” Transportation Investment Scenarios Proposal April 2, 2008	041008cw-2
4/10/08	Making the Greatest Place Upcoming Special Events, April 10, 2008	041008cw-3
4/8/08	LOCAL ASPIRATIONS: Key work tasks and timeline, April 8, 2008	041008cw-4
4/9/08	2008 Regional Roundtable/Placemaking Summit Event Brief, Integrating local aspirations – Making the Greatest Place, April 9, 2008	041008cw-5
4/10/08	Mayors’ Institute on City Design May 7-9, 2008; April 10, 2008	041008cw-6
4/10/08	DRAFT Guiding Principles, Employment and Economic Trend Analysis, April 10, 2008	041008cw-7
4/10/08	3 rd Infrastructure Workshop – MPAC/service providers, Draft April 7, 2008	041008cw-8
4/10/08	Making the Greatest Place – ULI/Metro Infrastructure Session with the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP), April 10, 2008	041008cw-9
4/10/08	Performance-Based Growth Management, Schedule for major work tasks and products, April 10. 2008	041008cw-10