

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, April 22, 2008
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent:

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:03 p.m.

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

Council President Bragdon reviewed the April 24, 2008 Metro Council agenda. Councilors discussed the location of the Native American Youth Association. Michael Jordan, COO, talked about staff transitions within the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) program and discussed supervisory roles. Councilor Liberty talked about shifting long-range planning and discussed his desire to talk about the matter further. Councilor Harrington talked about managerial strategies and operational parameter setting in context to her role as a Councilor. She noted she would like to discuss this further. President Bragdon requested zoo bond measure paperwork. Councilors Liberty and Collette stated they could provide briefings if needed. Dan Cooper, Metro Attorney, and Councilors discussed logistics of receiving information regarding the zoo bond measure. Councilor Park noted there was no package provided with an actual dollar amount. Councilor Liberty noted he thought the number was approximately \$109 million. President Bragdon requested materials. Councilor Park stated his desire to look at the report before a work session meeting. Councilor Liberty noted the primary points of the zoo bond measure revolved around animal welfare and practical facility upgrades. Councilor Park talked about polling issues. Councilor Burkholder reaffirmed that Councilors needed to be completely knowledgeable of the bond measure. Councilors requested a report. Councilor Liberty said he would like an opinion poll discussing people's interest included in the report.

President Bragdon and Councilors authorized trips to a wind farm and to outdoor school, in accordance to Oregon ethics law standards.

2. TRANSPORTATION FINANCING

Richard Brandman, Planning Department, discussed specifics of current transportation financing. He talked about global warming and land-use being integrated in transportation dialogue and proposal packages. He said at the federal level, funding would be split between roadways and transit issues. Councilor Liberty asked about direct and sub-allocation of funds. He asked about the "match" issue. Mr. Brandman discussed funding structures and the uncertainty inherent within transportation financing. Mr. Brandman concluded by introducing the transportation finance issue. He talked about different individuals involved and about developing leadership around the issues.

Andy Cotugno, Planning Director, discussed the rationale between what was trying to be accomplished at the state level compared to the regional and local levels. He introduced the process and discussed background and specifics (see attachment packet "Regional Transportation

Funding Task Force”). He discussed prioritization strategies for transportation issues at the state and regional levels. He discussed jurisdictional roles of different transportation routes (i.e. Powell Boulevard and Sandy Boulevard) and talked about requirements attached to the Vehicle Registration Fee. He talked about different intergovernmental agreements and various rates involved. He talked about linking fees to different transportation issues. Councilor Hosticka asked about areas outside of Metro’s jurisdiction, and stated these areas still lied within county lines. Mr. Cotugno explained “taxing areas.” Councilor Collette explained concern with Metro levying more taxes. Mr. Cotugno talked about project inclusion and noted the first project would be the Sellwood Bridge. He said, regarding the Sellwood Bridge, investment should reflect usage. Mr. Cotugno talked about cost-sharing arrangements. Councilor Liberty clarified the framework for regional and intergovernmental agreements surrounding investments. President Bragdon talked about projects related to the 2040 Growth Management plan and subsequent results. Councilor Hosticka asked about a vehicle miles traveled GIS report, and whether or not such a pilot report could be used to identify which areas of the region used regional roadways most often, and therefore determine proper investment for each area.

Andy Shaw, Office of the COO, discussed the state package for regional transportation funding. Councilor Burkholder discussed the importance of understanding the broader vision of transportation maintenance. Mr. Shaw went through state package specifics (see attachment “Regional Transportation Funding Task Force”). Councilor Harrington asked about levying gas taxes. Mr. Shaw explained that there would still be maintenance gaps in funding. Councilor Liberty asked about funding distribution patterns. Mr. Cotugno explained specifics of revenue distribution. Mr. Shaw said the state package was an ambitious document. He further said it was important to establish, at a state level, financing and ongoing commitments to rail travel. Councilor Burkholder said he wanted to adopt the packet as a draft. Councilor Harrington asked whether Washington or Clackamas Counties supported the plan. Mr. Cotugno explained that the timeline only allowed the development of a state package, rather than a regional package. Councilor Harrington asked about differences in state versus regional packages. She asked Randy Tucker, Government Affairs Manager, for his thoughts. Mr. Tucker explained specific processes and how it related to different package specifics. Councilor Hosticka suggested moving forward with a regional package rather than a state package. He said he was more optimistic with a regional package because of Metro’s priority-based role in state politics.

Councilor Harrington asked about vehicle registration fee increases and subsequent distribution. Councilor Liberty was concerned with gas tax increases to support an unspecified project. He noted there were discrepancies in financing responsibilities. Councilor Burkholder noted that the reason for the work session was to get feedback and provide answers. President Bragdon said he thought action should take place on both tracks (regional and state). He noted the reaffirmation of regionalism inherent within the regional transportation-funding package. Councilor Liberty supported the draft package. Councilors supported the draft packages as well.

3. BREAK

4. OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) GRANT APPLICATION FOR BIKE PED BRIDGE

Jane Hart, Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department, introduced her request for Council’s support to apply for an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) grant to design and build a bike/pedestrian bridge in North Portland. She referred to Metro Council’s 2005 resolution that recommended development of a 4.8 mile gap in the regional trail system in the vicinity of the

Smith and Bybee Natural Area. Ms. Hart said that the 2005 resolution directed staff to pursue immediate development of the St. Johns Neighborhood connection to the Natural Area, the bridge between Pier and Chimney Parks being a key component of that connection. She said the grant application requires written documentation of Metro Council's support for the project. Ms. Hart also noted that all necessary written commitments had been received from the City of Portland for the project. President Bragdon asked what "pot" of money these grant funds were coming from; Ms. Hart said it was ODOT's Transportation Enhancement Grant Program. Councilor Collette asked if the old Sauvie Island Bridge could be used in the project and Ms. Hart said it would not be a feasible option. Ms. Hart said Metro staff would administer the grant if awarded. Ms. Hart said there was \$13 million available in grant funds, and Metro was applying for \$1.5 million. Councilor Park wanted to know who Metro was competing against. Ms. Hart said it was a statewide program. The Metro Council enthusiastically approved applying for the bike-pedestrian bridge grant with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Councilor Burkholder requested a brief update on feasibility studies underway for segment of the 4.8 mile Smith and Bybee trail alignment. Ms. Hart said the feasibility studies for the North Slough bike/pedestrian bridge (connection to Kelley Point Park) and the South Slough segment (connection to Peninsula Crossing trail) would be complete in the Fall of 2008 at which time Council would be asked to consider the final trail development plan. Councilor Park recalled that during the Smith and Bybee trail feasibility study there had been a difference of opinion between recreational users and the environmental advocates as to where certain portions of the trail should be located. Ms. Hart thanked the Council for their time and support.

5. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councilors talked about Columbia River Crossing dates. President Bragdon said he would reschedule dates. He said there would be a work session on May 27th to discuss. Councilor Liberty said he would have the substance of the resolution available by May 27th. Councilor Burkholder noted there would be a memo available provided by staff, including a schedule and timeline. President Bragdon talked about Westgate, and his experience at the Beaverton City Council meeting. Councilor Harrington asked about steps and property joint-ownership. Councilors discussed property specifics. Councilors discussed key decision-points and strategies for collaboration in community and regional meetings. Councilor Burkholder announced that Margo Norton, Deputy CFO, won the Green Trivia Contest as part of Metro Regional Center's Green Fair. Councilor Hosticka talked about employment forecasts.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

Prepared by,



Tony Andersen
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**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
APRIL 22, 2008**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	4/24/08	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, April 24, 2008	042208cw-1
2	Agenda Packet	4/3/08	Regional Transportation Funding Task Force AGENDA, April 3, 2008	042208cw-2